

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

June 2010



What do you do in times of trouble? What do you do when you go to the cupboards only to find them bare? With the economy not in a recovery mode we are finding a lot of people who, in going to their cupboards, are discovering them to be empty. In these difficult times, what do you do?

This economy is not a respecter of any persons, or organizations for that matter.

Even the Church has felt the sting of rising costs and lower income. Through the first four months of this calendar year Centenary has out spent our income by \$15,000. We are trying a large variety of ways to reduce spending. For example, we recently received a donation of new light fixtures and bulbs which are much more economic. By the time you read this article, many of the exterior fixtures and all of the light bulbs have been replaced for the very low cost of a one day lift rental.

Unfortunately, we continue to face many other needs. Our church office phone system is now beyond repair. While we have received a very generous donation of phones, that solves only half of the problem. Our phone wiring (which runs under the Church Office) needs to be replaced. I would ask you to call the church office if you could help with that, but with the phone system what it is, maybe it would be better if you came by.

So let me return to my original question; what do you do in times of trouble?

One of the passages I love to read in times of trouble is found in the Old Testament book of 2nd Chronicles, beginning at the 20th chapter. It is the story of a time when trouble visited Jehoshaphat, king of Judah. Three nations, the Moabites, the Ammonites and the Meunites, had joined forces to attack and destroy the land of Judah. Any one of those nations outnumbered the fighting force of Judah but combined, Jehoshaphat was facing trouble he could not win.

What Jehoshaphat did next really helps me when I look at the financial problems of Centenary. Jehoshaphat called for a national day of prayer and fasting, a day in which

to seek God's answers to the problems they faced. He also realized that no matter how big the problem, our God is bigger still.

Do you know what happened? Judah knew they had to face their enemy head on, so they prepared for battle and marched to the field where the three armies waited. By the time Judah arrived, all of their enemies (all three nations worth) had already been destroyed. God had fought for them. God had resolved their problem.

With the economic problems that all of us are facing I am going to suggest that we take a lesson from Jehoshaphat and seek God's face. Let's go to Him in a time of prayer, asking Him to lead us and guide us. And all the praise will be His.

Shalom,

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

Pastor Bob



The Missions Team invites you to participate in LOVE MODESTO on Saturday, June 26. This is a day of service to practically live out Jesus' instructions for us to love one another. Many in our community will be serving with Habitat for Humanity, participating in a neighborhood cleanup, collecting items for local food banks, giving away food, and so much more.

Centenary will be working with World Vision in Modesto to assemble essential supplies needed by caregivers to treat injuries and improve the quality of life for those suffering from the devastating earthquake. Children are welcome to come along and help. We will meet from 9 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Centenary's Missions Team invites you to join us for a day of service. If you are interested in more information, check out the website: www.lovemodesto.com.



Have You Ever Wondered?

Have you ever wondered where the teachers for Wednesday Night Live come from?

Have you ever wondered how the classes for Wednesday Night Live are chosen?

Have you ever wondered what is Deanna's inspiration for Wednesday Night Dinners?

Have you ever wondered about the energy that spills over to the children who attend Wednesday Night Live?

The teachers for our mid-week Bible study come from quite diverse backgrounds. Some have seminary degrees and we like to think of them as our resident experts. Pastor Bob and Brian Ralston are always eager to teach us what has been imparted to them through not only their education, but also through their commitment to disciple the people of Centenary. We are very fortunate to have many lay men and women who have a passion in the area of teaching and are enthusiastic to use that gift to help us grow in our faith and knowledge of the Bible. They draw on their experiences and maturity and love of Jesus and pass onto us the treasures they have discovered. Occasionally someone will ask if they can lead a class. Most often teachers are approached and requested to consider teaching a class because someone has observed leadership qualities and a sincere heart to help others see the possibilities of Christian maturity. We are always open to new leadership and if you, or someone you've observed, might be interested in leading a class, please call or email me.

Wednesday Night Live offers a huge variety of classes. There are books of the Bible, popular Christian books and topics such as prayer and finances to name just a few. Christianity is all about relationships so you will find classes on marriage, parenting and even friendship on a regular basis. Sometimes we even go out on a limb and you'll see classes using episodes of old TV programs that set a foundation for discussion of Biblical principles. There is a wide variety of class formats, too, such as lecture, discussion, video based teaching, and self-discovery. There are workbooks and hand-outs and some of you may even remember when the congregation wrote the devotional book to follow the weekly study! Just how are these chosen? In most cases the teachers are encouraged to choose their own topic and format based on what God has put on their hearts and how He has wired them to lead. Under this design the class benefits from their passion and wisdom.

Periodically, specific teachers will be asked to teach a particular topic that hasn't been taught for awhile, that is relevant and serves a purposeful need. We are always open to suggestions, so if there is a topic that you'd like to see offered, please let me know.

Mmm...what would Wednesday Night Live Bible study be without dinner! Deanna Hutton has faithfully catered meals for us for so many years I can't even remember how long! We all look forward to the first night of each session where we are guaranteed spaghetti and then anticipate each following week wondering what she'll prepare. Though experience, cookbooks and favorite recipes help her a great deal in her meal planning, it's the volunteers that work side-by-side that keep her inspired and passionate about her participation in the ministry. With the help of Maxine Blancett, Deanna creates the menus for each session. They make sure the meals are nutritious and delicious, all the while keeping the cost affordable for those who partake. It is such a blessing for so many not to have to worry about fixing a meal and cleaning up before going to Bible study. The fellowship of all the volunteers who assist in preparation and cleanup is the icing on the cake! Let me know if this is a ministry you might want to serve in. There's always room for one more in the kitchen!

You might think that by the time evening rolls around the children would be glad to settle into a quiet learning experience. Just for the record, they are just as excited to learn at night as they are during the day and to use every part of their being to do so! Heather Daniel has incorporated curriculum that requires having fun while the children learn who God is and what He has planned for them. The fellowship, enthusiasm and energy in this children's ministry is an inspiration to all who desire to know our Lord and Savior better. There's room for you to volunteer to lead in this ministry, too. If you love kids and feel God is calling you to nurture them and establish a firm Christian foundation in their lives, please call either Heather or me.

And now you know!

**Contact Roxann Hays in the church office at 527-5441
or email her through the church website at
www.centenarychurch.net**



For those of you who haven't heard, I have moved to Sacramento to be near my family. The hardest part of leaving was my church, with its good preaching and spiritual development classes and my friends. May God be with you and guide you. A special blessing on my former Sunday School pupils.

~ Dru Edgar

Beth Moore Summer Series

June 14 – July 26

Monday Evenings from 6:00 - 8:00 in the Fireside Room

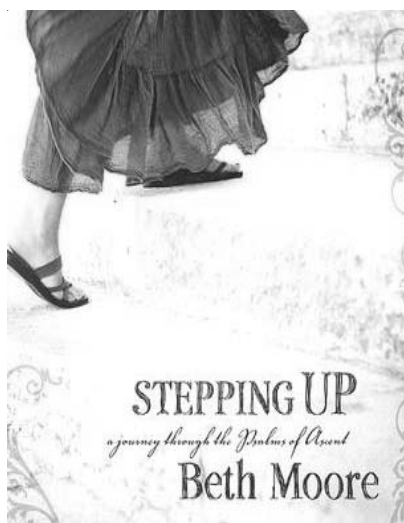
Stepping Up: A Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent

Traveling pilgrims sang these psalms both on the way to the great festivals of the LORD and as key elements of the worship at those festivals. Just as a song or poem can express feelings of fear, doubt, hope and joy, these 15 psalms model how we can voice our own petitions and praises to our God, who is always available and ready to hear us.

Explore the major feasts of Israel and journey with Beth through this seven session study. Themes of unity, joy, gratitude, redemption, repentance, the power of blessings, facing ridicule and more are explored in detail. Modern-day believers in Jesus Christ can learn much from these treasured Psalms in their journey toward greater intimacy with God.

Whether you are a longtime Beth Moore study fan or someone just curious about what she's all about, consider joining us this summer. Each week we will view a teaching video of Beth and share insights from our homework. There are 5 OPTIONAL lessons of homework each week. The participant's guides are \$15, but don't let the cost keep you from learning through the insights of a great Bible teacher.

Call Roxann at the church office at 527-5441 or email her through the church website to sign up at www.centenary.net



Fireworks Booth

The Rock Youth Group will be working with the nonprofit group The Commemorative Air Force to sell fireworks for the Fourth of July. The youth group will do pre-sales of fireworks packages & gift certificates after services on Sunday mornings beginning June 6. Individuals will be able to pick up their fireworks from Monday, June 28 to Sunday July 4, times to be announced. The booth will be run by The Commemorative Air Force and will be located on the corner of Tokay & McHenry. If you, friends, or family members plan on purchasing fireworks this summer, please be sure to purchase the packages or gift certificates early from the

Rock Youth Group to help benefit the Youth Fund. Pre-sales will begin Sunday, June 6. For more information, contact the church office at 527-5441.

Switch Party

The Switch Party is a celebration to welcome the incoming 7th graders to the Youth Group. The current youth group members and the new Jr. Highers are invited to a night of swimming, fun and food on Wednesday, June 16 from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m, location to be announced. Friends are always welcome! Bring a towel and a modest swimsuit. Please contact the church office with any questions.



Switch Party



- June 9 Last Session of Spring Spirit Salon
- June 10 Staff Parish Relations Committee Meeting
- June 14 Board of Trustees
- June 14 Beth Moore Bible Study Begins
- June 15 Children's Ministry Team Meeting
- June 17 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
- June 20 Father's Day/Men's Chorus
- June 21 Mission Committee Meeting
- June 21 Finance Committee Meeting
- June 27 Vacation Bible School Begins

Weekly Events

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

MONDAY

- YOUNG ADULTS GROUP - RM. 18 6:30 P.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. & 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.

- 6/1 BEN BANKARD
- 6/1 KEVIN BEHRENS
- 6/1 ELISABETH HELLMAN
- 6/1 WESLEY McCLAIN
- 6/1 THOEUN YANG
- 6/2 SARA MARQUART
- 6/3 AMY FORBES
- 6/3 DON BAUGHN
- 6/3 KATHY BOYD
- 6/4 ALICE ANDERSEN
- 6/4 REDDING CAUSEY
- 6/4 SEANGHUN SOUN
- 6/5 CYNTHIA VINCENT
- 6/5 BEVERLY WINGER
- 6/5 BORAMY TEK
- 6/5 STEVEN DiTOMMASO
- 6/6 JEFF BOYER
- 6/6 MARY BURROUGHS
- 6/6 SAO SAN
- 6/6 KRISTIN SIMONSON
- 6/7 DIANA PINHEIRO
- 6/7 CARYN KYTE
- 6/8 BOPHA LEY
- 6/9 RICH FERREIRA
- 6/9 DAN SPARKS
- 6/9 CLAYTON McCLANAHAN
- 6/9 FRED RENO
- 6/10 BOB MORRIS
- 6/10 JILL TORRANCE
- 6/10 BETTY CAMPBELL
- 6/10 PAUL BUCK
- 6/10 CHRIS BIDWELL
- 6/11 DALE FRUECHTENICHT
- 6/11 KAREN WEATHERLY
- 6/12 JONATHAN THUN
- 6/13 ALLISON MOORE
- 6/13 BRENT URBAN
- 6/13 MONICA BAUGHN



- 6/13 TYLER BYRNE
- 6/14 MARGARET BELL
- 6/14 JIM BOWERS
- 6/14 MURINE HAVENS
- 6/15 PATRICIA HARRIS
- 6/15 JIM NAWROCKI
- 6/18 JOHN LIGHTHALL
- 6/18 DEANNA HUTTON
- 6/18 EARL GAARDE
- 6/18 MERLE BECKWITH
- 6/19 SHANNA COOLEY
- 6/20 MICHELLE OVERHOLTZER
- 6/21 ERIC FLETCHER
- 6/21 ROBERT HALL
- 6/21 PAT HARRINGTON
- 6/22 JULENE GENTRY
- 6/23 MARC BLEDSOE
- 6/23 NANCY WHITE
- 6/24 PAT SHAEFER
- 6/24 JUNE SCOTT
- 6/24 MEL RICHARS
- 6/28 RICH FISHER
- 6/28 RATHY LEY
- 6/29 WHITNEY DAVIES
- 6/29 PAUL RAWSON
- 6/29 BRENDA REDNER
- 6/30 TRACEY RIDDLE
- 6/30 JAMES BLACK

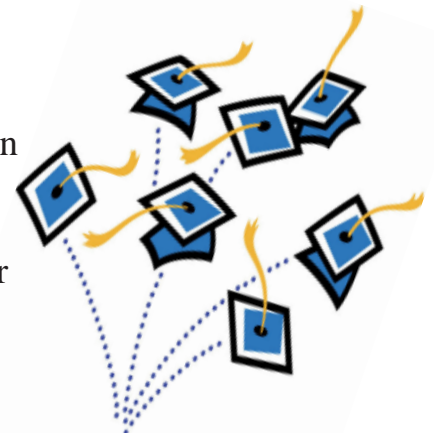
It is not our intention to overlook your birthday. If your birthday was not listed, please call the church office @ 527-5441 and let us know, so that we can update our records. Thank You!

Senior Send-Off

Seniors, Parents, and Youth are invited to help celebrate the graduation of the Seniors in The Rock Youth Group.

Join us for a BBQ, ice cream and slide show in the Fellowship Center on Sunday, June 13 @ 11:45 a.m. after the second service.

For more information contact the church office @ 527-5441.





In light of the news of my upcoming departure, August 1st is my last Sunday prior to moving to attend seminary in Michigan, I wanted to highlight some areas of need. As I prepare to “head east,” my heart and prayer is that this will be a smooth transition for Centenary, as well as for me and my family. This isn’t going to be a plea for you to learn how to play guitar or sing! Mostly what I would like is for you to be in prayer over the areas of ministry that will

be transitioning to new leadership and opportunities.

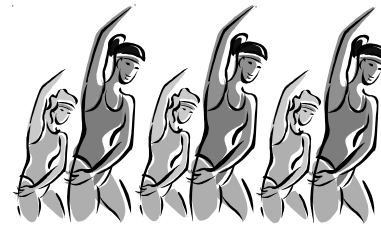
First, I would like to ask you to be in prayer over the worship ministry at Centenary. Our Saturday night and 9 a.m. Sunday morning worship teams will be impacted greatly by some key people departing this summer. In July, we will be losing Yohan Partan as he moves to southern California to begin married life with Katie and to pursue his Master’s & Ph.D. Yohan has been our keyboardist, guitarist, and substitute worship leader for several years now. He has been amazing! In addition, our electric guitarist, Kessia Hegwood, will be moving to Humboldt in August to continue her college studies. She has been playing with us for a number of years and has grown in so many ways, both musically and spiritually! Just last month, we said good-bye to Darcy Campbell, who has been a vocalist with the Saturday night worship team since 2000. Darcy has been an incredible strength to our team over the years, not to mention a faithful servant to the church as a whole!

The church will also be saying “good-bye” to another faithful servant and vital member of our Saturday night worship team, my beautiful wife Tracey. She has been singing with the worship team for about 6 years now and has been a great strength to the team.

All of these talented individuals will be greatly missed, not just for their musical strengths, but for their strength of character and faith in the Lord Jesus! I thank them all for their support, faithfulness, and friendship! The Church leadership has been active in working to find new leadership, vocalists, and instrumentalists for the worship teams. If you know of anyone who might be interested and able to join, please feel free to let Brian Ralston know. I believe that this could be a new and exciting time for the Church. I would ask you to join me in prayer over these changes, and to continue to pray for the church leadership for wisdom in these matters. Second, I have been working to start a young adults group over the last year. We have

a small group Bible study that meets each week. They are a wonderful and committed group of young adult believers, many of whom actively serve in the ministries of Centenary. We are trying to find ways to keep this group going when I leave in August. This is such a vital age to be connected to the church. It is going to be hard for me to say good-bye to them! Would you also keep them in your prayers, asking God to provide new leadership for that group?

I am confident that God will provide for Centenary. I thank you for your continued support of the ministry and for your desire to serve God faithfully!



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

Healthier Food Goals-It’s Not JUST About Fitness

1. Try something new! We tend to get in a rut with what we eat. Variety ensures a nutrient-rich diet.
2. Choose healthy fats! Research has shown that certain fats from vegetables, nuts and fish actually promote good health.
3. Cook more often. Cooking at home means YOU are the nutritional gate keeper. We often don’t know the ingredients of restaurant meals.
4. Eat less processed and red meats. It’s not good to eat like a king just because we can afford it. Many processed meats contain nitrites, implicated in cancer. These meats are high in saturated fats.
5. Be aware of portions. Usually, the right portions for us are smaller than what we think. How did an ‘average’ size dinner plate from the 1950’s of 10 inches get to 12-14 inches in 2010? What about those restaurant ‘platters’ where some are 16 inches across?

“To lengthen thy life, lessen thy meals.”

(Benjamin Franklin)

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 @ 988-5655



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Children's Ministry is planning to make a splash this month with our 'High Seas Expedition' Vacation Bible School! VBS is an ongoing event throughout the week of June 27 through July 2. We expect to

welcome over 120 children each evening and have over 2 hours of fun activities planned. This year's theme promises to be a thrilling adventure, exploring the mighty love of God. Kids will learn to see God at work in their lives by watching for God sightings throughout the week and beyond.

Vacation Bible School is much more than sitting in a chair and hearing a Bible story. Kids actually experience Bible stories every night through engaging, hands-on activities. One night kids will be caught in a storm at sea with Paul, and another night they'll be in prison with Peter. The children will remember God's love is always steady, even when we go through rough times. Besides the exciting Bible exploration time, they will also experience energetic games, worshipful music, simple crafts and yummy snacks that are all based on the Bible story of the day.



One of the most important nights at VBS is later in the week when kids have learned how mighty God's love is and how much He cares for us. The children are presented with the Gospel and they are given an opportunity to pray to ask Jesus into their lives forever. I can't begin to tell you how amazing that moment is to see



dozens of children with heads bowed in prayer, and hands raised to God, asking Him to be with them always. In that moment, all the months, weeks and hours of VBS preparation are worth every second because those children have new hope in Jesus.

There is still plenty of time for you to be part of this exciting ministry. We need about 70 volunteers to help make VBS a reality. We need many supplies and a lot of financial help to offer a week of VBS free to any child who wants to come. About 60% of the children at VBS are not a part of the life of Centenary and this may be the

first time they hear about Jesus. Please help us make Jesus known to the children of Modesto! We appreciate your support and your prayers!

In His Service,
Heather Daniel
hethdaniel@yahoo.com



Summer can be such a busy time. Regardless of vacations, graduations, weddings and those lazy crazy hazy days of summer we should never set aside the Word of God because we're too busy.

Summer is just around the corner and after reviewing the church calendar and taking into consideration the new schedule for schools, we have decided to offer a shorter 4 week Wednesday Night Live class that will meet during the month of July, beginning on the 7th and concluding on the 28th. As usual for our summer session, we will meet as one class and each week's lesson will stand on its own. If you are gone at all during July you can still come to the Wednesday nights that you are here and benefit from the teaching.

Watch for details of the class at weekend worship services and in the July Circuit Rider.

Heavenly Music by Joan Peck



Think back to the first Sunday of May when Brian's sermon was titled "Heaven's Main Attraction." Did you recognize the beginning the communion music, *The Royal Telephone*, an old hymn by F. M. Lehman? Let me share the text with you; see how appropriate it is to Brian's Message:

Central's never "busy," Always on the line,
You may hear from Heaven, Almost any time;
'Tis a royal service, Free for one and all,
When you get in trouble, Give this royal line a call.

Telephone to glory, O what joy divine!
I can feel the current, Moving on the line,
Built by God the Father, for His loved and own,
We may talk to Jesus, Thru this royal telephone.