

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

April 2011



I love Easter, and I love Easter for a lot of reasons. For example, Easter falls in the Spring. Don't get me wrong, Christmas is a beautiful time of the year. But Christmas falls in the Winter and the days are short and cold and wet and overcast and, well, you get the idea. At Easter the days are becoming longer and warmer and I just like Spring better than Winter.

Also, Easter always makes me think of vacation time. Years ago I started taking the week after Easter as vacation time. With all the preparations leading up to the Easter services at the Church, I have found that the following week is a great time to rest and relax.

I love Easter because it is the proof that everything that Jesus said and did is true and acceptable to God. The Bible always refers to Jesus as "being raised" meaning "He was brought back to life by God the Father." He did not "raise" Himself or bring Himself back to life. If God had been displeased with anything that Jesus had done or said, then He could have demonstrated that displeasure by leaving Jesus in the tomb. This would have proved to the world that Jesus was not the Son of God once and for all. But God did raise Jesus from the dead, affirming that all Jesus said and did was true and pleasing to the Father.

I love everything about Easter. But there has always been one thing I have wondered about: the women who made their way to the tomb on that first Easter morning.

In Mark's Gospel, we are told that the women, as they walked in the dark, talked amongst themselves, wondering "Who will roll the stone away from the entrance of the tomb?"

These women got up early and went to the tomb of Jesus to perform the task which they apparently were not able to perform on their own. What I mean by that is, when they got to the tomb, with the stone blocking their way to Jesus, what was their plan? The guards certainly would not help by rolling the stone away. There were no male disciples with them to help roll away the stone. At that hour of the morning there would not have been workers around to ask for help. So, what were these women planning once they got to the tomb?

Apparently they did not allow what they could not do interfere with what they could do. I like that. For example, they could not move the stone away by themselves to reach the one they

loved, but they went anyway. They could not get others to help them roll away the stone, yet they went anyway. They could not prevent Jesus from dying, but they could continue to love Him even after death.

I love Easter. I love the stories of Easter, I love the message of Easter, and I love the hope of Easter. And now I want to be like the women of the Easter story, not worrying about what I cannot do, just doing what I can, love Jesus.

Shalom,

Pastor Bob

Pastor Bob:  
Where are you going to be on Easter morning at 6:00 a.m.?  
Ben Akina:  
I am going to be at the Standiford Park, just to the East of the Church, on Tokay Ave.  
Pastor Bob:  
Really, but I am planning on being at the Cinderella Park on Tokay....  
Kay Nelson having overheard the conversation:  
They are the same place!  
Pastor Bob:  
Where are you going to be on the morning of April 24th at 6:00 a.m.? Sunrise Service in the park, with some very special surprises.  
Seems like the place to be!



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## College Scholarship

The Centenary College Scholarship Fund was established in the year 2000 through a bequest from Reginald and Dora Swatman and gifts given in memory of Hildreth (Hildy) Schuler. The purpose of the fund is to grant scholarships to active members of the Centenary Church family who will be entering undergraduate or graduate college studies. It serves to affirm their pursuit of a higher education and their desire to honor God as they continue to grow in faith and Christian service.

Applications for the 2011-2012 academic year are available in the church office and are due by Thursday, June 30<sup>th</sup>.

## Your Donations Are Needed

In order to maintain the Centenary College Scholarship Fund in perpetuity, your help is needed. Please prayerfully consider joining the Swatman, Schuler, and other Centenary families who have chosen to support our young people through contributions to this fund. Donations of any amount will be gratefully appreciated. Please make checks payable to Centenary UMC, with "College Scholarship Fund" in the memo section.

## Missions Team Update Opportunities to Serve

### Gospel Mission Sunday Dinners

Centenary is serving dinner at the Gospel Mission the fourth Sunday of each Month. This is an opportunity open to anyone age twelve and over. Stop by the Missions table after services to sign up.

### Saturday June 25

Centenary will be hosting a project in conjunction with World Vision to provide health worker kits to AIDS service workers in Africa. Each kit costs \$30. Consider sponsoring one or more kits, and writing a check to Centenary with Africa Project in the memo line.

More details on this and other June projects coming up.

### Lenten Giving

To support this effort, we suggest that you put aside \$.75 a day. This means giving up one fast food meal or two Starbucks coffee drinks a week. Not too much to sacrifice to make lives better for others.

Another option is to pick up a change container from the Missions table, it can be kept on your dresser or by the washer, or where ever change accumulates. As the container fills bring it to church to add to the "Change to Change Lives" jar at the Missions Team table.



## Prayer Update from John & Stella White Serving at DCU (Donyetsk Christian University)

Thank you so much for your prayers this past month! We wanted to send you a couple of updates and new prayer requests.

- 1) Please continue to pray for our health and the health of our students. We've been doing very well personally, but the flu is going around campus causing a number of students to be sick and even leading to the cancellation of some classes. Winter lingers long into what should be Spring according to the calendar, so the season for sickness continues.
- 2) Please continue to pray for John's teaching of the class "Non-Christian Religions." The topic is quite difficult, and although it's going well, the combination of a heavy schedule, the flu, and strange religions is sometimes a little much for our first-year students! Please pray for them and for John to have wisdom as to how to best teach them.
- 3) Please pray for ongoing guidance for the leadership of DCU.
- 4) Please pray for us as we start to prepare for a home assignment in the U.S. this summer.

Blessings to each of you from our God who answers prayer.  
John and Stella



# Easter Eggstravaganza 2011

Your family is invited to attend Centenary's annual "Eggstravaganza"  
Saturday, April 16th 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

For families with children ages three through sixth grade

Join us for an egg hunt, hands-on activities,  
and a special Easter message.

Please RSVP to Heather at 527-5441 or [hethdaniel@yahoo.com](mailto:hethdaniel@yahoo.com)



*Save the Date!*

*Centenary Women's Conference 2011*

*May 13—14*

*Heartfelt*

*A heartfelt journey through worship and service*

*Matthew 25:40*

*Cheryl Collins*

*Guest Speaker*



## Weekly Events

### SUNDAY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 9:00 A.M.

ADULT SUNDAY CLASS - Rm. 15/16 9:00 A.M.

TRADITIONAL WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.

CAMBODIAN WORSHIP SERVICE 10:30 A.M.

JR. & SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL Rm. 4/5 10:30 A.M.

### MONDAY

BETH MOORE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Rm. 6 6:00 P.M.

### TUESDAY

MOM2MOM - Rm. 6 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.

THRIFT SHOP 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

### WEDNESDAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - PERKO'S McHENRY AVE. 6:00 A.M.

SPIRIT SALON - Rm. 6 9:00 A.M.

WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - FELLOWSHIP CENTER

DINNER 5:30 P.M./CLASSES 6:30 P.M.

JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP 6:00 P.M.

### THURSDAY

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - Rm. 15/16 9:00 A.M.

### SATURDAY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30 P.M.



4/1	KAY HAWKINS	4/18	ARLETA PICKETT
4/1	BOB MURDOCK	4/20	AUDREY GROVER
4/1	BEVERLY UNDERWOOD	4/21	GLORIA CATARINO
4/1	MARY ANN WOOD	4/21	BRADLEY SHRADER
4/2	NANCY HARRIS	4/21	DAVID THOMPSON
4/2	RON BYRNE	4/22	WARREN HAWKINS
4/3	ANDREW MEY	4/22	ROBYN HEWITT
4/4	LYNDI PEPELNJAK	4/23	HAROLD CUMMINGS
4/4	RICHARD DARK	4/23	DOUG MOORE
4/4	ELMER EISENHAUER	4/24	MARGOT TE VELDE
4/4	HENRY LEY	4/24	JANE WILKES
4/5	JACK JONES	4/24	CHOMNAN CHEA
4/5	FRANK GALLAHER	4/24	EVA BYRNE
4/5	LOEUP PON	4/24	MARGE BECKWITH
4/5	RICK REDNER	4/24	STEVEN LAMBERT
4/7	BEV JAMISON	4/25	CHANTRA MALI
4/9	DOROTHY MELLOR	4/25	JEANIE JONES
4/9	BOB STEWART	4/25	KENDALL DARR
4/11	BOB WHETZLER	4/25	KIMBERLY ROBISON
4/11	YOSHIKO NELSON	4/26	DEANNA OLSON
4/12	ALBERTA MARTONE	4/26	MIMI FISHER
4/14	DAVID MACKLEY	4/26	DANICA BIRD
4/15	LUCINDA JACOBS	4/26	ASHLEY BOYER
4/15	CHRISTOPHER STANDISH	4/26	ASHLEY BOYER
4/16	CAROLINE SWANK	4/27	RITA KERR
4/16	MIKE CLEARY	4/27	JANET BECK
4/17	RON ROBERTSON	4/27	DONNA SEVER
		4/27	DONNA STARN
		4/28	DIANA PERRY
		4/28	KELLY RASH
		4/29	LIZ YOUNG
		4/29	LAURA YOUNGER
		4/29	STEPHEN WHITEHEAD
		4/30	KARIN TOSTA
		4/30	DEBBIE LABARBERA



April 2	Love Modesto Community Service Day
April 11	Board of Trustees Meeting
April 14	SPRC Meeting
April 16	Easter Eggstravaganza
April 17	Palm Sunday
April 18	Finance Committee Meeting
April 21	Maundy Thursday Service
April 21	Missions Team Meeting
April 22	Good Friday Service/Church Office Closed
April 23	No Saturday Night Worship
April 24	Easter Sunday
April 25	Ad Council Meeting
April 29-5/1	RCP Women's Retreat

*It is not our intention to overlook your birthday. If your birthday was not listed, please call the church office @ 527-5441 and let us know, so that we can update our records. Thank You!*

### **A Note From Pastor Bob**

No doubt you have been watching the great devastation that has occurred in Japan. First the earthquake struck, then the tsunami, and then all of the aftershocks. We are aware that the need in Japan is great.

I am sure that you, like myself, want to help in whatever way you can. But we want our donations to go directly to the cause, to the people in need, rather than to overhead.

The United Methodist Church has an organization called UMCOR (United Methodist Council on Relief) The beauty of UMCOR is that our Apportionment dollars already support that organization. Thus, every dollar we send earmarked for Japan, will go in full to help those in Japan.

If you wish to help in this ongoing effort, simply mark on your check that the monies are for Japan and rest assured that every penny of every dollar will go to that effort.



## S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

### Depression and Exercise

Depression may begin innocently with a “bad mood.” Then, it progresses to “mildly depressed.” From there, it spirals downward almost unknowingly deeper and deeper. Recent research has found that aerobic activity three to five times per week can help break that dangerous spiral. Some psychiatrists even treat depression by prescribing aerobic exercise instead of drugs. Our bodies naturally secrete hormones called endorphins during vigorous exercise. Aerobic exercise is nature’s tranquilizer.

While exercise is a great way to help with depression, knowing God and having hope in Him is the ultimate way to deal with depression. Knowing He is always there can provide the strength we need to face our problems.

*“I would have despaired unless I believed that  
I would see the goodness of the Lord in  
the land of the living.” Psalm 27:13*



Thrift Shop  
Tuesdays

9:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

Please visit our Church Thrift Shop, open Tuesday mornings from 9:30 a.m. - 12:30 p.m. We are currently stocked with a variety of many different items, and receive new and interesting items every week. You never know what you will discover!

As always, your donations are encouraged and appreciated. We would also like to encourage you to consider joining us as a volunteer in this ministry. As volunteers we are able to meet, talk with, and share the love of the Lord with many people in our community.



**Did you know our church has a great Christ-centered library? Centenary’s library is open every Sunday from 10:00 am to 11:30 am.**

Don’t have time to read? Try The Luke Reports Chapter 1: Child of Promise: Focus on the Family’s Radio Theatre on Compact Disc. Imagine if you will, that the life of the apostle Paul hangs in the balance as Luke, his trusted friend, is commissioned by a sympathetic Roman senator to find and report the truth about the life and ministry of Jesus. In this first of a three part fictionalized “story behind the story,” of Luke’s Gospel, listeners will sense the fear as Luke finds himself in the thick of thieves and revolutionaries, and be privy to a tender encounter between Luke and Mary as she recounts the memories surrounding Jesus’ miraculous birth.

Did you miss the Chip Ingram parenting class at Wednesday Night Live? We have the book in the church library! Effective Parenting in a Defective World is written by Chip Ingram, who is teaching pastor on the “Living on the Edge” radio program. A parent’s greatest desire is to raise a child who can face anything with wisdom and confidence. But in a world of over-extended schedules, amoral messages, and incessant peer-pressure, how can you raise a confident child that follows God’s will, not the world’s? Chip Ingram’s practical tips for modeling right living, building strong bonds, and disciplining effectively will help parents bring up Christ-centered kids who feel secure and significant no matter what comes their way. The book features practical, age-appropriate parenting tips, charts/diagrams, and action steps.

How about a good book to curl up with at the end of a long day? Try the classic At Home in Mitford: The Mitford Years, Book 1 by Jan Karon and you’ll get hooked on the series. It’s easy to feel at home in Mitford. In these high, green hills, the air is pure, the village is charming, and the people are generally lovable. Yet, Father Tim, the bachelor rector, wants something more. Enter a dog the size of a sofa that moves in and won’t go away. Add an attractive neighbor who begins wearing a path through the hedge. Now, stir in a lovable but unloved boy, a mystifying jewel theft, and a secret that’s sixty years old. Suddenly, Father Tim gets more than he bargained for. And readers get a rich, provincial comedy in which mysteries and miracles abound.

And, wouldn’t the grandbaby like to hear Two Hands for Helping by Angus Hudson? This cute little board book in the shape of a hand tells babies to three years old about ways to honor God with their hands.



It is April and Spring is in the air! I know I say this every year, but I am ready for Spring. I love the mild weather, sunlight, colorful flowers, sound of

baby birds chirping in their nests and the sound of carefree children laughing, yelling and shrieking as they play outside with all their friends. Yes, I'm ready for the change in seasons and the blessings that come with Spring.

We had an exciting month of March. The first two weeks the children had "Fun with the Wind and Weather." They enjoyed making kites, hot air balloons, wind streamers, paper airplanes, clouds and rainbows. They also had fun blowing bubbles and watching them float away in the wind. One day after it rained, the sun came out and we saw a beautiful rainbow in the sky. What a joy it was to experience God's beautiful handiwork with the children. We had a few days when we experienced how mighty the March winds can blow. God was definitely teaching us about the wind and weather this month!

Of course, we had to have some fun with St. Patrick's Day. On March 2nd, the children planted grass seeds in a clear plastic cup. They made leprechaun faces on the cups and as the grass grew, it became the leprechaun's hair. It took several days for the grass seeds to sprout, but we definitely had some green leprechaun hair by the end of March! On March 17th, some leprechauns sneaked into our classrooms while the children were at circle time. After circle time, the children delightfully followed a trail of leprechaun tracks and gold dust to find gold treasures. We tried to sneak a peek at the leprechauns this year. We even put a bell in the door so we could hear them come in. But, I'm afraid those sneaky little guys outsmarted us again this year!

The last two weeks of March the children learned about dinosaurs. They are so interested in these prehistoric creatures and enjoyed learning about all the different types. The children enjoyed decorating and eating dinosaur cookies and tapped into their creativity painting pictures and telling stories about their favorite dinosaurs.

We are looking forward to a beautiful month of April. Our themes will be "Spring Brings New Life" and "God's Mighty Universe." Our chapel themes will be *gentleness* (Prov. 15:1) *patience* (1 Thes. 5:14) *rejoice* (Matt. 5:12) and *friendship* (Prov. 15:1). God is so good and we are so thankful for the opportunity we have here to give our precious children the love, encouragement and nurturing they need and deserve. Thank you so much for your continued love, support and prayers.

In His love,  
Janet



## ROYAL SERVANTS: A SUMMER MISSIONS PROGRAM

In college I was asked by a youth leader, "Do you want to go to Scotland this summer with Royal

Servants?" I went to God in prayer and was amazed at how doors were opened for me to go. For the last three years, we have invited Travis Carr, who is on staff with Royal Servants, to come tell the Rock Youth Group about the opportunities teenagers have to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ all over the world.

This summer four members of the Rock Youth Group and one of our youth staff will serve on an overseas missions trip with Royal Servants. **Courtney Nawrocki**, **Elias Futch**, and **Carly Duenas** have applied to go to Sierra Leone, Africa, **Colin Daniel** has applied to go to Costa Rica, and **Kim Wolfswinkel** has applied to go to Scotland (as a Staff Discippler). Please pray for each one of them as they prepare for this amazing opportunity both spiritually and financially. In the next few months, we will be hearing more from each of these individuals about their call to missions.

Below is more information about Royal Servants from their website:

**Royal Servants** is our student summer mission program. We take jr. high, sr. high, and college-age students on mission trips all over the world. Royal Servants mission trips last from five to eight weeks. We specialize in discipling students in a deeper personal relationship with the Lord and teaching them to share their faith. Over the years, Royal Servants has facilitated over 8,000 participants. These Christian teens, while predominantly from North America, come from all over the world and over 150 denominations. They have ministered on six continents through 200+ trips. Students will spend one to two weeks at Training Camp before going overseas.

Prior to sending a team to any location, Royal Servants conducts an analysis to determine any political, environmental, or regional issues which may affect the safety and health of the team members. Continued monitoring of every country continues up to each trip's departure from Training Camp.

For more information, check out their website @ [www.royalservants.org](http://www.royalservants.org)

Lindy Collins



## Little White Lies ~ B. Akina

In Shakespeare's *Twelfth Night* Malvolio, a domineering steward is tricked by a coalition of houseguests and servants into humiliating himself in front of Olivia, the mistress of the manor. He was led to believe that she was in love with

him, and that her heart would thrill to see him wearing "yellow stockings, cross-gartered," a hideous and embarrassing outfit. Malvolio, we assume, is many years older than Olivia and, while a very arrogant and smug character, never would have supposed his ghoulish looks would have charmed her. But his own weakness, his vanity, induced him to believe the lie.

Though it was a very improbable honor (even to his impressive arrogance), he allowed himself to be deceived. Though his reason should have rejected the idea, his pathos believed himself worthy of any unlikely good that may come along.

Who among us, if we were honest, would not be tempted to follow him down that road? We live in a world filled with all kinds of deceit. Advertisers and people of influence feed our egos on a daily basis—their little white lies shape us into human beings that will buy luxury items that we cannot afford but somehow "deserve." Our egos shake hands with them, consider them our "little white allies," and we become a morally compromised and evangelistically moot people.

And we allow it to happen, because they are telling us what we secretly wish to believe.

Satan uses these very same tactics and, sadly, rarely wears a name tag. If we were hearing voices saying, "sacrifice a goat and paint a pentagram with its blood," we would probably know something wasn't quite kosher.

But the enemy's modus operandi is much more clever. Rather than getting us to focus on sin and the destruction of God's church, he gets us to focus on the thing we most want to occupy our thoughts with; that handsome guy in the mirror. As Alistair Begg puts it, "we turn inward upon ourselves," and *bam!* One less farmer scattering seed.

No amount of appeals to our vanity, no matter how tempting, can be worth sacrificing our potential to minister to this lost world.

So fight back, beloved. We're not that special. We come from ashes, we come from dust, and we will resume that state once we've turned in these skin suits we're renting. And the only things of value in between the two dates on our tombstone will be those moments where we chose to ignore the promptings of the "me-centered" culture...and focused on God first, and others second.

Or we could just try cross-gartering our yellow stockings and see how that plays out.



Spring is upon us and we are planning a Holy Week that we hope will fill you anew with God's amazing and abundant love. But even before Holy Week, we want to reach out with His love through our annual Easter Eggstravaganza! Our Eggstravaganza will be April 16th, the Saturday before Palm Sunday. This event is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to hear the Easter story, fellowship with other families, and participate in a hands-on activity. We finish off the morning with a huge egg hunt outside!

We can't do this alone. We need your help! Please help us get the word out by passing on an extra flyer to someone you know. This is a great time to invite a family you know through your neighborhood, your workplace or your friends. We also need some supplies for the hunt. Last year we filled over 1200 plastic colorful eggs for the egg hunt. We plan on needing even more this year! The next time you're out, please pick up a package of plastic eggs or a bag of individually wrapped candy and bring them to the church office or to the basket in the back of the Sanctuary.

We will be serving fresh-baked cinnamon rolls, so we need help baking those that morning. We'll also need greeters for our Easter Eggstravaganza. If you are able to help, please let me know. Finally, but most importantly, we need you to wrap this event in prayer. Our goal is to reach out to new families across Modesto and offer them more than just an Easter egg hunt – we want to offer them hope in Christ. Please pray that we can reach people with His love and grace.

We appreciate your help and your prayers for our Easter Eggstravaganza!

In His Service,  
Heather Daniel

 Centenary United Methodist  
Church

1911 Toyon Avenue  
Modesto, CA 95350  
(209) 527-5441

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## ***Easter Sunday Services***

***Sunrise Service 6:00 a.m.***

*at Standiford Park*

*(Tokay & Sunrise Ave.)*

*Followed by a hot breakfast*

*at the Church*

***Easter Celebration 10:30 a.m.***

*One Combined Worship Service in*

*the Fellowship Center*

