

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

## April 2009



### *From the Pastor's Desk*

I cannot tell you why but for some unknown reason, I have been thinking a lot about projects I have undertaken, little things I have tried to build over the years. For example, I have been thinking about a swing set I tried to put together - 25 years ago!

I would almost swear that midway through the building process, the instructions said "at this point please not that everything you have done is wrong - take it all apart and start over."

I would almost swear that. The reason I will not swear that the instructions said that is because, during that stage of my life, I rarely read or followed the instructions.

There are times when I am a little fearful about sharing my confessions of failure with you, I don't want you to look down on me as your pastor, but this is not one of those times. I am convinced that many of us do not follow instructions, at least, not very well.

I look at the condition our nation has put herself in and feel fairly confident in saying that we have not followed God's instruction to be a nation that receives God's blessings."

Let me explain; while God's word has a lot to say about debt, what it teaches is that debt is a bad thing. We as a nation, apparently did not take the time to fully understand what Scripture was teaching. Thus, we are a nation overwhelmed by debt.

That debt and the uncertainty it causes, is causing us a lot of pain. Financial stress is the number one cause of arguments in a marriage, and great financial stress often leads to divorce.

These are frightening times. Can I give you some good news, some comfort in the midst of this storm - our God allows "do overs." When I attempted to put together that swing set for the boys it took me a couple of months and I made numerous mistakes, each time I

made a mistake, I was allowed to go back, undo the mistake, and start over. I wasn't required to "beat myself up" over my mistakes, I was simply allowed to "do over."

That is the message of Easter, God allows "do overs." I hope you will take advantage of God's graciousness and accept his offer to a "do over," a second chance.

May God bless you in a special way this Easter season.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bob".

Pastor Bob

### **A Further Word from Pastor Bob:**

Ad Council asked me to give our congregation an update on our finances.

While our country is facing a recession, our church is facing some difficult times as well. Compared to 2008, our giving this year has dropped by over \$9,000.

There is some good news, however. We are still able to offer God's love to those in need. For instance, the loving response of our congregation to reach out to the Chapman family, after a fire had destroyed all of their belongings is a heart warming story. We have folks sharing gift cards and bringing food for our Centenary Food Closet and for Interfaith Ministries. We continue to offer clothing and support with those in need. We have members supporting Modesto Gospel Mission with their time and service. The list goes on and on...

We continue to be a witness as the body of Christ in our community. We thank God for you and your faithfulness to doing ministry in Modesto. Please know that during this recession we will do everything in our power to be faithful stewards of all that is entrusted to us.



# Spring Session of Wednesday Nite Live

April 22 – May 27

Dinner at 5:30 (Still just \$3 for adults and \$2 for children!)  
Nursery care at 6:15 Adult & Children's classes at 6:30

## CLASSES

**Finances with Jim Kriese**

**Book of the Bible with Pastor Bob Collins**

**Book review on "The Shack" with Brian Ralston**

**Fireproof Your Marriage:  
Study based on the current popular Fireproof movie**

**The Twilight Zone with David Collins  
Discovering Spiritual Truths**

## Women's Conference Review

On March 13<sup>th</sup> and 14<sup>th</sup> Barb Curry shared with about 35 women, her Journey of Faith and the choices she has made along the way. Our Friday soup supper with Rocky Road brownies and fellowship set in motion our time together. Jenner Swanson led us both days in sweet worship, helping us to focus on God's presence for the adventure.

As Barb shared her life story with us, we learned that she had made both good and poor choices. There were situations that occurred in her life that she had no control over. The impact was huge. Though she did not choose those situations, she did choose how she responded to them and how that made all the difference in her faith walk as well as in the walk of those close to her.



We were blessed to have Pastor Bob join us at the conclusion of the conference and to serve communion. He reminded us of the choice that Jesus made for us, the ultimate choice that secured our salvation.

We'd like to extend a special thanks to Brian Yung who courageously operated the sound equipment for us and braved "traveling" along the journey with all us girls!



## Words of Thanks from the Board of Trustees, by Brad Barnes

We now have an amazing new ministry group around the Church campus, called the “Fix It Team.” Fourteen men and women volunteered to join this ministry to perform a variety of projects around the Centenary buildings and grounds.

Each Tuesday morning, six to eight Fix It Team volunteers meet in Room 1 for a time of prayer and then they get started working.

During the first six weeks, more than twenty projects were completed. Here is a partial list of their accomplishments:

- Replaced and sealed wood trim around stained glass cross
- Removed, repaired and reinstalled broken pew support
- Installed door closers on two Sanctuary glass doors
- Repaired broken sprinkler riser in Sanctuary flower bed
- Adjusted doors and door locks in room 2-3 (the choir room)
- Started cleaning the leached lime salts from inside masonry walls
- Repaired the damaged door in Room 4/5 (Youth Room)
- Repaired and painted the damaged wall by A/C in kitchen
- Removed unused bulletin boards, patched and painted the holes
- Repaired, primed, and painted damage to Room 14 overhang
- Repaired plumbing leak in Sanctuary Garden
- Adjusted the other Sanctuary glass doors
- Replaced missing board on the dumpster surround
- Started repair/replacement of fold down doorstops
- Adjusted glass doors in Fellowship Center
- Trimmed metal of room divider in Room 12
- Replaced sink countertop in Room 12
- Adjusted two door closers in Room 6
- Fixed cabinets in Office Rest Room
- Repaired the library door

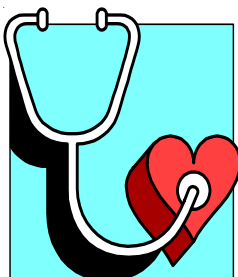
Again, this is just a partial list of what this group has accomplished. Our Church has been blessed to not only see improvements being made all over the grounds, but even more by the wonderful attitudes and joyful smiles each of the “Fix It Team” demonstrates every Tuesday and throughout the week while making your Church Family home look and function better. Praise God for such faithful and skilled followers. For additional information, please contact Brad Barnes, Administrator.

The Centenary College Scholarship Fund is a perpetuating fund established in 2000 through a bequest from Reginald and Dora Swatman and from gifts given in memory of Hildreth (Hildy) Schuler. The purpose of the fund is to grant scholarships to members of our Centenary Church family who are attending college. It serves to affirm their pursuit of a higher education and their desire to honor God as they seek to grow in faith and service.

All those entering college or a graduate program, from the Centenary Church family are encouraged to apply. Applications for the 2009-2010 academic year are available in the church office.



**Congregational Blood Pressure  
Screening 4th Sunday of each month  
10-10:30 a.m. Rm. 15/16**



**April 26  
May 24  
June 28  
July 26  
August 23**

# Weekly Events



## SUNDAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY RM. 15/16 - 7:00 A.M.  
 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.  
 YOUNG ADULTS GROUP RM. 20 - 6:30 P.M.

## MONDAY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - RM. 6 - 6:30 P.M.  
 MEN'S FRATERNITY - RM. 20 - 6:30 P.M.

## TUESDAY

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

## WEDNESDAY

MEN'S FRATERNITY - RM. 15/16 - 6:00 A.M.  
 SPIRIT SALON - RM. 6 - 9:00 A.M.  
 WNL DINNER/FELLOWSHIP CENTER - 5:30 P.M.  
 WEDNESDAY NITE LIVE - 6:30 - 8:00 P.M.  
 JR. & SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP - 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

## THURSDAY

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

## SATURDAY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE - 6:30 P.M.



- April 2 SPRC Meeting
- April 4 Easter Eggstravaganza
- April 5 Palm Sunday & Parade
- April 7 Children's Ministry Team Meeting
- April 9 Maundy Thursday Service
- April 10 Good Friday Service
- April 11 No Saturday Worship Service
- April 12 Easter Services 7, 9 & 11 a.m.
- April 13 Board of Trustees Meeting
- April 16 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
- April 20 Finance Committee Meeting
- April 21 Preschool Open House
- April 24-26 Women's RCP Retreat
- April 27 Ad Council Meeting



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

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*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!*

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## Special Concerns



**Please keep these members of our Church family in your prayers:**

- |                         |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Dave Mackley</b>     | <b>Wendy Robertson</b> |
| <b>Josh Azevedo</b>     | <b>Mimi Fisher</b>     |
| <b>Alice Eisenman</b>   | <b>Alexis Eriski</b>   |
| <b>John Eisenman</b>    | <b>Kay Mooreland</b>   |
| <b>Gerald Underwood</b> | <b>Helen Helton</b>    |



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

### DOES GOD WANT YOU TO EXERCISE?

Sometimes, Christians are focused solely on their spiritual health and neglect their physical well being. Many well intentioned Christians have quoted 1 Timothy 4:8 regarding bodily exercise being lesser than spiritual exercise...Does this mean that we are to forget about exercise all together? Does this mean that God does not care if we are good stewards of our bodies? After all, when we pass to eternity, our bodies will return to the dust, right? True enough, our bodies are temporary. They will break down and eventually fail us. The point of Timothy is that we don't put anything first before God. He doesn't want us to put anything first...He must be first.

Yet, God commands us to treat our bodies with respect. Quite simply, our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit. When we neglect exercise and eat fatty, highly processed, or nutritiously empty foods, then we slowly destroy our bodies. I think God wants us to exercise not for the sake of exercising, but for the sake of taking care of his creation (His temple). Scripture often refers to the spirit, soul, and body so I believe that each one must be fully nourished.

*"May God himself, the God of peace, sanctify you through and through. May your whole spirit, soul, and body be kept blameless at the coming of our Lord Jesus Christ."  
(1 Thessalonians 5:23)*



One of the ways God works is to inspire some of His children to express truth about Him through creative ways. These gifted individuals are given inspiration by a loving God, and are then able to help others see, understand, or experience that same loving Lord.

A faithful member of our Church Family, Frank Henrich, has been so inspired by our Lord for many years now to write poems, articles, and reflections to encourage, inspire, and assist others to seek and know God. Some of these works are now accessible via a free website: [www.poemsforchrist.com](http://www.poemsforchrist.com) formerly, [www.anchorpoems.com](http://www.anchorpoems.com) 32 poems and articles are available currently, including "Snowflakes of Prayer," "Dare I Hope, Again," and "A Simple Task." The website will be regularly changed for ongoing interest and inspiration. Check it out yourself, or suggest it to a friend or loved one who may need an encouraging word or creative touch from the Lord.

**S.W.E.A.T. Aerobics meets  
in the Fellowship Center:  
Mon., Wed., & Fri. 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.  
and Mon. - Thurs. 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.  
(High or Low Impact)  
Tues. & Thurs. 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.  
(Non-Impact/Seniors)  
For More Information Call:  
Sandra Hegwood @ 578-1616**



Recently overheard: "That woman leading the singing is trying hard to look young and not succeeding very well." Oh, you mean the Easter-egg type, hard boiled and hand-pointed." You won't be dying Easter eggs in the church library but I'll bet you can find some interesting books that will be just as much fun. One is "God's Psychiatry" by Charles Allen. This is a study of the 23rd Psalm, the Ten Commandments, the Lord's Prayer and the Beatitudes, Prescriptions to change your life for the better. This classic is on the Library's Bible Study shelves.

A thriller, "The Dogs of Snoqualmie" by Calvin Miller tells about a demented priest and a mysterious wolf who emerge separately from the mountains to befriend a darkened people who needed healing, even before the murder. This is in the Fiction section.

On the Christian Living shelves is "Growing Your Soul" by Ned Wiseman. This gives you practical steps to increase your spirituality in order to cultivate a deeper inner life.

Also on the Fiction shelves is "Accused - Chamber of Justice." The happiness of Attorney Will Chambers and his new bride is shattered by a kidnapping and a call linking an unidentified murderer with the death of his first wife. Craig Parshall is the author. On the Youth shelves the younger set will be interested in "Stomping Out the Darkness" by Dr. Neil Anderson and Dave Park. This advises "Find out who you are and why you don't have to put up with the world's 'garbage' any more."

~ Margaret Bell



Have you noticed we've had a new emphasis on Family Fun at Centenary? We began offering Family Fun activities last summer and we continued them because of their success. Family Fun activities are hosted by Children's Ministry, but they are not limited to just children, or even to families that have young children. Anyone within the Church Family at Centenary is welcome and encouraged to come and be a part of our Family Fun! These intentional times of fellowship and connection with other believers are vital to a healthy spiritual walk.

Some of our past events include a Mad Science presentation, a show of Christian illusion presented by Donny Crandell, and a Family Olympics night devoted to games for the whole family. We've moved off campus and had a Picnic in the Park where the children played while the adults relaxed together. (We'll try our Snow Day again next winter since this year's spring weather in January didn't cooperate with our plans.) One of our most popular activities has been the campfires out on the church lawn, where we roast marshmallows, make S'mores and worship our God with praise music. Our most recent event was a Family Fun Game Night where we came together for a simple pizza dinner and then played games like Catch Phrase, Jenga and Candyland.

No matter what the activity, we always laugh together and get to know each other a little better. Our next activity will be in May, with more information to follow soon. So, next time you see a Family Fun activity being promoted, make time to come and be a part of the fun!

In His Service,  
Heather Daniel  
hethdaniel@yahoo.com



It is April and we have been noticing the signs of spring. We've heard baby birds chirping in their nests, beautiful flowers are blooming, bees are buzzing around, and the children have enjoyed all the caterpillars and bugs crawling around on the ground. The weather is beautiful and the children have been able to spend a lot of time outside. When children are outside playing, they are exercising their large muscles and developing their coordination skills which is important for brain development. I love hearing the shrieks of joy, laughter, yelling, screams and all the sounds the children make in the playground because I know they are learning and developing while they are having so much fun!

We had a beautiful March. The children learned about the "Wind-Weather" the first two weeks of March. They enjoyed making kites, wind socks, streamers, rainbows, and paper airplanes. They also had fun blowing bubbles and watching them float away in the wind.

We had some fun with St. Patrick's Day. The children drew faces on a cup and planted grass seeds inside. As the grass grew it became "Leprechaun hair." On Tuesday, March 17, some leprechauns sneaked into our classrooms while the children were at circle. After circle, the children followed a trail of leprechaun tracks and gold dust to find gold treasures. The leprechauns were very sneaky. We looked all over for them but they couldn't be found.

The last two weeks of March we learned about "dinosaurs." The children are very interested in these prehistoric creatures and had a great time learning about all the different types. We enjoyed decorating dinosaur cookies on the 24th & 25th of March and the children had great time painting pictures and telling stories about their favorite dinosaurs.

We are looking forward to a beautiful April. Our themes will be "Spring Brings New Life" and "God's Mighty Universe." Our chapel themes for April will be *joy* (Psalm 100:1-2), *gentleness* (Proverbs 15:11), *patience* (1 Thes. 5:14), and *friendship* (Prov. 17:17). On April 21 we'll be having our annual "Open House" for the families and friends of our children from 7-8 p.m. If you are interested in finding out more about our preschool and infant toddler program please come by to see us.

I'd like to take this opportunity to thank Warren Hawkins, Norm Buus, and Dennis Chapman for their time, expertise, and generous servants' hearts in doing many projects, repairs and maintenance for the preschool. You have been "angels" to us and I don't know what we'd do without you. We thank God for you and appreciate you so very much.

Thank you for your continued support and prayers. We wish you all a happy Easter!

Janet Lewis  
Preschool Director



## New Stephen Ministry Class Forming

All of your Stephen Ministers are currently walking with someone. This is an encouragement, but also a concern. We need to train up another class of Stephen Ministers so that we can provide care for others who wish to be helped by a brother or sister in Christ along the journey.

We currently have 4 people who have heard and answered God's call and have submitted applications, but in order to have a viable training class, we need several more individuals. Please search your hearts and pray about becoming a Stephen Minister. Talk to any of your Stephen Ministers about how they feel walking with someone. While they can not give specifics, they can tell about how God has used their experience to encourage and grow them, as well as helping and encouraging another. They will all tell you the rewards are tremendous and satisfying. They are Linda Beamer, Norm Buus, Jane Hellman, Janet Lewis and Melba Yarbrough; or call the Stephen Ministry Coordinator, Caren Burhans about what is involved at 238-0919, or email to [stephenministry@sbcglobal.net](mailto:stephenministry@sbcglobal.net), or Brian Ralston at 613-2264, or email [BriRalston@sbcglobal.net](mailto:BriRalston@sbcglobal.net).

Applications are available in the church office or they can be mailed to you upon request.

We would like to start a training class as soon as we have a viable number of participants. A training schedule of days and times will be set up by consensus of the class once it is formed. Please pray about this amazing opportunity to allow God to work through you to encourage and strengthen another.



## Thoughts On Sharing Our Faith

For the past month, we have been talking a lot about sharing our faith...the dreaded "e" word that we all have grown so fond of! So, I thought this would be a good time to share some honest thoughts on the subject. First of all, it is hard to "share your faith" with people, whether they are a friend or a complete stranger. I am not just saying that to make you feel better. I too, have a hard time opening up those conversations with people. In fact, I know that there are other members of our staff who feel the same way! I am telling you because many church-goers have this idea that their church leadership has everything figured out and that they don't struggle with these issues the same way that you do. I am not ashamed to admit that this just isn't true! I am a human being just like you! I probably have some of the same fears and insecurities as some of you.

Here is the question that many of us ask ourselves: "If I really love Jesus like I know that I do, then why is it so hard to tell people about it?" I believe that the biggest problem with "sharing our faith" is that most of us have a preconceived notion of *HOW* we are supposed to do it. It's not so much that we *won't* talk about Jesus, it's just that we don't want to do it the way that we have been led to believe is the **RIGHT WAY** to do it. Let me tell you something that will make you feel a little bit of freedom...there is no right way to share your faith! That being said, I do believe that there are some definite "wrong ways" to do it. When I was in college, there was a guy that would come and preach a "hellfire and brimstone" kind of message. He would yell, argue, and tell people that they were going to burn in hell. I'm not sure that this is the way to win souls for Christ. But, in a weird way, isn't that the way that we have always thought of evangelism? I used to feel guilty because I never really had the courage, let alone the desire, to "do evangelism" like that. Instead, I always found it more effective to be a "living witness" to those who were in my sphere of influence. I simply tried I to make the most of the opportunities that came my way (Col 4:5). At times have been able to talk about my faith, and the rest of the time I just try to live it out. No, I haven't done it perfectly 100% of the time, but that's why I needed a Savior in the first place! Now, I do happen to know some people that love to go and talk to strangers and share Jesus with them in that way, and that is great! **BUT** that is just one way, not *the only* way.

What I am saying is this; no matter how you choose to share your faith, evangelism must always begin by living in obedience to Christ. I firmly believe that will always be the most solid witness, a life that is being transformed by the Gospel. Secondly, God has made us all different, and different is good! You may not be able to do exactly what someone else does. Don't be ashamed of that. God made you to be **YOU** for a reason! So be freed from the burdens that others have placed on you, and serve God with the gifts, talents, and personality that He gave you! Here is the command from our Lord: "Make disciples!" (Mt 28:19). He didn't give us a formula for *how* to do it, but He does want us to do it. Be encouraged!

In Christ,  
Matt Riddle



Centenary United Methodist  
Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



*"The Lord Has Risen!"*

*Luke 24:34*



*Easter Sunday*

*Sunrise Worship Services*

*7:00 a.m., 9:00 a.m.*

*& 11:00 a.m.*