

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

January, 2012



Did I ever tell you about this tendency I have...I feel kind of funny confessing this to you, but I hope you will understand. I cheat when I play computer card games. Some might not call it cheating, but when I realize that I am going to lose the game, I simply exit out. I give myself a "do-over." Maybe that's not cheating, maybe that's more of being a poor sport. Since I am not playing against another

person, I like the opportunity to start afresh and anew.

That feeling of a new start - a fresh start - that is how I like to think of January 1. With the coming of a new year, I feel like I get a chance to do over whatever mistakes I made in the past year. With the coming of a new year, I get a brand new calendar and the feeling of brand new opportunities. Paraphrasing the apostle Paul, I get to "forget what lies behind and look forward to what is ahead." (Philippians 3:13)

That chance for a fresh start is what God's love is all about. In theological circles this is called substitutionary atonement. For those who choose to follow Jesus Christ a substitution is made. Followers of Jesus, by virtue of the fact that they are followers, have transferred their sin to Jesus. In that sense, Jesus "substitutes" in and takes the penalty for our sin. At the same time, we substitute in and take the benefits of Jesus' righteousness. Thus, when we are seen by God we are seen as perfect, without sin or flaw. In essence, we get a do-over.

The main difference between this do-over from God and the do-over I give myself when I am playing a computer card game and lose is, I can find myself losing once again. And then I have to seek another do-over again, and again, and again. When we come to Jesus and Jesus gives us His do-over, that do-over is forever.

As we enter into this new year may we enter with hearts overflowing with love for the God who gives "do-overs."

Shalom,

*Pastor Bob*

Pastor Bob



Studies have shown that only vigorous exercise that raises the metabolic rate to six or more times the rate at rest will likely lengthen your life. Some vigorous exercises would include fast walking, jogging, cycling, swimming laps, or aerobic classes. Many people like to exercise outdoors, especially when the weather is mild. However, when it's stormy or freezing cold, that's not so appealing - we often hibernate and become "couch potatoes." When you don't feel like going outside to exercise, keep in mind that our aerobic classes ONLY meet indoors!

**S.W.E.A.T. Aerobics meets  
in the Fellowship Center:**

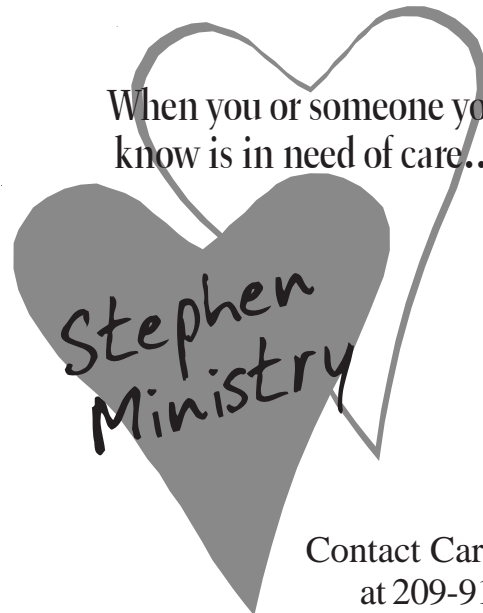
**Low Impact - Mon., Wed., & Fri.  
9:00 - 10:00 a.m.**

**High-Lo Impact - Mon., Tues. & Thurs.  
5:30 - 6:30 p.m.**

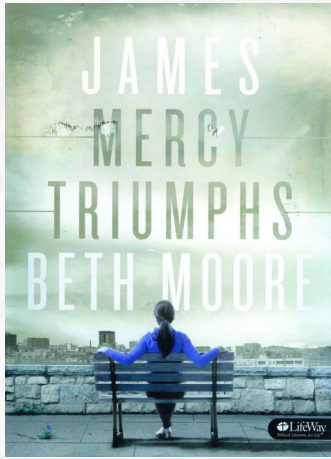
**Non-Impact/Seniors - Tues. & Thurs.  
8:00 - 8:45 a.m.**

**For Information Call:  
Sandra Hegwood @ 988-5655**

When you or someone you  
know is in need of care...



Contact Caren Burhans  
at 209-918-1003



**Beth Moore Study  
Begins January 16, 2012 Fireside Room (Room #6)  
*James: Mercy Triumphs***

Our Beth Moore class continues with her newest 8 week study on the New Testament Book of James entitled “*James: Mercy Triumphs*.” James, Jesus’ own brother, started out as a skeptic. See how one glimpse of the resurrected Savior turned an unbeliever into a disciple. Topics in this study include: joy, hardship, faith, reversal of fortunes for rich and poor, wisdom, gifts from above, single mindedness, the dangers of the tongue, humility and prayer.

**SOMETHING NEW FROM BETH!**

In this study there are 5 levels of participation that you can choose from that will offer the best option for you to be in The Word and to grow in your Bible knowledge as well as your relationship with the Savior. Reflect on these options:

**Level One:** View the video and follow along on the listening guide (no book required).

**Level Two:** View the video and dig deeper with the daily assignments.

**Level Three:** Add to the first 2 levels writing out the entire book of James.

**Level Four:** After finishing Levels 1-3, complete the “What could I do to go deeper?” section each week. This section is written in collaboration with Beth’s daughter, Melissa.

**Level Five:** The most challenging level of all: completing the first 4 levels and committing to memorizing the book of James!

Please consider joining us. It is important that you register for this class in advance so that we can be prepared for curriculum needs. Books are \$20 and are needed for Levels 2-4. Stop by or call the church office (527-5441) or email Roxann Hays (roxannahays@aol.com) to get your name on the list.

**Spirit Salon Women’s Bible Study & Fellowship**

Spirit Salon is offering the women of Centenary and their friends an opportunity to take a look at what is ahead for us as followers of Jesus Christ! Beginning January 11th, Brian Ralston will lead a study entitled “Home Free: The Biblical Basics about Heaven.”

Read Brian’s sneak peek:

“Heaven: We Christians talk about it, think about it, sing about it, but do we really know what the Bible says (or doesn’t say) about our future home? This study will focus on the basic Biblical teachings that address the topics related to the eternal home for believers. We will not be able to answer all of the questions but will enjoy the journey together as we learn what the Word of God has to teach us about the home God has prepared for His children.”

Spirit Salon brings together women of all ages and walks of life - no Biblical experience necessary. So bring your Bible and join us for a time of fellowship, song, prayer, and learning together about Heaven!

Wednesdays, January 11th - March 28th, 9:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. in the Fireside Room (#6). Child care is next door. If you are new to Spirit Salon and wish to use the child care, please call Kari Swanson at 527-4767. Other questions about Spirit Salon call Dale Fruechtenicht at 869-4391.



## Wednesday Night Bible Study

Begins January 18, 2012

Fellowship Center

5:30 Dinner - 6:30 Classes for Adults and Children

Nursery Care Provided

It's the New Testament to begin your New Year!  
Choose from three Bible book studies and one study on Jesus

*"Luke: Walking with Jesus Daily...The study"*

Led by: Pastor Bob Collins

This study will help you process your daily devotional readings and weekend sermons by looking deeper into the book of Luke. This will be an opportunity for questions and discussion so that by Easter you will have an insightful understanding of the life and teachings of Jesus.

*"Ephesians"*

Led by: Brian Ralston

The powerful letter to the Ephesians sums up the Christian faith in six amazing chapters. We learn about God's grace, God's love for us, and the amazing power that He can provide for us to live each day. We also learn about how to better live with one another, how to live as "children of light," and how to live stronger in the relationships that are so vital to us. Come and join us for this verse-by-verse study of the book of Ephesians. This study is open to all, experienced Bible veterans and Bible study rookies, all are invited!

*"Not a Fan"*

Led by: Paul Stafford

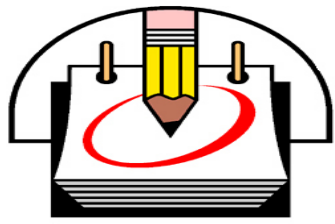
Are you a Fan or a Follower? "... as we read this book we will discover what it really means to follow Jesus. ... The truth is, if you are looking for a book about following Jesus that lays out a comfortable and reassuring path, you won't find it here!"

*James: Mercy Triumphs*

A Beth Moore Study

Please see the Beth Moore Monday Class description of this study for details.

**Watch for sign up opportunities at weekend services or call the church office to sign up!**



**SUNDAY**

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY - Rm. 1 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.  
 JR. HIGH Rm. 19/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 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 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/FELLOWSHIP  
 Rm. 6 9:00 A.M.  
 WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - FELLOWSHIP CENTER  
 DINNER 5:30 P.M./CLASSES 6:30 P.M.  
 JR. HIGH Rm. 19/SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP Rm. 4/5 6:00 P.M.

**THURSDAY**

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - Rm. 15/16 9:00 A.M.  
 CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL - Rm. 2/3 7:00 P.M.

**SATURDAY**

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30 P.M.



1/1	CHHOY CHHON	1/13	ROSE CRETSER
1/1	BRYAN KYTE	1/13	NORAH MUTUMA
1/2	EVELYN GSCHIEDLE	1/14	MICHAEL MOREY
1/2	FELICE BENNETT	1/14	AMY WADE
1/3	CODY DANIEL	1/14	SARAH VORN
1/3	JEREMIAH TEK	1/14	DANIEL KONSCHAK
1/4	JAMES MULROONEY	1/15	SALOMON CHEA
1/5	BEN VLACH	1/16	GAIL BUCHELI
1/6	WADE SWANSON	1/16	MARTHA BURTON
1/6	FRED CASSIDY	1/16	ROUSA LEY
1/7	SHARON GABEREL	1/18	JOEY LABARBERA
1/7	CARL GRACE	1/18	MELANIE HARDEN
1/7	TYLER ROBERTSON	1/19	MIKE FERGUSON
1/9	PAT LAMONT	1/19	JEANNETTE GALAS
1/9	BARB CLOHERTY	1/19	BRITTANY DANIEL
1/10	NELDA CONTRERAS	1/20	LAURIE WESTRA
1/10	SANDRA HEGWOOD	1/20	BILLIE SONNENBERG
1/10	MARK HILDEBRANDT	1/22	ANDY REDNER
1/10	CARISSA RAWSON	1/23	DANIEL BYRNE
1/11	STEVE McCLANAHAN	1/23	WENDY DAVIES
1/11	KELLAND SEVERNS	1/24	LORI KONSCHAK
1/12	LARRY ROBINSON	1/24	GLENDA BURNETT
		1/26	DOROTHY KNOLL
		1/26	SHARON BOWERS
		1/27	DENNIS CHAPMAN
		1/27	MATT RIDDLE
		1/27	MARION RILEY
		1/28	ROBERTA BICA
		1/29	STEVEN CATON
		1/29	BRIAN RALSTON
		1/29	VIRGINIA THIEMANN
		1/30	PHYLLIS MOREY
		1/30	JIM KRIESE
		1/31	SARA DRABERT



From Dean Laun's Family:

Thank you to everyone who helped make Dean's memorial service so special and for supporting us with your prayers, gifts, letters and cards.

A special thank you to Pastor Bob and Kay Nelson for your caring concern.

*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!*



- January 9 Board of Trustees Meeting
- January 10 Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting
- January 13-15 RCP Women's Reflection Retreat
- January 16 Martin Luther King, Jr. Day - Office Closed
- January 16 Beth Moore Women's Bible Study Begins
- January 18 Winter Wednesday Night Bible Study Begins
- January 19 Missions Team Meeting
- January 19 Preschool Board Meeting
- January 23 Administrative Council Meeting
- January 29 Family Worship

Thank You to  
 & Our Congregation

Thank you to all who participated in the Christmas Gospel Mission Dinner. More than 225 people received a delicious turkey dinner.

The Mission Team



I can't believe it is already January, the first month of a brand new year! We had a wonderful year in 2011. God is so good and we thank Him for the many blessings we experienced in the past year. Now, I look forward to the beginning of a new year and making new memories to cherish, as we work with our precious little ones each day.

We had a great December. It was full of fun and exciting experiences. The children enjoyed learning about families the first two weeks of December. They brought pictures of their families that we put up for everyone to see. Each child had the opportunity to tell why their family is so important and special to them.

The last two weeks of December we learned about Christmas. The children worked hard learning their lines and singing songs, as they prepared to perform to the story of "The First Christmas" for their families and friends. As they acted out the play they learned what happened on that very first Christmas when Jesus, our Savior, was born. It is such a joy to teach them the Christmas story. It's important that we reach them at a very young age to provide them with a solid foundation that will always be there as they grow up in this very confusing world.

Also, the children had fun making Christmas decorations for our Christmas tree, writing letters to Santa, decorating a Christmas stocking and making a special gift for Mom and Dad. We had a great time at our Christmas party on the 22nd. Each child received a book for their gift exchange. Then, we had a surprise visit from a jolly, round fellow in a red suit! The children were very excited to tell Santa what they wanted for Christmas!

As you can tell, we had a great December. Now, we prepare to start the year of 2012, in January our themes will be "Winter Weather" and "Other Cultures." We look forward to learning about the cold, wet, snowy weather and how to stay warm and healthy during this time. Also, it will be interesting to learn how people from other parts of the world speak, dress, eat and do things in their cultures. Our chapel themes in January will be *obey* (Eph. 6:1), *faithfulness* (Prov. 3:3), *love* (I Cor. 13:4), and *gentleness* (I Thes. 2:7).

I wish all of you good health and happiness in 2012. I look forward to beginning another year of doing God's work here at Centenary with all of you. Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.

In His Love,

Janet Lewis

## Worship MMXII

~ Ben Akina  
Director of Contemporary  
Worship



2011 was my first full year as Centenary's Director of Contemporary Worship. I really expected to plateau somewhere halfway through, but God has continued to humble and inspire me day after day, week after week. As this new year begins, I know that He will have more for me to learn. I know that He will challenge me to continue growing as a worship leader.

So in this, my first Circuit Rider article of 2012, I have two things to ask of you, brothers and sisters:

1) When I was leading worship at Redwood Christian Park's August Family Camp, I had an interesting encounter with a gentleman roughly fifteen years my senior. It was the end of the week, and he approached me to apologize for gossiping behind my back. Apparently, he hated the way I led worship and had talked about it all week in great detail to anyone who would listen. I thanked him for his honesty, and he left. But after he walked away, I kicked myself for not asking *what* he'd disliked about my ministry. I'd failed to learn the specific shortcomings he saw in my worship leading, and had missed an opportunity to grow. Brothers and sisters - challenge me to grow. Help me to learn. I know there are still ways I fall short as a believer, worship minister, and youth leader. I want to be faithful with the time and resources God has given me, and I want to be willing to hear the difficult truths. I do have feelings, so I'd appreciate some sensitivity in the way you make your observations, but I also want to mature into the disciple God has called me to be.

2) Brothers and sisters - challenge yourselves to grow. Whether you're a master architect or an apprentice mechanic, be willing to see the flaws in your fluency. Strive to be perfect, because we have had perfection modeled for us by a perfect Heavenly Father.

And when people ask why you care so much, be sure to invite them to DAD's house.



# Centenary United Methodist Church

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Modesto, CA 95350  
(209) 527-5441  
www.centenarychurch.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



## Centenary Sp

**Yes!!!** The big sale is returning this spring, so mark May 5 on your calendar now! God blessed us last year with a huge success that raised \$8,801.82 in needed funds for many of our church ministries:

Thanks to your support, we were able to give:

- \$1,768.38 to the General Fund
- \$1,326.27 to Missions
- \$1,326.27 to Centenary's Samaritan Fund
- \$884.18 to Youth Ministry
- \$884.18 to Children's Ministry
- \$884.18 to Men's Ministry
- \$884.18 to Women's Ministry
- \$884.18 to Worship Ministry

Now we're ready to do it again – and we need you to help by:

- Donating items for the sale
- Volunteering to work the week prior to the sale
- Volunteering to help the day of the sale
- Getting the word out to your neighbors and friends

Details will be coming soon!!!