

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church
January 2009



From the Pastor's Desk

As we stand at the beginning of 2009 I wanted to take a look back at 2008 to discover where we have been so we can better see where we are going.

Last summer, I stepped outside of my comfort zone to preach a series of sermons we named our "Sizzling Summer Sermon Series." We looked at some of the hard topics of today from the perspective of "what does the Bible say?"

As much fun as that series turned out to be, I even more enjoyed the series that followed "Committed to the Cause." Each week we taught through the vision statement to help us remember that Jesus came to seek and save the lost. We must be committed to that cause by knowing Him so that we can make Him known to the world.

My own spiritual life was so enriched by our "Committed to the Cause" study that I simply did not want it to end. We are looking forward to our next study, "Phase II." From January to June we will be "Phase II" of the study. Thinking of September to November of '08 as "Phase I", a time of imparting knowledge of the meaning of the cause of Christ and how we can commit to that cause, makes understanding "Phase II" a little easier. Phase I was imparting knowledge, Phase II will be equipping each one to fully commit themselves to the cause of Christ.

For example, we will be devoting the month of January to helping us develop an intimate relationship with Jesus Christ. We have already learned that to be committed to His cause we need to know Him so that we can make Him known. January will offer opportunities to learn how to know Him.

We've talked about the importance of having a daily time with Jesus. Now we will go one step further and show you *how* to have this quiet time alone with Him. We will follow our focus of intimacy with Jesus with a February focus on integrity. It has been said "integrity is who you are when no one is watching." We want to be a people who demonstrate integrity in order to reflect our relationship with Jesus.

We will continue each month, looking at the "how to's" of our commitment to the cause of Christ. We will devote the first six months of '09 to a focus on equipping; to help us consistently live out the ministry so that each of us not only possesses knowledge but also the ability to do what we know we should be doing.

Then, as we enter the summer of '09, we will be ready for Phase III of Committed to the Cause. Phase III will be a time of opportunity to take the knowledge we possess, the abilities that have been imparted to us, and put them into practice. Phase III will bring us the opportunity to be involved in mission outreach, and the opportunity to touch lives within and beyond our church campus. Phase III will be the culmination of all of our work and will change our lives forever.

I am excited about what God has done in '08 and where He is guiding us in '09. My prayer is that you will continue with us in this life changing opportunity.

Shalom,

Pastor Bob

P.S. Speaking of Committed to the Cause...

On the final weekend of our Committed to the Cause of Christ study I asked you to make a commitment, a commitment to Jesus. I asked you to do that in tangible way, by taking a piece of paper called a "Faith Promise Pledge" and commit yourself to the Cause of Christ. I mentioned that the last thing we ever move into the hands of Jesus is our money. Thus the way we know we are committed, truly committed to Jesus is by looking to see that we trust him completely, even financially.

I do need to point out that this was the first time in my ten years here that we asked for a financial pledge, and the first time in many, many years since we as a church have asked for a pledge. I was a little nervous about asking. And once the asking for the pledge was over, I was not ready to offer the opportunity a second time.

My nervousness denied some of you the privilege to participate and for that I ask your forgiveness. Plus, my nervousness caused me to hurry us through the event in such a way as we were "done" with the moment before all of you understood what was being asked.

The Church Finance Committee would love to know what the financial support will be in 2009. That information will help them in so many ways as they make decisions now. To those of you who understood what was being asked of you, thank you for your faith promise. To those who did not understand, I am sorry. My failure kept you from being able to fully participate.

Now as a gift to you, if you were unable to participate because of my failures, I want to offer you a second chance. If you would like to participate, if you would like to declare your "Committed to the Cause of Christ Pledge", please fill out the form below. Please bring it to Church and slip it in the offering plate, or mail it to the Church.

Beloved congregation, for all you do, for allowing me as your Pastor, along with all of us as your Church staff to minister, thank you!

COMMITTED TO THE CAUSE

Believing the Scriptures when they say;

"Bring the whole tithe into the storehouse, that there may be food in My house. Test me in this," says the Lord Almighty, "and see if I will not throw open the floodgates of heaven and pour out so much blessing that you will not have room enough for it." (Malachi 3:10)

*Believing that God calls me to commit myself to His Cause

*Believing that everything I have belongs to God and is a gift entrusted to me by God

*Believing that God has promised to supply all my needs

Thus, I would like to:

Give (circle one: annually, monthly, weekly) _____ to the ongoing ministry of Centenary during 2009.

Pray daily for Centenary and those ministering there. Actively participate in the ministries of Centenary.

Areas of interest include:

Church Family News



Spirit Salon Women's Fellowship

Max Is Back!

Ever wonder if you can
drift too far? Wait to long?
Slip too much?
Or out-sin the love of God?
The answer is found in one of
life's sweetest words - GRACE.

Beginning Wednesday, January 5, Spirit Salon
brings the small group study of God's Word
and fellowship with women of all ages.

The winter session offers Max Lucado's "In the
Grip of Grace." Wednesday mornings are from
9 - 11 am. in the Fireside Room. Free nursery
care is right next door in Room 6. Join us in
discovering the grace and mercy of God.

Questions? Contact Dale Fruechtenicht
or Roxann Hays



Home with the Lord

Jessie Quesenberry
passed away on
November 20th, 2008

Barbara Seacrist
passed away on
November 20th, 2008

Erika Maas
recently passed.

Please be in prayer that the
Lord would bring peace and
comfort to these families.

Special Concerns



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

Wendy Robertson
Kay Mooreland
Jean Baughn
Felice Bennett
John Lighthall
Elmer Eisenhower
Deanna Hutton
Tracey Crawford
Toby Clark
Mike Ross'
granddaughter Brooklyn



Newlyweds

Carolyn Ubank & Dick Hill
were married on
October 13th, 2008.

The couple will
be moving to
North Carolina soon.
Please wish them well.



Please remember our own
Church food closet when you
make your donations.

Suggested items to donate are: Canned
beans, stews, soups, vegetables and
fruits, peanut butter, macaroni &
cheese, and tuna fish. Also convenience
type foods for those that don't have a
means to cook food, such as instant
soups, crackers, fruit cups,
granola bars etc..

You can bring your donations to the
Church office Monday - Friday. Or
with you to Worship service, with the
bag marked "food closet".

Thank you!



I want to thank my Church
Family for all the cards and
words of encouragement.

And for the many prayers
during my recovery.
May God bless you all,
Bob Usiak



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.

MONDAY

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



Events in January

January 1 New Year's Day - Church Office Closed
 January 2 Church Office Closed
 January 7 Spirit Salon Resumes
 January 7 Wednesday Nite Live New Session Begins
 January 11 Young Adults Bible Study/Fellowship
 January 12 Beth Moore Bible Study Begins: Esther
 January 12 Martin Luther King Day - Office Closed
 January 19 Board of Trustees Meeting
 January 19 Finance Committee Meeting
 January 25 Teacher Gathering
 January 26 Ad Council Meeting



1/1	CHHOY CHHON	1/15	SALOMON CHEA
1/1	BRYAN KYTE	1/16	GAIL BUCHELI
1/2	EVELYN GSCHIEDLE	1/16	MARTHA BURTON
1/2	FELICE BENNETT	1/16	ROUSA LEY
1/3	JEREMIAH TEK	1/18	JOEY LABARBERA
1/4	JAMES MULROONEY	1/18	MELANIE HARDEN
1/5	BEN VLACH	1/19	JEANNETTE GALAS
1/6	MIKE VOORHEES	1/20	LAURIE WESTRA
1/6	WADE SWANSON	1/20	BILLIE SONNENBERG
1/6	FRED CASSIDY	1/21	WILL BAIRD
1/7	SHARON GABEREL	1/22	JUSTIN ANDERSEN
1/7	CARL GRACE	1/22	ANDY REDNER
1/9	PAT LAMONT	1/23	DANIEL BYRNE
1/9	BARB CLOHERTY	1/23	WENDY DAVIES
1/10	NELDA CONTRERAS	1/24	LORI KONSCHAK
1/10	MAUREEN BROCK	1/24	GLENDA BURNETT
1/10	SANDRA HEGWOOD	1/26	DOROTHY KNOLL
1/10	MARK HILDEBRANDT	1/26	SHARON BOWERS
1/11	STEVE McCLANAHAN	1/27	DENNIS CHAPMAN
1/12	JANE GALUSHA	1/27	MATT RIDDLE
1/12	LARRY ROBINSON	1/27	MARION RILEY
1/13	NORAH MUTUMA	1/28	ROBERTA BICA
1/13	ROSE CRETSER	1/29	LORI BRUNSVOLD
1/14	SHANNON CLOHERTY	1/29	BRIAN RALSTON
1/14	MICHAEL MOREY	1/29	VIRGINIA THIEMAN
1/14	DANIEL KONSCHAK	1/30	JIM KRIESE
1/14	AMY WADE	1/30	PHYLLIS MOREY
1/14	SARAH VORN	1/31	SARA DRABERT

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!

Young Adults Bible Study/Fellowship Begins on January 11th! Invite a friend, or tell young person you know about this new group. Watch for more information and dates to follow.



Fellowship for Young Adults

Happy New Year! We often feel like the New Year is a time of new beginnings. In fact, this really is a time for a new beginning at Centenary. I am excited to announce that we will be kicking off the new Young Adults Bible Study/ Fellowship group this very month.

This group is geared toward those who are in the 18-30 age group, whether still in college or just beyond! It has long been observed that after high school, many students disappear from the church. This is a vital age because many of life's biggest decisions will be made in early adulthood. The purpose of this group will be to help young adults to know Jesus more deeply and live for Him more fully! We will do this by spending time in the Word, encouraging each other through prayer, and by "doing life together." If you are a young adult looking for a place to come and be encouraged in your faith (or if you know one), then I would love to see you join us. The Young Adults Group will be meeting weekly on Sunday nights @ 6:30 pm in room 20 (upstairs). Our first meeting will be on Sunday, Jan. 11th. If you have questions, please feel free to call me in the church office 527-5441. Hope to see you there!

In Christ,
Matt Riddle



"Let them praise his name with dancing"
Psalm 149:3

Just a reminder for parents of Junior and High School girls - our "Praise in Motion" Worship dance classes are starting on January 8th, on Thursday evenings 6:30 - 8:00 p.m. Classes are still open! Please call 578-1616 for more details.



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

Physical Exercise is great...But
More Important Is Spiritual Exercise
1 Corinthians 9:24-25

Do you know that those who run in a race all run, but only one receives the prize? Run in such a way that you may obtain it. And everyone who competes for the prize is temperate in all things.

Paul compares the Christian life to running a race. Athletics require discipline. Even for those who are into exercise, there are likely days they just don't want to exercise. Some days there are legitimate reasons why a person can't exercise, such as illness. Unfortunately, those legitimate reasons sometimes snowball into less than legitimate reasons, and before people know it, their exercise routine is totally shot. One day off becomes a week, and it can soon become two months.

We're like that in many areas of our life, not just exercise - we do what we should 'for awhile' and before you know it, we're back to our old ways. While it is important to exercise on a daily basis, there is something even more important and that is spiritual exercise. What if we took off a week, then two, then a month or more from church and/or reading our Bible? How likely is it that we would return? We might feel frustrated, guilty, or even awkward when we tried to go back.

It's a New Year and there's no better time to start or return... not just to our exercise classes but more importantly to church and to Bible study. Take the time and the trouble to keep yourself spiritually fit. *1 Timothy 4:4 (Phillips)*

**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**



Our Centenary Christmas Celebration was a special time for our church family to come together and enjoy food, fellowship and fun! There was something for everyone to do as many areas of ministry provided service opportunities, fundraising options and creative advent crafts.



Our brunch fundraiser collected over \$350 to help DCU, the Donetsk Christian University in Ukraine. Your donations help the university train and support missionaries and pastors who serve around the world. At our Craft Faire, we sold many items donated by Centenary people - quilted items, devotion books, ornaments, scarves, candy and candle holders, just to name a few. We raised \$640 to benefit Centenary's own Samaritans Fund, a source of financial assistance to Centenary people in need. The Christmas Celebration also provided crafts for the families to make and time to just sit and fellowship together. We hope everyone enjoyed it as much as we did!



Before Christmas, we had our Family Fun Service Project, an opportunity for families with children to come together and help those in need. Not only did we accomplish a lot, we were able to make lasting memories by serving those around us. Through our efforts we were able to reach out to those in need in our church family, in our community and around the world. We baked cookies and muffins for families in need within our church,

and we prepared bins of donated food and household items to be given out. We also made



goody bags for the children at the Gospel Mission Christmas Dinner that are filled with candy, toothbrushes and other fun treats. Finally, we were able to pack up all 301 shoeboxes that our church family gave to Operation Christmas Child and take them to the distribution center.

Our children had a great time laughing and playing together, but they also had a part in doing something important for others. Thank you to all of you who donated food or household items, or contributed money toward the Gospel Mission or packed a shoebox (or several!) to give to children around the world. Together, we are making a difference!

We look forward to a new year and more opportunities to serve!

Heather Daniel
Children's Ministry Director



Fellowship Center where the children can keep warm & dry as they run and play.

Our December was full of wonderful experiences. The children learned about "families" the first two weeks of the month. They brought pictures of their families and had the opportunity to tell their classmates why their family is so special and important to them. They also drew pictures of their families which were put on a bulletin board for everyone to enjoy.

Of course, we spent much of December getting ready for the Christmas holiday. On December 12, the children performed "The Christmas Story" for their families and friends. What a joy it is to teach the children the story of Christmas! As they practiced the play and sang the songs they learned what Christmas is truly about. They learned that on the very first Christmas we received the best gift of all when Jesus, our savior, was born. After the play we enjoyed fellowship together in the Fireside Room as the children and their guests snacked on cookies, punch and coffee.



Later in the month the children spent time with their teachers writing letters to Santa. They sang Christmas carols while making decorations for our classroom tree. They decorated Christmas stockings and made pretty ornaments as a gift for their parents. On the 23rd we had a Christmas party. It was nice to see each child give and receive a book for the gift exchange. Also, we were pleasantly surprised by a visit from Santa, who had candy canes for everyone! As you can tell we really enjoyed spreading some Christmas cheer in December.

We're looking forward to learning about "Winter weather" and "other cultures" in January. Our chapel themes will be *obey* (Eph. 6:1), *honesty* (Prov. 3:3), *love* (ICor. 13:4), and *gentleness* (I Thes. 2:7).

We are so blessed to have such precious children to work with everyday! Please continue to keep us in your prayers. Your continued support means so much to us.

Janet Lewis
Preschool Director

**Winter Mid-Week Bible Study
Wednesday Nite Live
Begins January 7**

Soup Suppers at 5:30 in the Fellowship Center for just \$3.00 for adults and \$2.00 for children. Adult and children's classes at 6:30

Adult classes include:

**Live Like You Were Dying
Led by: Paul Stafford**

Live Like You Were Dying is unique because it creates turning-point moments by causing thoughtful reflection on what really matters. This study takes our culture, the deepest needs of people, the truth of God's Word, and brings it all together during a focused period of time for spiritual transformation. The Bible teaches that we're not guaranteed tomorrow. So how should we live?

**New Testament Study: 1 John
Led by: Pastor Bob Collins**

In this study you will discover 3 reasons why John wrote to us, 6 things that people say that simply are not true and 7 things that we know because of this book of the Bible. 1 John is just one chapter long. Take the time to read it through and see if you can discern any of the above specifics.

**For Further Review
Led by: Roxann Hays**

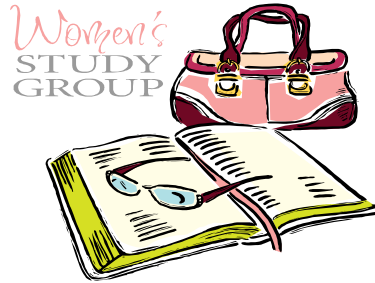
Pastor Bob shares with us amazing Biblical principles and promises every week in worship. In this study we will review the main points of each week's sermon, share our own insights, questions and applications, and then move onto the "For Further Study" that follows the sermon notes in the bulletin as we venture to enrich our understanding and commitment to significance in our lives.

**Financial Peace University
Led by: Jevon & Kari Swanson**

Every day we hear of or read about financial disaster in our nation's economy which will affect all of us in time. This class offers restoration of financial hope to you and your family. Please contact the church office if you are interested in attending this class as preregistration is required.

**Beth Moore Monday Evening
Women's Bible Study
Begins Monday January 12 at 6:30 PM in the
Fireside Room
(Please note change of starting date and room
location)**

Esther: It's Tough Being a Woman



Join Beth Moore in an in-depth and very personal examination of this great story of threat and deliverance. If you've ever felt inadequate, threatened, or pushed into situations that seemed overpowering, this is the study for you. Just as

it was tough being a woman in Esther's day, it's tough today. Beth peels back the layers of history and shows how very contemporary and applicable the story of Esther is to us. This portion of God's Word contains treasures to aid us in our hurried, harried, and pressured lives.

**ADULT SUNDAY MORNING CLASS
9:30 AM - Room 15/16**



Betty Hevrin and Kim Clouse, along with the whole class, want to invite you to join them each Sunday morning in the studying of God's Word. They've just begun their study of 1 Corinthians and it's not too late to join them in examining this letter that

the Apostle Paul wrote to the church in Corinth. It is timely for the church today, both to instruct and to inspire. Most of the questions and problems that confronted the church at Corinth are still very much with us – problems like immaturity, instability, division, jealousy and envy, lawsuits, marital difficulties and misuse of spiritual gifts. Yet in spite of this concentration on problems, the book contains some of the most familiar and beloved chapter in the entire Bible.



**Centenary United Methodist
Church**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



**This Life Changing Class Will Be Offered
As Part of the Wednesday Nite Live Winter
Class Series.**

In this Class You Will Learn How to:

- * Build a Solid Financial Foundation ***
 - * Save Wisely ***
 - * Spend Wisely ***
 - * Dump Debt ***
 - * Invest Wisely ***
- * Strengthen Your Marriage Through Financial Unity ***
- * Teach Your Children Important Financial Life Lessons ***
 - * Be a Good Financial Steward ***

The Cost of the class kit is \$90, and scholarships are available!

Pre-registration is required for this class.

**Call Brian at the Church office at 527-5441 for more information
or to pre-register for this class.**

**For infor more information on this course go to the FPU
website at: www.daveramsey.com**