

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

June 2011



June is going to be a very busy month. On the 11th we will hold the Church Rummage Sale, and that same weekend is the Youth services. Plus, June is a time for graduations, Vacation Bible School, Love Modesto and, for some of you, your own family vacation. Yep, June is a very busy month with many of activities.

I would like to ask you to take a moment on Thursday the 2nd and remember that it is Ascension Day. That doesn't mean you have to run out to the Hallmark store and buy your Ascension Day cards or put up your Ascension day lights or even get your Ascension Day tree before the lots are picked over.

No fanfare is required. Remembering Ascension Day simply means taking a moment to reflect upon the events that transpired after Easter. Ascension Day falls forty days after Easter and is the day that Jesus was taken up, or ascended, back to Heaven. What is important about this day is what the Bible tells us happened next.

After He ascended to Heaven, the Bible says that Jesus "sat down" at the right hand of God the Father. On the surface this simple act may not seem like much to us. Jesus returned to Heaven, and when He got there He sat down. In reality, the implication is huge. Jewish people "sat down" only when their work was completed. For the Bible to tell us that Jesus sat down is the same as saying the task which brought Jesus to the earth had been completed.

So what task brought Jesus to the earth? Jesus Himself tells us in Luke 19:10 "For the Son of Man came to seek and to save what was lost."

Jesus came to seek us, and He came to save us. In one of His parables, Jesus talks about a shepherd who so loved his sheep that if one was lost, he would recognize that it was missing and leave the 99 (the implication is that they were safe) to go search for the lost sheep. The teaching is clear; Jesus left the splendor and glory of Heaven to come searching for

us, His lost lambs. And when He found us, the Bible says there was rejoicing in the presence of the angels, which means it is God that is rejoicing, because one of His lost lambs was found.

Jesus came to save us. The Bible says that the wages, the penalty, for sin is death, meaning, because of sin something has to die. Unwilling for us to be the ones to die, Jesus went to the cross. He who knew no sin became sin, our sin. And through His work on the cross, Jesus did for us what we could not do for ourselves, He saved us.

And with His work completed, He sat down.

Jesus has done His part; He has paid in full the penalty for our sin: past, present and future. There is nothing left for Him to do. That does not mean there is nothing left for us to do.

Think for a minute about Christmas. Picture in your mind a Christmas tree with beautifully wrapped gifts under that tree. Imagine one of those gifts having a tag with your name on it - a gift for you. Now imagine leaving that gift under the tree, and then when the tree had served its purpose and was taken out of the house, imagine that gift in a closet or in the garage. Imagine that beautifully wrapped gift, with your name on it, out in the garage gathering dust. What a waste it would be.

Jesus offers us a wonderful gift, a beautiful gift, the forgiveness of sin and life everlasting. He paid the penalty for our sin, paid the price in full and proved the same by sitting down after He ascended in to Heaven. He has done His part. What is left, the receiving of that gift and the act of making it our own, is up to us.

That is what Ascension Day is all about. This month, on Thursday, June 2nd, take a moment to remember and take another moment to make the gift of Jesus your own.

Shalom,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Pastor Bob". The signature is stylized and cursive.

Pastor Bob

Summer Wednesday

July 6 - 2011

“For everything that was written in the past was written to teach us, so that through endurance and the encouragement of the Scriptures we might have hope.”
Romans 15:4



Join us for a “cool”
summer Bible study!

**Brian Ralston is teaching this summer’s session and with so many good possibilities, he’s just not sure what to teach! He’s narrowed it down to 3 choices.
What do you think?**

Titus * 1 Thessalonians * Life of Elijah

We are asking you to be a part of this decision.

VOTING BEGINS...NOW! and will end on Wednesday, June 15th

Email your vote to centenaryofmodesto@sbcglobal.net, BriRalston@sbcglobal.net, roxannahays@aol.com or call in your vote to the church office at 527-5441.

**You can also drop your ballot into the voting box on the table
at the back of the sanctuary Saturday night
or Sunday morning in the box located at the refreshment table.**

Winner announced June 18/19!

Simple Summer Supper	5:30 pm
The Rock Youth Group	6:00 pm
Adult & Children’s Classes	6:30 pm
Nursery Care	6:30 pm

Congratulations 2011 Graduates!

College Graduates

Sophia Dede Addy - Columbia University
Masters in Public Health
Ashley Boyer - UC Davis
Bachelor of Psychology
Joanne Dix - CSU Stanislaus
Liberal Studies, English
Stephanie Dix - CSU Stanislaus
Liberal Studies, Child Development
Natalie Hellman - Seattle Pacific University
Bachelor of Science Dietetics
Spencer Hutton - UC Irvine
Bachelor of Arts in Economics
Margaret Kingori - CSU Stanislaus
Masters in EDD
Amanda (Swanson) Nugent - CSU East Bay
Masters in Mathematics
Andrew Redner - UOP McGeorge School of Law
Chris Redner - CSU Stanislaus
Business Administration, Marketing
Paul Sever - CSU Humboldt
Environmental Resources Planning
Kari (Stuermer) Stoddard - University of Phoenix
Masters Business Administration



High School Graduates

Dylan Albiani - Beyer High
Sophie Ascaso - Big Valley Christian High School
Melody Edwards - Beyer High
Elias Futch - Hughson High School
Geoffrey Jacobs - Beyer High School
Matthew Mey - Ceres High School
Allen Mutuma - Beyer High
Rachel Anne Pearre - Beyer High
Kate Redner - Connecting Waters Charter School
Jonathon Smith - Beyer High
Justin Usiak - Downey High School
Benjamin Vincent - Beyer High School
Megan Wade - Beyer High School

Jr. High Graduates

Kyle Amador -
Jarad Barnett -
Tanner Curutchague - Savage Junior High
Narelle Norris - Roosevelt Junior High
Nate Overholtzer - La Loma Junior High

FATHER'S DAY SUNDAY, JUNE 19TH



MEN'S
SING

COME BE A PART
OF THE
ALL-MEN'S SING



REHEARSE IN ROOM 2/3 AT 8:30 A.M.

WE WILL ENJOY SPECIAL "MAN FOOD"
ON THE PATIO AT 10:00 A.M.
AND SING AT THE 10:30 SERVICE

CALLING
ALL
MEN



Missions Team Update

**Opportunities to Serve
Every Fourth Sunday
of the Month**

**Dinner at the Gospel Mission
7:30 to 8:30 pm**

Sign up at the Missions Team table after church services. Children age 10 and over are welcome. Space is limited so sign up early for your preferred dates. As the weather warms up please note the Gospel Mission has a dress code and requests that we do not wear shorts or sleeveless/tank top shirts.

LOVE Modesto Saturday June 25

There are many community projects planned for the second Love Modesto event this year. Many of them are family friendly. Check with a Missions team member at the Missions table or go to www.lovemodesto.com to get detailed information on the projects and to sign up. The deadline to sign up is June 19. This would be a great opportunity to join with family and friends to serve together as a group.

Centenary will be hosting a project in conjunction with World Vision to provide health worker kits to AIDS service workers in Africa. Each kit costs \$30. Consider sponsoring one or more kits, make checks payable to Centenary with Africa project in the memo line.

Advancing Vibrant Communities

Summer is a great time for children to become involved with community service. Each day the Advancing Vibrant Communities website posts opportunities for short and long term service. Check them out at www.vibrantcommunities.org.

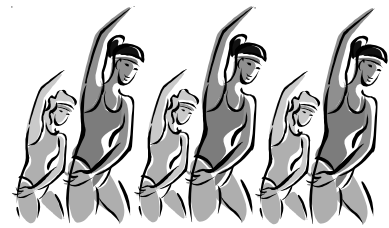
Support Missions Team Projects

Give your change to the "Change to Change Lives"

Jar at the Missions Team Table

Join the Missions Team

We invite all interested congregation members to join us for our meetings the third Thursday of each month at 6:30 in the evening, in the youth room.



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

Did you know that aerobic exercise helps delay the aging process? Bones are like muscles in that with exercise, they become stronger. If you exercise in your younger years, you can prevent bones becoming susceptible to osteoporosis (which causes bones to become brittle and fragile.)

We have a class at Centenary called, "Easy Does It." This class is geared for Seniors and others searching for a Level 1 exercise program. Exercises are performed either standing or sitting in chairs. There is no mat work (on the floor) like the other classes. If you would like to speak directly with the senior class instructor, you may call Sylvia Swan at 521-7199.

"Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young." ~ Fred Astaire

**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**



All-Church Rummage Sale!

Saturday, June 11

7 a.m. - 4 p.m.

**Mark your calendars now!
Donations will be accepted until June 8**

**Would you like to help?
Contact Mark & Pam Vasché At 578-0949**



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

MONDAY

BETH MOORE WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY - RM. 6 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.



June 9 SPRC Meeting
 June 11 Church Rummage Sale
 June 13 Board of Trustees Meeting
 June 16 Missions Team Meeting
 June 16 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
 June 19 Father's Day Men's Sing/Special Fellowship
 June 20 Finance Committee Meeting
 June 24 Women's Fun & Fellowship
 June 25 Love Modesto at Centenary
 June 26 Family Worship
 June 26 Vacation Bible School Begins
 June 27 Ad Council Meeting

6/1 BEN BANKARD
 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 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 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
 6/17 HEATHER WOMMACK
 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
 6/22 PETER DUENAS
 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!

RSVP - SENIORS HELPING SENIORS

RSVP stands for Retired & Senior Volunteer Program of Stanislaus County, which is a program designed to promote and support people age 55 and older in various volunteer opportunities that assist other seniors.

One way in which you can get involved is to join the program, and then volunteer your time to drive other seniors to church, doctor's appointments, shopping trips, etc. You are then reimbursed for your mileage. Already involved with these activities? You may be eligible to be reimbursed! Contact Christina Ulloa at DMC Foundation at 527-3412, for more information or for an application.



New in the Library

Did you know our Church has a great Christ-centered library? Centenary's library is open every Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m.

Who can combine a good read and a modern-day portrait of Christ's relationship to us? Terri Blackstock that's who. *Covenant Child* is a Women of Faith fiction novel. Beautiful, precocious three year old twins Kara and Lizzie Holbrooke live a charmed life with their widowed but doting father, Jack. When he found love and married again, it seemed their lives would finally be "happy ever after." That new life shatters when Jack and his wealthy parents are killed in a plane crash. Jack's new wife, Amanda, inherits the family estate but fails to gain custody of the twins. And so begins an emotionally charged story that encourages readers to embrace the unique life God has planned for each of His children.

Your young adult daughter or granddaughter might enjoy the Sierra Jenson series, starting with book #1, *Only You*, Sierra, by Robin Jones Gunn. Sierra had always been the bold, free-spirited type, but now her whole foundation was being rocked. Sierra Jenson settled back into her seat and gazed through the train window at the English countryside. So much was on her mind, and her heart was flooded with emotions. She hoped the friendships she had made with Katie and Christy this past week during the Europe missions trip would last forever. She dreaded the flight back to the States, knowing that everything would be completely different when she returned home. While in England, Sierra's family had moved. She hated the thought of going to a new high school in the middle of her junior year. The prospect of another dateless year made her heart sink. She wondered if she'd ever find love, but then in a London airport, she met Paul. But of course, it was just a chance meeting, wasn't it? She would never see him again, or would she?

For ages baby to preschool, we have *First Virtues for Toddlers* series by Mary Manz Simon. Mary says: "We make the mistake of thinking that children will simply 'catch' a virtue when they see us opening a door for someone or sharing with a friend. Virtues are caught but they are also taught. Because there is so much cultural clutter floating around children today, we must be intentional, not just incidental about cutting through that clutter and teach core beliefs." Look for *Kitty Shows Kindness*, *Piglet tells the Truth*, *Duckling is Patient* and many others. The illustrations are so cute, too. Look for the one of kitty helping her mom with the dishes. You'll love her little apron.

Kari Swanson

Solve the Inequality: God > Dog ~ B. Akina



Recently, my wife and I watched one of our favorite films, *Best in Show* (don't bother renting it...it's a strange and silly piece of work). It's a fictional documentary, or "mockumentary," about the annual Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show and several of the hopeful dog breeders who devote their lives to raising and training their purebred dogs.

The film is an amusing examination of how obsessive people can become over their hobbies, but it did spark some thoughts for me. Beneath the goofy exterior, I was watching a movie about people who devote every free moment of their lives to the pursuit of an ideal. They drive back and forth across the country, slogging through regional semifinals in Podunk hamlets just for the chance to travel to Pennsylvania (on their own dime) and compete for strips of blue fabric—cash prizes rarely exceed \$100, even for the top tier of national winners.

As easy as it may be to sneer at this, I am struck with a hint of contrition—I serve the God of the universe. I believe that nothing in the world is more important than serving Christ—but is my commitment as obvious as those eccentrics with their purebred dogs? One couple in the film has a terrier-shaped mailbox and are constantly writing and performing songs in honor of their dog. Another hires a full-time trainer (out-of-pocket) to act as their poodle's handler. Still another couple takes their Weimaraner to a psychiatrist.

Am I that obviously sold-out for my God? Do I live my life in a way that elicits sneers from "normal" people? These questions humble me, and that is a blessing. I want to encourage you, brothers and sisters, to consider these questions for yourselves.

One last note about the movie: the dog handlers presented their animals in a huge arena filled with thousands of people. That may seem fictitious, but the Westminster Kennel Club Dog Show is viewed by about 3.5 million people (between ticket holders and home viewers) every year. Maybe crazy attracts a crowd. Do we?



It is June and we are planning for some carefree days of summer. It seems so strange that I'm sitting here in my jeans, sweater and boots, listening to the rain as I make our plans for summer fun! Although the weather certainly doesn't quite feel like summer yet, I'm sure it will be warmer very soon. We look forward to picnics, walks to the park, water play and bike days. God is so good! We feel so blessed to be able to spend our days with the precious children at Centenary.

We had a marvelous month of May. The first two weeks the children focused on doing some nice things to honor their mommies for "Mother's Day." They enjoyed stringing necklaces with colorful rigatoni noodles and wooden beads. They turned out so pretty and the children were so proud to see their mommies wearing the necklaces. The children also had fun making cars, vases, potpourri sachets, hand prints, foot prints and picture frames.

The last two weeks of May the children learned about farm animals. They learned about the many animals that live on a farm. The children learned that some animals help farmers do their work, while others provide food. Children love animals and found it quite interesting to learn about all the hard work that needs to be done a farm. One of our four year olds lives on a farm. She loves to help her mom and dad feed the animals, while her sister and brother help do some of the other chores. We learned it takes the whole family to run the farm.

With the end of May comes the realization that we have to say good-bye to some of our precious five year olds, as they take that big step into kindergarten. On one hand, we're so proud of them for how far they've come since their first day with us, but, on the other hand, we're not quite ready to let go. We must let go, so we do so with a smile, a proud heart and a prayer that God will watch over them and protect them as they continue their journey without us.

We look forward to some warmer weather ahead. Our themes for June will be "Father's Day and "God's Roaring Ocean." Our chapel themes will be **Creation Day 4** (Genesis 1:14-16) **Creation Day 5** (Genesis 2:2-3) **Creation Day 6** (Genesis 1:24-26) and **Creation Day 7** (Genesis 2:2-3). Thank you so much for your continued love, support and prayers. Please continue to do so, as we continue to share Jesus with all the precious little ones He has sent to us.

In His Love,
Janet Lewis



Children's Ministry is planning to go wild this month with our 'PandaMania' Vacation Bible School! VBS is an ongoing event throughout the week of June 26-30. We plan to welcome over 150 children each evening and have over 2 hours of fun activities planned. This year's theme promises to be a wild time as our children experience God listening to them, God watching over them and God loving them no matter what. 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 with Jonah as he tries to escape from God, and another night they'll be with Elijah confronting the prophets of Baal. 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 much God loves them. 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



Centenary United Methodist
Church

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(209) 527-5441

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Where God is Wild
About You!

Centenary Children's
Ministry Presents

Vacation Bible School
2011

Sunday, June 26th -
Thursday, June 30th
6:00 - 8:15 p.m.

For Children Ages 3 Years - 6th Grade
Kick-Off Dinner Sunday, June 26th at 5:00 p.m.