

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

August, 2011



For Father's Day, Steven arranged for a hero of mine to give me a phone call. Babe Heffron was a member of the 101st Airborne. Babe was one of the early replacements. He was not a part of the group that trained at Camp Tacocca. Nor did he jump with the rest of the 101st into Normandy, but joined "E" Company just before they jumped into

Holland. He was with the 101st until the end of the war.

So on Father's Day, the telephone rang, and I had a very pleasant conversation with Babe Heffron. He started the call by telling me that Steven had told him that I am a church Pastor. Babe is Catholic. He told me that he loves church, and added these words, "Yeah, it's a great way to kill an hour on a Sunday."

During the course of the conversation I told Babe that I would tell him my favorite "Babe Heffron" story and then asked if he would tell me his favorite memory.

I reminded him of something I had read in his book, the time at which the war, at least in Europe, was pretty much over. German soldiers were surrendering left and right. Babe was on guard when a very large German staff car came up to him. He noticed that it was being driven by a Major, meaning that the passenger would have been someone of very high rank. Babe found out that the passenger was a General who wanted to surrender, but the General did not want to surrender to Private Babe Heffron. According to the story Babe had to find an officer so that this man could surrender.

Babe laughed when I retold this story. It was a good story, but he told me he really didn't care if the general surrendered to him or not. He just wanted to get his hands on that staff car, to see what kind of souvenirs he might find.

Then he told me his favorite Babe Heffron story. It began with these words: "If anyone tells you that there is no God, you can tell them there is. You can tell them Babe Heffron heard His voice."

Easy Company was going through buildings in a town, cleaning the town of German soldiers, checking for snipers. Standard procedure was for two soldiers to go to kick open the door, toss in two grenades, wait for the explosion, and then enter the room, guns at the ready.

Babe and another soldier were prepared to enter a room. They had grenades in their hands, but they had not yet pulled the safety pins. Babe was just about to kick the door when he heard what he thought was the other soldier saying, "Babe, no grenades."

Babe turned to the other soldier and asked what he was thinking. Standard Operating Procedure was to kick open the door and toss the grenades, so why had he told him not to? The other soldier replied that he had not said a thing.

Babe wasn't sure if the other soldier was kidding with him or what might be happening. But he had a job to do, clear the building. He was going to do his job, so he returned to the door.

Again, just as he was about to kick in the door he heard a voice, "Babe, no grenades."

This time Babe followed the direction of the voice, turned to this friend and said, "Hey no grenades." As they kicked in the door they saw a young German woman huddled against the opposite wall, holding her two small daughters.

If they had thrown in those two grenades... Babe said that he would not have survived the guilt over that incident.

Then he said to me, "Pastor, if anyone ever tells you there is no God, you tell them there is a God, and your friend Babe Heffron heard His voice."

And now I have told you. I am grateful to have had this conversation with Babe and to be able to share this story with you.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bob". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Pastor Bob

Updates on our

Youth Mission Team Members

Colin Daniel, Carly Duenas, Elias Futch, and Courtney Nawrocki

Our youth that are serving in the mission fields of Costa Rica and Sierra Leone, Africa, will be finishing their trip by the time this Circuit Rider is distributed, but we wanted to share excerpts of a typical update that family and friends received while they were away.

Costa Rica Ministry (Colin)

BY BETHANY MEADEN,
TEAM LEADER JULY 18

Most of the places we travel to in Costa Rica are small, cozy towns surrounding a large soccer field. We spread ourselves throughout the town and invite the local



Ticos (the people of Costa Rica) to meet us at the soccer field. We begin our performance with a few fun dances to grab people's attention. Then our drama team illustrates the message of the Gospel in a variety of creative stories. Afterwards, we pair off and begin conversations with the locals. Before leaving, we finish the afternoon of ministry with a friendly, competitive soccer game - or two. Our students are learning how to use their God-given talents to share His grace and love with those who have not experienced it yet.

Earlier this week, we had an opportunity to minister in San Jose, the capital of Costa Rica. This day was completely different than the others because we were in a bustling city. The center was not a soccer field but a decorative plaza in front of a large Catholic church. Instead of inviting locals to view our performance, we spread out across the plaza and ran in cheering. The people, already milling around the plaza, turned their attention to the energetic American teenagers. When the students finished talking with one Tico, they looked for another who hadn't heard the Gospel yet. They were completely focused on the opportunity to share God's story of love with people who had never heard it before. Because our students were faithful and willing, lives were changed. Ticos found Jesus.

Sierra Leone Ministry (Carly, Courtney and Elias)

BY DAVE EIKENBERRY, TEAM LEADER, JULY 17

On Thursday morning, we awoke at 4a.m. and loaded the

team (43 youth and leaders) and our 52 pieces of baggage on the bus and set out for the four-hour trip from urban Freetown to a more rural and much smaller Kenema. Here we are sleeping on the cement floors of the rooms of a small school building. We are using pit toilets and doing bucket showers just as most Africans in the area do every day of their lives! Rats, huge roaches, and mosquitoes also add to the challenge. Fortunately, our hosts provide each of us with wonderful mosquito nets that cover our beds and keep all of the pests away while we sleep!

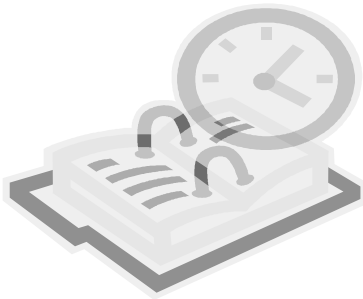


Given that many here have rarely or in some cases (the children) have never seen a white person up close to have 43 of us with them for days is A VERY BIG DEAL! Kenema is approximately 90% Muslim, but many are weary and disillusioned with Islam, and the fields are ripe unto harvest for Jesus Christ! So early Friday morning, paired up with workers from area churches, which YFC (Youth For Christ) had organized, we hit the dirt roads in groups of four or five and began to share the good news of Christ door-to-door. At each home, we were eagerly welcomed and invited to sit on their front porch area and speak of anything we wanted. Our students took turns sharing the Gospel in home after home, and we saw many express their desire and pray to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ. In each case, the local church worker who was accompanying us and providing some translation as needed, took down all of the needed contact information, in order to follow up with each family after we leave! This we did for several hours. Then we met in a clearing in front of a nearby public school and did our puppet, dance, and drama performances for a crowd of three to four hundred. After the last drama, we entered the crowd and shared Jesus Christ with all who would listen and who showed genuine interest. Again a great number of Africans expressed a desire to surrender their lives to Jesus Christ. It was an amazing morning and afternoon!

You cannot imagine what it is like to see American and Canadian young people, 14-19 years-old, overcoming the cultural, religious, and language barriers to share the Gospel of Jesus Christ with people who are often much older, and see these dear folks choose to seek Jesus! Many reported something to the affect "I've known there was more about God that I needed to know, but I've just never heard... this is the message God has had for me!"

August

| | | |
|--------|----|--|
| August | 8 | Board of Trustees Meeting |
| August | 11 | Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting |
| August | 14 | Youth Spotlight |
| August | 15 | Finance Committee Meeting |
| August | 16 | Children's Ministry Team Meeting |
| August | 18 | Missions Team Meeting |
| August | 18 | Preschool Advisory Board Meeting |
| August | 22 | Ad Council Meeting |
| August | 26 | Women's Fun and Fellowship Gathering |
| August | 28 | Family Worship |



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. AND SR. HIGH SUNDAY SCHOOL RM. 4/5 10:30 A.M.

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - PERKO'S MCHENRY AVE. 6:00 A.M.
 JR. AND 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.

| | |
|------|-------------------|
| 8/1 | ANNETTE ARMSTRONG |
| 8/1 | BILL MARLOW |
| 8/1 | MICHELLE MCKINSEY |
| 8/1 | DAVID REID |
| 8/1 | DEBORAH PADILLA |
| 8/2 | DAEDRE MILDRUM |
| 8/4 | SCOTT MONDAY |
| 8/4 | MARIAN GARCIA |
| 8/4 | RACHEL WADE |
| 8/4 | KRISTIN STUERMER |
| 8/5 | KEITH ARMSTRONG |
| 8/5 | MANUEL GARCIA |
| 8/7 | DARLENE HARRIS |
| 8/8 | MIKE PINHEIRO |
| 8/10 | TERESA RENFRO |
| 8/10 | STEVEN COLLINS |
| 8/11 | PHILLIP KHEK |
| 8/11 | LINDA PUGH |
| 8/12 | MISSY SACHAU |
| 8/13 | PAUL SEVER |
| 8/14 | LOUISE SINGER |
| 8/14 | CINDY CATON |
| 8/14 | PATTI LAPOINTE |
| 8/14 | FRAN LOVELADY |
| 8/14 | ALLISON LUCAS |
| 8/14 | VERNA NYGAARD |
| 8/15 | SAPHAL PROM |
| 8/15 | KAY NELSON |
| 8/17 | CAROL MULROONEY |
| 8/17 | WES MCKINSEY |
| 8/17 | MIKE DANNER |
| 8/17 | GAYLE PENNINGTON |
| 8/17 | GREG STEWART |
| 8/18 | HELEN PEARSON |



| | |
|------|--------------------|
| 8/18 | JEFF LUCAS |
| 8/19 | JIM CHAMPION |
| 8/19 | MARK CHILDS |
| 8/19 | TODD HINRICHS |
| 8/19 | BRITTNEY WEATHERLY |
| 8/19 | DEREK WEATHERLY |
| 8/20 | AMANDA NUGENT |
| 8/20 | SHARON UNDERWOOD |
| 8/20 | LINDA OSNES |
| 8/21 | MIKE LEWIS |
| 8/21 | KATIE TERRY |
| 8/21 | WENDY BLAIR |
| 8/22 | LOREN HORTON |
| 8/23 | LORI NORRIS |
| 8/23 | ROGER SITTON |
| 8/24 | RUTH MORROW |
| 8/26 | TISHA HUGHES |
| 8/26 | BOB CUMMINS |
| 8/29 | JULIANNE KLINE |
| 8/29 | RYAN CAMPBELL |
| 8/31 | JUNE MYERS |
| 8/31 | KRISSY COEY |

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



"Celebrating 5 Generations"
 Abigail Maxine Daniel born July 12, 2011
 (Parents) Billy and Brittany Daniel
 (Grandparents) Ben and Heather Daniel
 (Great-Grandparents) Gary and Kathy Lonskey
 (Great-great-grandfather) Richard Sprague



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

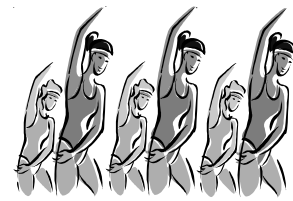
Thank you so much for your generosity to our 'PandaMania' Vacation Bible School. Your time, gifts, financial donations and prayers made it possible for children from our community to experience a great activity-packed week of learning about God's love. Although our VBS ended about a month ago, I'm still excited for the week we had and the life-changing experiences that continue to happen even now. We had 151 children attend PandaMania, where kids learned that God is wild about them! They sang praise songs, made crafts, played games and ate snacks. Most importantly, they heard how God made them, listens to them, watches over them, and loves them no matter what.

Thank you for your prayers and support of Children's Ministry. Please continue to pray for the families that came to VBS, that they may find Centenary to be a place where they can know God and grow in His grace.

Our Bible Buddies program is another opportunity to lift up our children in prayer. Every year we have new Second Graders that are eager to receive their very own Bible. Bible Buddies is a way for someone in our Church Family to give the gift of a Bible to a child and also commit to praying for that child in the weeks and months to come. We will begin this process for our new Second Graders later this month, so please pray about how you might be a part of this program.

We are honored to stand together with you in prayer for our children.

Heather Daniel
Children's Ministry Director



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

Exercise Works Out the Brain!

We've learned over the years that exercise keeps muscles, including the heart, in good condition. We know that exercise burns calories that might end up as fat. Exercise strengthens the immune system to ward off illness and it also promotes a sense of well being to reduce stress.

But in recent years, it has been proven that exercise triggers and even accelerates the brain's problem solving abilities. Dr. Christian Anderson states, "When one exercises, you can think more clearly, perform better and your morale is better. This is pure science, (when you) stimulate your nervous system (you will) function at a higher level."

"Since habits become power, make them work with you and not against you." ~ E.S. Jones

S.W.E.A.T. Aerobics
meets in the Fellowship Center:
Mon., Wed., & Fri. - 9:00 - 10:00 a.m.
and Mon. Tues. & Thurs. - 5:30 - 6:30 p.m.
(High or Low Impact)
Tues. & Thurs. - 8:00 - 8:45 a.m.
(Non-Impact/Seniors)
For Information Call
Sandra Hegwood 988-5655



Well, glad you asked! The choir has been on summer hiatus and enjoying the incredible changes in the weather. Several of us have gone on some really neat trips, and some of us have stayed home and enjoyed our grandchildren.

Believe me, we are all looking forward to a new choir year and some exciting music to present to you. Jennifer now has a year under her belt of discovering the difference between high school teenagers and us, the stalwart church choir, who are somewhat older. We "oldsters" don't learn music quite so quickly, but we are enthusiastic learners!

Choir will start up again with our first rehearsal on September 1 at 7 p.m. in room 2-3. We hope lots and lots of you will join us this year. If you want to sing but can only commit to singing in the Christmas production, our retreat to get a jump-start on that program will be Friday, September 16 and Saturday September 17. This year it will be held **right here** at Centenary. We will start with a pot luck (we enjoy a lot of these) on Friday evening. We'll let you know the time later.

Please feel free to join us in praising God with joyful noises! Hallelujah!

Melanie Tabai,
Communications Shepherd



It is already August and we are getting ready to start our new school year. Most of the schools in our area will be back in session by August 10. This means we will say good-bye to our big five year olds who are

moving on to Kindergarten. There is a bittersweet feeling in our hearts as we say good-bye. We are proud of them for growing so much and being ready to move on, and yet, we are sad because we will miss them. But God is good and faithful. We will say good-bye with the assurance that God will forever watch over them and keep them in His grace. Then, God sends us a whole new group of children who quickly capture a piece of our hearts. I guess I didn't know how much room I had in my heart and that I could love so many children. But after 20 years, I can definitely tell you there is still plenty of room. It is truly a blessing to work with all the precious children and families that God lead to us.

We had a great July. The first two weeks we enjoyed learning about "Our Free Land." The children enjoyed making many red, white and blue art projects, including flags, firework paintings, stars, freedom hats, windsocks and streamers.

The children had a great time participating in different games for "Olympics Week." They all received ribbons and medals as they played in different games such as hopper ball races, cotton ball relays, an obstacle course, bean bag toss and running relays. On the last day they had a dance-off contest. It was fun, rewarding and provided much needed exercise of the large muscles, as well as coordination skills for our preschoolers.

The children enjoyed carnival days in many ways. They received tickets to purchase popcorn, mini-popsicles and the opportunity to play the fish/duck pond game, bean bag toss, an obstacle course and of course, face painting!

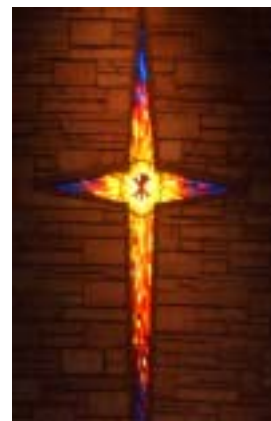
There was plenty of fun to go around on "ice-cream social" day on the 27th. The children were able to make their own sundae just the way they wanted it, with a variety of toppings to choose from, while the teachers made sure they did not over do it!

We're looking forward to an adventuresome month of August. Our themes will be "God's Wondrous Woodlands" and "Health and Nutrition." Our chapel themes will be *honesty* (Esp. 4:25), *forgiveness* (Esp. 4:32), *be humble* (I Peter 5:5), and *faith* (Hebrews 11:1).

Thank you so much for your continued love and support. Please remember to keep us in your prayers as we start our new school year!

In His Love,
Janet Lewis
Preschool Director

Victory/Persecution ~ B. Akina



At the center of the stained-glass cross in our sanctuary is a strange little symbol you may have noticed before: a capital letter "P" with an "X" crossing at the stem. This symbol is comprised of two Greek letters: "Chi" and "Rho."

The symbol itself is an abbreviation for the name "Kristos", AKA our Savior. I've read two wildly differing accounts on the origin of this symbol...I'm not sure which is more accurate:

1) On the eve of a vital battle which would determine Rome's next emperor, it is recorded that Constantine had a vision from God showing him the "Chi-Rho," a new holy symbol. With the Chi-Rho stamped on their shields and helmets, his soldiers scored a huge victory. After his ascension to the throne had been secured, the Chi-Rho became Constantine's imperial standard.

2) In the less-substantiated origin story, the Chi-Rho is a mark of persecution. Much like European Jews were forced to identify themselves by wearing a Star of David sewn onto their clothes, Christians were branded with the Chi-Rho so they could be easily identified.

Either way, I love it. If the first account is true, then Constantine's use of the Chi-Rho as his imperial standard was a mark of a victory already achieved. As Christ's final word on the cross (tetelestai - "it is finished," or "this debt has been paid in full") will attest, our victory has already been achieved. Before we could even understand a battle was being fought, our Heavenly Father's might and cunning had already won the war and wiped the enemy off the map.

If the second account is true, then it is a testament to the redemptive power of the Holy Spirit. In the church's early days, persecution of believers was meant to wipe out the scourge of "those followers of Christ." Instead of destroying us, it became a rallying symbol. Instead of making us ashamed of our faith, it proudly sits at the intersection of our sanctuary cross.

Either way, it's not too shabby. God bless you, brothers and sisters.

 Centenary United Methodist Church
1911 Toyon Avenue
Modesto, CA 95350
(209) 527-5441

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Get away with your girlfriends to laugh, cry, and recharge!

WOMEN OF FAITH

over
the top

*God loves us more than we know,
He gives us more than we can ask or dream.
He's unrestrained...excessive...outrageous...*

*October 14- 15, 2011
Arco Arena, Sacramento*

*Have you ever come on anything quite like
this extravagant generosity of God?
Rom. 11:33 (MSG)*

*Cost is \$89 per person. Includes two Box Lunches.
Contact Deanna at 527-5441. Sign up now to get the best seats.*