



Dear Harvest Family-

While I was walking the other day (720 miles so far in 2016), I passed by the pet store in the Richland center. A father and two boys were exiting from the pet store, and the boys were really excited, especially the youngest boy who seemed to be about four years old.

Boy: Dad! That was so cool, wasn't it?

Dad: Yes, son, it was very cool.

Boy: Dad, can we get a pet someday?

Dad: Yes, son. Someday.

Boy: Dad, can I get a pet for my birthday?

Dad: We'll see, son.

Boy: Dad?

Dad: Yes, son?

Boy: Can I get an elephant for my birthday?

Dad: (silence with a smile)

This was such a delightful conversation to eavesdrop on for a few seconds. I couldn't stop smiling. The love and the trust between the father and his boys was great. But the innocent, trusting, openness of the boys was even greater. I mean, who asks their parents for a pet? Well, a lot of kids do, I suppose. But who ever asked their parent for an elephant, and seemed to mean it sincerely? Like asking for an elephant was the same as asking for ice cream or a PB&J sandwich.

I wondered whether this is the kind of relationship God wants us to have with him. Asking all sorts of questions. Believing that he takes seriously anything we ask. Having the level of trust in God's goodness that we could even dare ask for an elephant for our birthday.

One of the things that set the early church apart was its praying. They prayed about everything. And they believed that God would honor their prayers. When thrown in jail, they didn't pray to be released, they prayed to be witnesses. When on a ship at sea during a major storm, they didn't pray for safety for themselves, but that God would be honored whether they lived or died. When confronting a man who had been born lame, who asked them for money, they gave what they had—the power to heal in Jesus' name. Where does this child-like confidence come from? Prayer. Prayer to a Heavenly Father they trust with requests large and small.

So let us be bold in prayer as well. Even if we find ourselves asking for elephants!

Do not worry about anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God. (Philippians 4:6)

SDG!



Assorted Things

- 1) I will be at a preaching conference at Zephyr Point at Lake Tahoe from May 2-4. Several of us are going from the Stockton Presbytery.
- 2) Harvest has the privilege of hosting the Stockton Presbytery at it's May meeting. We need people to greet and provide early morning refreshments (fruit, muffins, etc.) from 8:00-9:30 a.m. We'll need come people to host snacks at the 10:30 a.m. break and then lunch at 12:30 p.m. We did such a great job two years ago. I am looking forward to this.
- 3) I am delighted that Brady has been coming to our Praise Team practices. The boy has rhythm! And he has been a great help in playing the cajón.
- 4) I have just finished reading, *Soul Keeping: Caring For the Most Important Part of You*—John Ortberg. It is a fantastic little book. There is a DVD study to go along with the book, six sessions of about 30 minutes each for the video, then discussion. I'd love to form a group to go through this together. Let me know if you are interested.
- 5) The Annual Yard Sale will be Saturday, May 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Come and sell your spare treasures or unwanted possessions. A \$10 fee per table and 10% of your proceeds will be given to the church.
- 6) The office will be closed on Memorial Day, May 30th. If you have any pictures of relatives who served in our Armed Forces, please get them to Pastor Jim so we can include them in the slide show honoring them.
- 7) We'll be showing the movie "War Room" as part of the Mariners gathering on Friday, May 20th. The start time will be 5:30 p.m. We'll also be showing the movie on Sunday, May 22nd at 4:00 p.m. This is a powerful film that can inspire us to pray more, to pray more boldly, perhaps even to pray for elephants.



MAY 2016



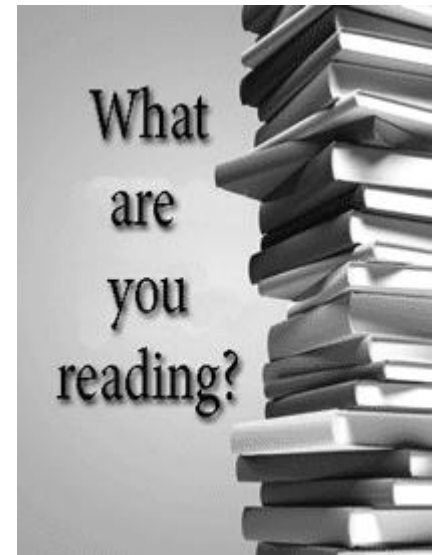
SUN	MON	TUE	WED	THU	FRI	SAT
<p>1 10:30 a.m.— Communion</p>	<p>2 6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>3 </p>	<p>4 </p>	<p>5 9:30 a.m.— Alpha Circle 6:30 p.m.— Choir 7:30 p.m.— Praise Practice</p>	<p>6 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's</p>	<p>7</p>
<p>8 10:30 a.m.— Worship </p>	<p>9  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>	<p>12 6:30 p.m.— Choir 7:30 p.m.— Praise Practice</p>	<p>13 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's 12:00 p.m.— Deacon's Meeting</p>	<p>14 8:00am-12:00 pm YARD SALE </p>
<p>15 10:30 a.m.— Worship</p>	<p>16  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18  1:30 p.m.— Session, Youth Room</p>	<p>19 6:30 p.m.— Choir 7:30 p.m.— Praise Practice</p>	<p>20 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's 5:30 p.m.— Mariners </p>	<p>21 </p>
<p>22 10:30 a.m.— Worship 4:00 p.m.— War Room </p>	<p>23  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>	<p>26 6:30 p.m.— Choir 7:30 p.m.— Praise Practice</p>	<p>27 10:00 a.m.— Bible Study at Kuglin's</p>	<p>28</p>
<p>29 10:30 a.m.— Worship 11:45 a.m.— Potluck</p>	<p>30  6:00 p.m.— Church Prayer Meeting</p>	<p>31</p>				

2016 READING CHALLENGE



Have you read any good books lately? What are they? Reading, like exercise, is a joy and a discipline. I was challenged by my friend, Russell Smith, pastor of Covenant First Presbyterian Church in Cincinnati to read a book a week in 2016. Here are the books I have read this year in the **#52booksin2016 Challenge**

- 1) The Last Battle – C. S. Lewis (Children)
- 2) In the Garden of Beasts – Erik Larson (History)
- 3) Bandersnatch – Diana Glycer (Literature)
- 4) Dictator – Robert Harris (Historical Fiction)
- 5) I Am a Church Member – Thom Rainer (Church Growth)
- 6) Preaching- Tim Keller (Preaching)
- 7) The Black Echo- Michael Connelly (Crime Novel)
- 8) Creativity, Inc.- Ed Catmull (Leadership)
- 9) And Then There Were None- Agatha Christie (Mystery)
- 10)Huckleberry Finn- Mark Twain (Fiction)
- 11)Murder on the Orient Express – Agatha Christie (Mystery)
- 12)In the Name of Jesus - Henri Nouwen (Spiritual Leadership)
- 13)Church History in Plain Language: Fourth Edition - Bruce Shelley (History)
- 14) Endurance: Shackleton's Incredible Voyage" - Alfred Lansing. (Biography)
- 15) Soul Keeping: Caring For the Most Important Part of You—John Ortberg (Spirituality)



What are you reading?

Needed: Part-time Secretary starting in June 2016



Our current secretary, Rachel Stochl, will be leaving us at the end of June to start Graduate School. We need to fill this position as soon as possible so that Rachel can train them! Must be a Christian, have good computer skills, able to answer/make phone calls politely, and willing to learn some accounting. Call the church office if you are interested or if you know anyone that could be interested in the position! Must be able to work through the Summer and in the Fall.

Harvest Mariners Meet May 20th

On May 20th, following the potluck dinner at 5:30 p.m. we will be viewing the film, War Room, all about the power of prayer. This will be the first showing of War Room at the church, but it won't be the last! Invite friends to join as we learn more about the power of prayer. It is a 2-hour movie, so plan for a longer meeting.



Hosting the Stockton Presbytery in May



Harvest will be hosting the Stockton Presbytery's quarterly meeting on May 7th from 9:00 a.m. to about 1:00 p.m. We will need some volunteers to register attendees, to greet, to help with worship, to help set up, to help prepare a simple meal (alas, the In-n-Out Truck was unavailable). Watch for the sign up sheet. The last time we hosted a meeting, everyone commented on how lovely the Worship Center was, and how friendly Harvests' people were.

Yard Sale, Saturday, May 14th



The Annual Yard Sale will be Saturday, May 14th from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon. Come and sell your spare treasures or unwanted possessions. A \$10 fee per table and 10% of your proceeds will be given to the church. Contact Cyndy Cawley for additional information.

The Role of Prayer in Spiritual Awakening

Dr. J. Edwin Orr was a leading scholar of revivals who published detailed books about evangelical awakenings. His research discovered major spiritual awakenings about every fifty years following the great awakening from the mid-eighteenth century in which John and Charles Wesley, George Whitefield and Jonathan Edwards featured prominently. This article, based on one of Edwin Orr's messages, is adapted from articles reproduced in the National Fellowship for Revival newsletters in New Zealand and Australia.

Dr. A. T. Pierson once said, 'There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.' Let me recount what God has done through concerted, united, sustained prayer.

Not many people realize that in the wake of the American Revolution (following 1776-1781) there was a moral slump. Drunkenness became epidemic. Out of a population of five million, 300,000 were confirmed drunkards; they were burying fifteen thousand of them each year. Profanity was of the most shocking kind. For the first time in the history of the American settlement, women were afraid to go out at night for fear of assault. Bank robberies were a daily occurrence.

There has never been a spiritual awakening in any country or locality that did not begin in united prayer.

What about the churches? The Methodists were losing more members than they were gaining. The Baptists said that they had their most wintry season. The Presbyterians in general assembly deplored the nation's ungodliness. In a typical Congregational church, the Rev. Samuel Shepherd of Lennox, Massachusetts, in sixteen years had not taken one young person into fellowship. The Lutherans were so languishing that they discussed uniting with Episcopalians who were even worse off. The Protestant Episcopal Bishop of New York, Bishop Samuel Provost, quit functioning; he had confirmed no one for so long that he decided he was out of work, so he took up other employment.

The Chief Justice of the United States, John Marshall, wrote to the Bishop of Virginia, James Madison, that the Church 'was too far gone ever to be redeemed.' Voltaire averred and Tom Paine echoed, 'Christianity will be forgotten in thirty years.'

Take the liberal arts colleges at that time. A poll taken at Harvard had discovered not one believer in the whole student body. They took a poll at Princeton, a much more evangelical place, where they discovered only two believers in the student body, and only five that did not belong to the filthy speech movement of that day. Students rioted. They held a mock communion at Williams College, and they put on anti-Christian plays at Dartmouth. They burned down the Nassau Hall at Princeton. They forced the resignation of the president of Harvard. They took a Bible out of a local Presbyterian church in New Jersey, and they burnt it in a public bonfire. Christians were so few on campus in the 1790's that they met in secret, like a communist cell, and kept their minutes in code so that no one would know.

How did the situation change? It came through a concert of prayer.

There was a Scottish Presbyterian minister in Edinburgh named John Erskine, who published a Memorial (as he called it) pleading with the people of Scotland and elsewhere to unite in prayer for the revival of religion. He sent one copy of this little book to Jonathan Edwards in New England. The great theologian was so moved he wrote a response which grew longer than a letter, so that finally he published it as a book entitled 'A Humble Attempt to Promote Explicit Agreement and Visible Union of all God's People in Extraordinary Prayer for the Revival of Religion and the Advancement of Christ's Kingdom on Earth, pursuant to Scripture Promises and Prophecies...'

Is not this what is missing so much from all our evangelistic efforts: explicit agreement, visible unity, unusual prayer?

Read more about how prayer has revived the nation and the world at

http://www.churchplantingwiki.com/index.php/wiki/Prayer_-_J_Edwin_Orr_-_The_Role_of_Prayer_in_Spiritual_Awakening/



- 6—Susan Bennett
- 7—John Baughman
- 14—Devon James

If your birthday or anniversary has not been listed, please call the office and let us know.

Regular Prayer List

Assisted Living:

- Mabel Cronan—*The Stratford Place*
- Donna McRae— *Golden Age Home Care, (memory care)*
- Dorothy Nelson—*Turlock Residential*
- Mildred Vine— *Paramount Court*

Health Issues:

- Florence Bloemendaal
- Warren Cawley (pain)
- Margaret Kuglin (eye)
- Roger Morrow (hip)
- Ruth Strange (back)



Stockton Presbytery Prayer List for May 2016

- May 1—First Presbyterian Church, Turlock; Pastor: Craig Wright; AND: Wendy Warner, HR
- May 8—Committee on Ministry, Stockton Presbytery; AND: George Shahbaz, HR
- May 15—Vietnamese Evangelistic Outreach, Stockton; CRE: Tim Nguyen; AND: Russell Chandler, HR
- May 22—Stockton Presbytery and our future together!
- May 29—The Mission and Ministries of the PC(USA)



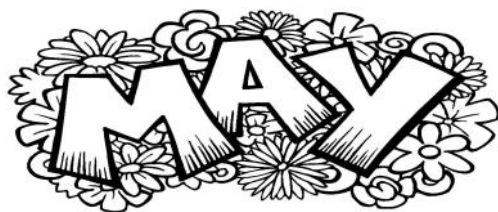
Ceres School's Prayer List for May 2016

- May 1—Central Valley High School
Principal: Dan Pangrazio
- May 8—Ceres Adult School
- May 15—Ceres High School
Principal: Linda Stubbs
- May 22—Ceres High School
Assistant Principal: Ed Pelfrey
- May 29—Cesar Chavez Junior High
Principal: Rosemarie Kloepfer



Harvest Presbyterian Church
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Ceres, CA 95307

POSTAGE



Mission Statement ~ With God in control, the mission of the Harvest Presbyterian Church is to proclaim and bear witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and nurture the faith of our church family.

Harvest Leadership 2016

Deacons

Virginia Bathe
John Baughman
Pat Cousins
Art Johnston
Nora McKinsey
Martha McNamara
Linda Sherman
Myrna Wilhite

Elders

Patti Arbizu
Susan Bennett
Cyndy Cawley
Michael Cousins
Staci Edwards
Brandy Meyer

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