

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

March, 2011



About a week ago, USA Today ran an article that said that the financial state of the United States was much improved. In fact, they actually stated that we were now living in the “best of times.”

At first, I thought the authors of the article were out of their minds. I wasn't sure where these “best of times” were taking place, but I was pretty sure it wasn't here in

California's Central Valley.

But the more I thought of it, setting aside the economic situation, these really are the “best of times.” Here's how I come to that conclusion: for decades people trusted in so many things for their well-being. People trusted in money, “as long as we have money, we are alright.” People trusted in peace, “as long as there is no major conflict going on in the world, no world powers armed and dangerous, we are alright.” People trusted in everything, save Jesus.

And now there is no money, and everywhere you go you find anxiety, uncertainty and hostility. Everything we trusted in has been taken away.

I am reminded of a friend who told me about his mother. She had been raised as a good Catholic girl. She married like good Catholic girls should. She had two children, a boy,

whom she dreamed would become a priest, and a girl, whom she dreamed would become a nun.

Unfortunately, for her dreams, the little boy grew up to become a minister in a Protestant Church and the little girl grew up to become the wife of a minister in a Protestant Church.

Unfortunately her marriage did not work out either. One day she told her son, my friend, that her life felt like a ladder. Every rung of that ladder was breaking beneath her. Every hope, every dream was being taken away from her. She felt like she had nothing she could count on, nothing she could trust in.

My friend told her that this might be a good thing because, in reality, everything she was trusting in was, at best, only temporary. And now, she had the opportunity to trust in the only real security, she could trust in Jesus.

It seems to me we really are living in the best of times because everything we once trusted in has been taken away from us leaving us with only one thing, Jesus.

Maybe these times are really a gift from God.

Shalom,

Pastor Bob

Mission Team Update

Opportunities to Serve - LOVE Modesto

Demonstrating kindness/meeting needs/impacting lives with the love of Jesus - Saturday, April 2

Join friends and neighbors from around the community working on one of over 30 projects to serve those in need clean up neighborhoods and assist schools and nonprofit organizations. Many of the projects are child and family friendly.

To register and get the full list of opportunities go to www.LoveModesto.com.

Check the Missions team table after services for information on car pooling or caravanning to the event.

Saturday June 25 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. Write the check to Centenary with Africa Project in the memo line. More details on this and other June projects coming up.

Support Mission Team Projects Give your change to the “Change to Change Lives” jar at the Mission Team Table



Winter Retreat

For Jr. High & High School
Friday, March 11th to Sunday, March 13th
Redwood Christian Park
Boulder Creek, CA (Near Santa Cruz)
Cost: \$85
Guest Speaker: Robi Quick

Winter Retreat is a chance to get away & reconnect with God. We are excited to have Robi Quick, a dynamic teacher, challenge each of us in our faith. Don't miss this opportunity to grow in your relationship with God! Sign up to attend during Youth Group or contact the church office with any questions, 527-5441.

Thank you Centenary!

We are grateful for your support of the Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser. Your incredible support will help to offset the cost of the retreat.
~ The Rock Youth Group



Spring Into Wednesday Night Bible Study

The Spring Session of Wednesday Night Bible Study begins on March 23. There are 3 classes for you to choose from. **David Collins** is offering a class called **Christian Faith 101: Basics and Beyond**, a book written by Steven Tsoukalas. For those of you who have attend RCP, his wife, Sandy Richter, has led many teaching times. You may even have heard Steven on occasion, as well. **Insa Duke** is presenting a class entitled **The Five Love Languages**. This class was offered quite a few years ago and is back by popular demand. Our third "mystery class" is being finalized and the details will be revealed along with details of the other 2 classes in the upcoming weeks.

So mark your calendars for March 23 and plan on attending one of the classes. And don't forget, there are classes for children of all ages, as well as a loving nursery for babies. Dinner begins at 5:30 followed by classes at 6:30. See you there!

P.S. It doesn't seem possible, but we have been enjoying our Wednesday night dinners and fellowship time for over 20 years. In order to continue offering a varied menu with good nutritional value, we will be increasing the suggested donation to \$4 for adults and \$2.50 for children under 12. Thank you for your continuing support of our mid-week Bible study and dinner program.

~Roxann Hays, Director of Christian Education~

Save the Date!

Centenary Women's Conference 2011

May 13—14

Heartfelt

A heartfelt journey through worship & service

Matthew 24:40

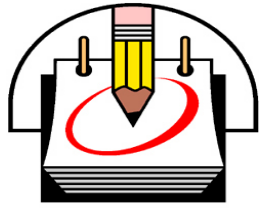
Cheryl Collins

Guest Speaker



**A chance to honor and remember those whose lives
have been touched by cancer while supporting
the work of the American Cancer Society.**

**Pick up orders after worship services on:
*Saturday March 26 ~ Sunday March 27***



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 6:00 P.M.

TUESDAY

MOM2MOM - Rm. 6 9:10 - 11:00 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 - Rm. 6 9:00 A.M.

WNL - FELLOWSHIP CENTER

DINNER 5:30 P.M./CLASSES 6:30 P.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.



3/1	SARIN BY	3/12	GARY LOVE
3/1	GERALD THIEMANN	3/12	MELISSA MELTON
3/1	GAIL VICK	3/12	KEN KLINE
3/2	PAUL STAFFORD	3/13	RITA BUCHANAN
3/2	MELANIE TABAI	3/14	BILL WATSON
3/2	BEN HELM	3/14	TOMMY KAISER
3/2	SUSAN MCCLANAHAN	3/14	BOB ECKLES
3/3	OLIVER ARMSTRONG	3/15	MAX MYERS
3/3	SUSAN AZEVEDO	3/16	SONNY SATH
3/4	GERALD UNDERWOOD	3/17	MIKE WADE
3/4	PAT REID	3/17	BRENDA MUTUMA
3/4	JIM MCCORMICK	3/17	ALEXANDRIA CATON
3/4	JANET LEWIS	3/18	SHIRLEE COURT
3/5	JEANNETTE CHAPMAN	3/20	BRAD BOYD
3/5	DRU EDGAR	3/20	ERIC MILLER
3/6	PAM DARR	3/20	MARK VASCHE
3/6	ED GSCHIEDLE	3/22	ROLAND GUILLES
3/6	PENNEY WEINHEIMER	3/23	CAROLINE FORBES
3/7	ALYSSA MAAS	3/24	DEE WENGEL
3/8	LETA LONG	3/25	KYLE WEINHEIMER
3/8	ERIKA CUMMINGS	3/25	SIDARATH CHHUOY
3/8	VEASNA TEK	3/25	SYDA MOEUN
3/8	POLLY VASCHE	3/25	SARALEE MOORAD
3/9	SOPHIA KOOMSON	3/26	BARBARA HENRICH
3/9	SHARON PERRY	3/26	DOTTIE AZLIN
3/10	GARRETT AMERINE	3/26	ROGER YOUNGER
3/10	DON STOUTAMIRE	3/26	KEITH SCOTT
		3/27	LOWELL CLARK
		3/27	CHUCK DARR
		3/29	ALISSA COLLINS
		3/29	MOLLIE HORTON
		3/29	ISAAC KOOMSON
		3/29	EVANELL MARLOW
		3/29	LINNEIA NOTTLEY
		3/30	LINDA JOLLIFF
		3/30	LILY HINRICHS
		3/31	ROBBIE CUMMINS
		3/31	JOE SALTS



March 5 Band of Brothers

March 9 Ash Wednesday

March 10 SPRC Meeting

March 13 Daylight Savings Begins

March 14 Board of Trustees Meeting

March 17 Missions Team Meeting

March 17 Preschool Board Meeting

March 21 Finance Committee Meeting

March 25 Women's Fun & Fellowship

March 27 Daffodil Sunday

March 27 Family Worship

March 27 Congregational Blood Pressure Screening

March 28 Ad Council Meeting

*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!*

Happy
St. Patrick's Day
March 17th





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

James recommends: So Mad Bunny by Pamela Kennedy. Children up to age four will enjoy following Little Bunny as he learns not to push or scream or throw things because he's angry. A Bible verse closes the book, reminding the child that God wants us to control our anger.

Jonathan recommends: My Life as a Beat Up Basketball Backboard by Bill Myers, for ages 9-12. Slicko-Ricko's Advertising Agency claims they can make the dorkiest human in the world the most famous. And of course, no one qualifies like Wally McDoogie! Soon he stars in his own TV series, and he's endorsing all kinds of stuff. It isn't until he becomes the star player for his junior high school basketball team that things get really out of hand, and our hero finally learns that being famous isn't all it's cut out to be.

Kari recommends: Take One. The first book in the Above the Line Series by Karen Kingsbury.

Could they change the world—before the world changes them? Filmmakers Chase Ryan and Keith Ellison left the mission field of Indonesia for the mission field of Hollywood with a dream bigger than both of them. But as Chase and Keith begin shooting their well-laid plans begin to unravel. In the midst of the questions and the cameras, is it possible to keep things above the line and make a movie unlike anything done before - or is the risk too great for everyone?

~ Kari Swanson



The Cardinal Sins of
Leading Worship, Volume 1
- B. Akina

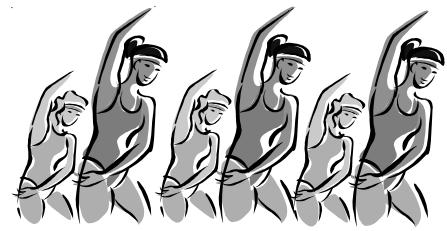
The word “performance” puts a worship leader on very precarious footing. Personally, it has haunted my steps all the days I’ve been in music ministry. Here’s how I define “performance worship”:

I was sitting in a Sunday morning church service at Hume Lake about eight years ago. Our guest worship leaders, a husband/wife duet, started off with my favorite hymn, “Be Thou My Vision.” We all stood, and the pair launched into a two-minute musical introduction. Backed by CD accompaniment, the wife bowed intricate melodies on a violin and the husband blew soaring lines on a trumpet. Once I’d forgotten what song they were playing, the husband raised his arm to conduct us as we finally sang the beautiful words “Be Thou my vision, oh Lord of my heart / naught be all else to me, save that Thou art.” As I took a breath to continue, the husband picked up a flute, the wife sat down at the piano, and another musical odyssey began. Sixteen lines of singing had never taken so long.

I now understood a truth of worship that I’d always felt, but had never been able to articulate; the sometimes fine line between the congregation being able to participate as worshippers, or being reduced to an audience. I hate guitar solos in worship songs because the worshippers have no participatory act of worship to engage in. I don’t care for musical breaks, because Johnny Q. Christian is given nothing to do during that time other than observe a bit of musical expression. Is it an act of worship for the guitarist—was it an *act* of worship for the husband/wife duet—to express themselves to God musically? Very possibly. That’s not for me to judge. But I will say they dropped the ball in that vital second word of the job description: worship *leader*.

As a worship minister, I try to commit to sacrificing my own experience of worship if it helps bring the church into a physical and spiritual environment where they can intimately and adoringly make contact with God.

You may point out that I have subjected you to many songs over the last two months that you didn’t know and couldn’t sing along to. The truth is, I do believe there are good elements of performance worship—sometimes a person can be blessed by a new song because it approaches a spiritual issue from an unexpected angle. Sometimes it can be helpful to observe and meditate on a piece of music rather than sing along. But in these situations the song must be *framed* appropriately. I attempt to show respect for the congregation by giving you thoughts to ponder (and not making you stand) while we play through music meant to prepare you spiritually and intellectually for the teaching themes of the sermons. Why am I telling you this? I want you to know my heart and my intentions. Now please feel free to keep me in check. Am I committing this cardinal sin of worship leading? Do you feel led toward the throne, or do you feel like an audience at a concert? Beloved brothers and sisters, you have my ear.



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

MOTIVATION

It is March and we are getting ready to enjoy some blustery days ahead. We plan to make kites, pinwheels, wind socks, airplanes, helicopters and all kinds of things to fly in the wind. We'll also have to have some fun with St. Patrick's Day, doing some creative thing with the color green and exploring some ideas on how to sneak a peek at the leprechauns. We are looking forward to the first day of Spring and will learn some interesting facts about dinosaurs, all in the month of March.

I don't know how February flew by so quickly. It was a short month filled with many enjoyable learning experiences. The children learned about love the first two weeks of February. It is such a joy to teach the children about the all-encompassing love that God has for His children. He is our Father and there is no greater love than His unconditional love for us. The children also learned that God wants us to love one another and to love ourselves. It is so important to teach children at a very young age that God loves us so much, no matter what we do, He will forgive us. If God forgives us it makes it easier to learn that we also need to forgive one another.

On February 10th, the children enjoyed a teddy bear brunch. Each child brought their favorite teddy bear to school. Each teddy bear was unique and special to the child who brought it. They enjoyed having snack, lunch, naptime and story time with their bears.

The children had a great time decorating their Valentine bags and delivering valentines to all their friends on February 14th. We enjoyed a fun party with lunch and goodies provided by our supportive parents. The children all looked so happy leaving with their bags full of valentines and treats.

The children loved learning about pets the last part of February. They enjoyed bringing pictures of their pets and telling about how special their pets are to them. We learned that most people have dogs or cats for pets, but some people have birds, rats, quinea pigs, hermit crabs, fish and even snakes!

We are looking forward to a fun-filled March. Our themes will be "Fun With the Wind and Weather" and "Dinosaurs." Our chapel themes will be trust (Isaiah 26:4), strength (Isaiah 40:29), honesty (Proverbs 12:22) and joy (Psalm 100:1-2).

I hope everyone enjoyed a beautiful Valentine's Day with their special loved ones. I thank you for your continued love, support and prayers!

In His love,
Janet Lewis

We are motivated by many reasons to join an exercise class. Some want to lower cholesterol, others want to tone up, and most people just want to burn some calories. Many have been told by a doctor to join a fitness class. These are all great reasons to begin exercising and taking better care of the body. As Christians, we also have a higher reason to care for the body. It was given to us by God. So whether you choose aerobics, walking, swimming, or other ways to stay fit, take care of the beautiful gift given to you.

"To master change, don't press harder on a pedal already floored, shift gears instead."

R. Sandroff

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

Women's Fun & Fellowship

Join us on the last Friday of every month
at 12:00 in Room 6

Bring a sack lunch for yourself
For more information contact
Lin Herron at 869-6414

Women's Fun & Fellowship Group is in need of
card tables for their monthly card night. Do you
have a card table you can loan to the ladies? If so
please contact Lin Herron at 869-6414.



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Acts 2 describes the early church and says "All the believers were together and had

everything in common" and they "broke bread in their homes and ate together with glad and sincere hearts." In order to remain connected to God and serve Him, they remained connected to one another and experienced life together. Through the good times and bad, they found reassurance in sharing their joys and their burdens with Christ and with each other.



We've been having Family Fun activities here at Centenary for about three years now. Aside from having fun, these events are intentional times to live out the verses from the book of Acts regarding the fellowship of the believers. Years ago, as a young



Christian parent, I longed to find a Church Family that would make my family feel as if we were extended family. We found that here. Regardless of what happens in the world around us, our Church Family is a constant presence of love and acceptance, fun and support. My prayer is that every family here at Centenary finds the peace that comes from belonging to a Church Family that, as Pastor Bob likes to say, acts like Jesus with skin on.



With that purpose in mind, we will continue to offer Family Fun events to remain connected to each other. These activities are as simple as meeting at a park with a picnic dinner or coming together with favorite board games. Recently we caravanned up to the snow and had a great day sledding and sharing hot cocoa. Regardless of the activity, we just enjoy living life together.

We encourage you to stay connected with our Church Family, through worship, study and fellowship.

In His Service,
Heather Daniel

Update from John and Stella White



Our missionary friends John and Stella White continue to serve the Lord at D o n y e t s k

Pray for Missions

Christian University, in Southeastern Ukraine. Here is their most recent prayer requests and updates:

"Thank you again for your prayers for us! John finished two weeks of studies in Kiev earlier this year and now is confirmed in a direction for his future dissertation topic (see prayer request #3). Now both John and Stella are settled back in to work at DCU through the long winter.

Would you please join us in prayer for:

- 1) Our health through these winter months, as well as the health of our students.
- 2) John as he prepares to teach a class on "Non-Christian Religions." This is something that John has taught before called "World Religions and Cults," but John has never taught the course to first-year students who haven't taken Introduction to Theology yet, so please pray for special wisdom! John will also finish teaching his "History of Missions" class to our part-time students over the next two weeks.
- 3) John as he also works on assignments for one doctoral class, "Culture and Transformation" and as he starts researching his dissertation topic on the factors for Ukrainians going into foreign missions since the fall of communism. This research could help Ukrainians and foreign missionaries to know what works and what doesn't work in sending Ukrainians into the mission field.
- 4) Our student prayer group, for Stella as she prepares "tea" each week for our worship, prayer, and Bible study, and for us as a whole to encourage and support one another.
- 5) The government of Ukraine, which is going through a number of changes, including restructuring the department of religion. Please pray for continued freedom for those sharing God's Word.

Thank you so much, and God's blessings in the coming month.

John and Stella

 Centenary United Methodist
Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



BAND OF BROTHERS

Saturday
March 5th

A Centenary Church Men's Event

Tri-tip Dinner

4-6 p.m. in the Fellowship Center

Guest Speaker

Command Sergeant Major Stan Skooglund