

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

May 2010



Every year first Thursday of May, May 6th this year, has been designated as "National Day of Prayer." I am afraid that prayer is quickly becoming one of those Christian terms that we use but no longer mean. I worry that

Christians today talk about prayer, study about prayer and call each other to prayer, without actually spending any time in prayer.

In a recent message I shared with you that I think prayer is the greatest tool available to us. I took that position after listening to Tony Campolo speak.

Tony was the Sociology Professor at a predominately African-American University in the 1960's. He still vividly remembers the day Martin Luther King, Jr. was assassinated. He remembers because the following morning he had to drive onto that predominately African-American campus and face a lot of angry students.

The question posed to Tony was this, "What are you going to do about this (the tragic death of Dr. King?)"

Campolo's answer was "I'm going to exercise the greatest power I know to ensure that this type of senselessness never happens again. I am going to pray. And I invite all of you to join me."

I don't know how many of the students joined Tony that day but I believe he was right. Prayer can make a difference in the world. Prayer can change us, change our attitude, change our actions. Prayer can change others as they see the change in us. Prayer can make a difference.

Due to my belief in prayer and in the need of the Church to be a people who do not just talk about prayer but actually pray, Centenary is going to participate in the National Day of Prayer, and I invite all of you to join us.

Our Sanctuary will open at 6:00 a.m. on Thursday the 6th of May and remain open until 6:00 p.m. Prayer guides will be available to assist you in your prayer time. In addition, I want to remind you to be in prayer for our city,



our state, our nation, our government, sports, education, families, the media, businesses, our military, our Church and our Christian brothers and sisters everywhere.

Come as an individual or as a group, but please come. Let us lift up our prayers for healing to the Lord.

Shalom,

Pastor Bob

Hallelujah Clinic

The new CSI Mercy Medical Center is currently under construction in Cambodia. The new facility will provide inpatient and outpatient medical care. In addition to medical care, Cambodian medical students will be able to learn along side an experienced, Christian medical staff.



The existing Hallelujah clinic, which was built in part by funding donated by Bill Marlow in memory of his late wife Helen, will be converted into doctors offices and the student center will feature a medical library and lecture room.

The new facility will feature an outpatient center with ten exam rooms and two procedure rooms, two operating rooms, two inpatient wards, a dental clinic, and a basic laboratory. The core area will feature a patient waiting room, administration and reception area, pharmacy, spiritual and preventive care areas, triage and radiology.

"And He sent them out to proclaim the kingdom of God and to heal the sick." Luke 9:2



They say that seasons change, and I'm learning that it is true. As Solomon writes, "there is a time for everything and a season for every activity under the sun" (Ecc 3:1). Among those many activities that Solomon writes about, he says that there is a time for planting and a time for uprooting. As

the seasons have been changing in my life, God has shown me that the time has come to loosen my roots here at Centenary and prepare for a new adventure. With a mixture of emotions, I am writing to share with you that my family and I will be parting ways with Centenary in August so that I can go to seminary full-time. My family and I will be moving to Grand Rapids, Michigan to attend Calvin Theological Seminary.

Over the past few years, Tracey and I have both felt a growing sense of God's call on my life to pastoral ministry. I remember thinking a few years ago, "Man, it is going to take me forever to finish seminary. I wish that there was a way for me to go to school full-time." As we began to pray about this mysterious "call," the Lord began to open some doors for that very thing to happen! Through a series of "divine appointments," and a lot of answered prayers, God has made it very clear that we have, in fact, heard Him correctly! A year ago, I would never have thought that I would be moving to Michigan, where it snows, a lot! I wish I had the time to share with you all of the ways that we have seen God's hand at work in this decision. It is really quite incredible!

This church has been an amazing support and encouragement to me through the years, and especially for the last six years of being on staff. It was the leadership of this church that, not only encouraged me to begin seminary training 4-5 years ago, but also provided the financial support to make it happen. Many of you also contributed to the continuing education fund that helped me to get started at Western Seminary. You have no idea what an incredible blessing that was for me. I am also very thankful for the personal encouragement that I have received from many of you, through kind words and through continual prayers. God has used all of these things in my life to prepare me for this new season. We truly thank you for all that you have done for us, for your prayers, for your encouragement, and for your friendship!

I know that the "seasons" are also changing for Centenary. My prayer is that God would bless you with some new and exciting opportunities in the area of worship leadership. I firmly believe that God has good things in store for Centenary! Our last Sunday will be August 1st, so we still have some time to enjoy together. Until then...

Blessings,
Matt Riddle

James 2:14-18 (NIV)
"What good is it, my brothers, if a man claims to have faith but has no deeds? Can such faith save him?"

¹⁵Suppose a brother or sister is without clothes and daily food. ¹⁶If one of you says to him, "Go, I wish you well; keep warm and well fed," but does nothing about his physical needs, what good is it? ¹⁷In the same way, faith by itself, if it is not accompanied by action, is dead. ¹⁸But someone will say, "You have faith; I have deeds." Show me your faith without deeds, and I will show you my faith by what I do."



People in
Mission

It is hard to believe that my first trip to Guatemala was eight years ago. I arrived in the city of Quetzaltenango with a group of doctors, nurses, dentists and assistants who felt called to reach out and bring God's love to people who only six years before had been living the nightmare of a civil war that had torn their country apart. I had no idea what to expect. But from the time I was young I knew I wanted to take my professional gifts to serve people in another country who had a great need. The Methodist Church mission group, Volunteers in Mission (VIM) medical group, spent 5 days at the Salud Y Paz Clinic owned by the Methodist Church in Guatemala. Since then, I have been back six times and Salud Y Paz has grown to four clinics in different communities and opened the Susanna Wesley preschool to prepare children for public school. Teams from churches in the U.S, Canada and Europe provide care along with Guatemalan providers, a network of community health workers called Amigas, Not all of the teams are medical, some assist through construction, providing Bible camp programs for children and adults. The goal is for the Guatemalan staff to take over the full operation of their clinics relying less and less on long term missionaries from the U.S..

This March our team, led by Dr. Roland Nyegaard, went to the clinic in Camanchaj where we had the opportunity to provide facial plastic, gynecologic, hernia surgeries, dental care and primary care. To learn more about Salud y Paz or to make them a part of your mission support giving, visit their website at www.saludypaz.org.

Volunteers in Mission supports groups doing short term, one or two week mission trips in the United States and around the world. You too may find an opportunity to share your gifts with a community in need. This link will take you to the Western Jurisdiction website and a list of opportunities: <http://umvimwj.blogspot.com/>

Nancy Fisher



- 5/6 National Day of Prayer
- 5/9 Mother's Day
- 5/10 Board of Trustees Meeting
- 5/13 SPRC Meeting
- 5/16 Teacher Appreciation
- 5/17 Finance Committee Meeting
- 5/17 Mission Committee Meeting
- 5/18 Children's Ministry Team Meeting
- 5/20 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
- 5/21-23 Youth Retreat at RCP
- 5/24 Ad Council Meeting
- 5/31 Memorial Day/Church Office Closed

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

- 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.

- 5/2 VALERIE CHANTHAVONG
- 5/2 KYLE PERRY
- 5/2 LAUREN RASH
- 5/3 CHEA IM
- 5/3 HON CHEA
- 5/3 STEVE HARDEN
- 5/4 WILLIAM DECKER
- 5/6 SAVOEUN CHEA
- 5/6 LUKE BARNETT
- 5/6 NICK RICHARS
- 5/6 KATIE WADE
- 5/6 ELIJAH LEY
- 5/7 VIVIAN THEISEN
- 5/7 SEAK NGANN
- 5/7 ALAN SPARKS
- 5/7 MARVYL BRAUN
- 5/8 DORIS BUUS
- 5/8 JIM VANDERWAL
- 5/8 GEOFFREY JACOBS
- 5/9 SYDNEY YOUNGBLOOD
- 5/9 DUANE HUTTON
- 5/10 JULI RHODES
- 5/11 RYAN SHANKS
- 5/11 ROLF BUCHELI
- 5/11 CHERYL COLLINS
- 5/12 CAROLYN JOHNSON
- 5/12 LARRY KLOAK
- 5/12 VIRGINIA SCOTT
- 5/12 JOYCE WILLIAMS
- 5/13 CHRIS VASCHE
- 5/13 NIKKI WHORTON
- 5/13 FELICIA NEFF
- 5/15 LANAYA BLACK
- 5/15 ROGER METTLER
- 5/15 JANE EISENHAUER
- 5/16 BOB USIAK
- 5/16 BRIAN FRUECHTENICHT



- 5/16 GEORGE JACOBS
- 5/17 JOANNE DIX
- 5/17 JOHN EISENMAN
- 5/17 JOHN STARN
- 5/18 LYUI SO
- 5/18 DARLIENE LOWRY
- 5/19 GARY SIMONSON
- 5/21 MARISA SHRADER
- 5/21 RANDALL ROBINSON
- 5/21 JERRY LOVELADY
- 5/21 JEAN BAUGHN
- 5/24 RANDY OLSON
- 5/24 MIKE KERR
- 5/24 DAVID SMITH
- 5/24 GARY SIMONSON
- 5/25 KATIE TORRANCE
- 5/25 BILL REISZ
- 5/26 DAVID STREET
- 5/27 LANCE UNDERWOOD
- 5/28 JOHN WEATHERLY
- 5/28 KURT WEINHEIMER
- 5/28 CINDY BROUGHTON
- 5/28 DORIS JOHNSON
- 5/30 KEVIN PERRY
- 5/31 LINDA BRACHT
- 5/31 RANDALL HILL

*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!*





On a beautiful afternoon in April I was sitting at my desk working. I could hear all the familiar outside noises when, suddenly, it became very quiet. It was then that I heard one

of my favorite sounds of spring, baby birds chirping in their nests! As I paused for a few seconds to enjoy the sound, I glanced outside my office window to take in the sight of purple and yellow flowers in full bloom and a plain wooden cross in the garden. I do love Spring and I couldn't let this pleasant moment pass without stopping to thank God for the many beautiful blessings He provides. Our God is so good!

We had a awesome April! The children learned about Spring. They planted flower seeds and learned that it takes good soil, water, and sunshine for them to grow. They also learned that as the seeds grow they develop roots, a stem, leaves and eventually flowers. God provided much rain and sunshine in the month of April and we have enjoyed watching our pretty flowers grow.

We enjoyed celebrating children April 11-17, the "Week of the Young Child." Children truly are special gifts from God. We are blessed every day we spend time with our precious little ones and feel so honored that our families have chosen us to play such an important part in their lives.

It was such a pleasure to have our annual Open House on April 20th. The Open House is always so much fun for the children. They worked very hard on projects and getting the rooms ready for our visitors. We were happy to see so many families visiting that night.

The last two weeks of April the children learned about "God's Mighty Universe." They learned that there are several planets in our universe and that Earth is the planet we live on. The children did some creative role playing on April 15th. With the *Moon Trips* CD guiding them they used their imaginations to take a trip to the moon. They even snacked on freeze-dried ice cream just like the astronauts! What a fun adventure! The children also learned that God made the planets, sun, moon and stars. He really is a mighty God!

We are looking forward to a marvelous month of May. Our themes will be *Mother's Day* and *Farm Animals*. Our chapel themes will be *Love* (1 Cor. 13:4) *Creation Day 1* (Gen. 1:3), *Creation Day 2* (Gen. 1:6), and *Creation Day 3* (Gen. 1:9). We hope all the moms in our congregation enjoy a wonderful Mother's Day. Thank you so much for your continued love, support and prayers!

Janet Lewis,
Preschool Director

Missing Hymnals



Please check your home libraries to see if any of the red or green hymnals from the Sanctuary have made their way there. If found, please return them to the office or to an usher before worship service at your earliest convenience. Thank you.



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

Dance Ministry Update

"Praise Him with tambourine and dancing"
Psalm 150:4

Some of you may recall about a year ago, we added a new ministry to Centenary called "Praise in Motion." This is an outreach dance ministry (still under the heading of Aerobics) for young girls ages 12-19. Heather Bach (formerly Heather Hegwood) is the dance instructor/coordinator for this program. They meet on Thursday evenings from 6:30-8:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Center. When the class began, there were 5, girls. The class has increased to about 15 girls!

Their class usually consists of fellowship and dance but often includes a devotion or a fun activity. The class seems to be especially popular for home-schooled girls but it is open to any young girl with a passion for dance. Heather does not require prior dance experience so while it is helpful, the class is open to all. Donations are accepted but there is no 'fee' for the class. Do you know a young girl who would like to dance and meet new friends? Contact Sandra at 988-5655.

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

In Matthew 25:35, Jesus says "For I was hungry and you gave Me something to eat, I was thirsty and you gave Me something to drink." His command is to love one another.

In today's society, it

seems hard to love and care for everyone who has a need. So many people are in need, from within our church family to those on our street corners to those around the world. Even though the task seems daunting, each of us can make a difference.

In recent months, our children gave enough through offerings that we were able to supply 3 water filters to villages around the world in need of clean drinking water. The quarters and dollar bills placed on our altar each week added up quickly to make a lasting difference to dozens of thirsty people around the world.

Another way we've been able to reach out to others is through bags of food offered to those in need in our community. A few months ago we filled lunch bags with nonperishable food items like crackers and fruit cups, and added juice boxes and bottles of water. We also added copies of the New Testament to the bags. Families each took a couple of the bags to keep in their car and give to others as they saw a need. The bags have been a great tool for families to offer food, water and God's Word to needy people in a safe and loving way. The bags are simple and inexpensive to put together, costing about \$20 to make 8-12 bags. This is something all of us can do to make a difference in the lives of others. If you would like to be a part of this ministry, we are in need of more copies of the New Testament and are hoping to buy more at \$50 for a case of 50.

Thank you for your prayers and continued support of the Children's Ministry at Centenary. Oh, and mark your calendars for VBS the week of June 27th to July 1st! We'll be going on a High Seas Expedition and you won't want to miss it!

Heather Daniel
Director of Children's Ministry

Junior's mother was pregnant and eventually delivered twin girls. Junior decided he'd better warn her. "Mom," he said, "these two are going to be harder to get rid of than those kittens last week!"

Not too many books about kittens in the Church Library but if you'd like something about angels, on the Fiction shelves we have, "Fallen Angels" by Patricia Hickman. Jeb, on the run from the law, is mistaken for a minister. His family, motivated by food and shelter, works to keep the congregation believing in them. This is one in a book series and is a good tale of love, hardship and redemption.

Speaking of "angels," another book on the Fiction shelves is "Rush of Wings" by Kristen Heitzmann. Noelle's fears drive her to a remote ranch owned by two brothers. In time, she finds that they are curious about her past and are determined to discover her secrets. As we read her tale, we want to find them out, also!

Interested in helping your teenager? On the Children's (Junior) section is "Preparing for Adolescence." In this book Dr. James Dobson, one of America's foremost family psychologists, gives advice on coping with the coming years of change.

Recently we reported in "The Library Corner" that we have a very special book on the church Library's Biography shelves. The author, Cheryl Dal Porto, is the daughter of Centenary's own Alberta Martone. Cheryl has written a truly inspiring book "Shaking Hands With Cancer and Coming Out Fighting." This is the true story of her discovery that she had with that dreaded disease, the big c, cancer!

Alberta has copies of a number of comments readers have made about how it helped them with various problems as well as the one of surviving cancer. Beautiful scenic photographs also add to this book. It is published by Pine Grove Publishers. Alberta has copies if you would like to purchase one for yourself or someone you know.

Margaret Bell

New
in the
Library



Farmer's Table Returns

Now that the sun is shining and the ground is warming up, it's time for all you urban farmers to get those seedlings planted for a bountiful summer harvest. Last summer our farmer's table boasted a colorful display of peaches, nectarines, zucchini, eggplant, cucumbers, tomatoes, and more! The proceeds of over \$200 went to support the continuing efforts of Donetsk Christian University in Ukraine to raise up and train Christian pastors, teachers and missionaries in the former Soviet Union.



Centenary United Methodist
Church

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



Mother's Day Women's Chorus

May 9th

*Sing at the 10:30 am service May 9th,
to celebrate Mother's Day!*

*All Women of Centenary
ages 13 - 113 are invited!*

*Rehearsal dates: Sunday, May 2nd,
following the 10:30 am service in the Choir Room
Sunday, May 9th, at 9 am in the Choir Room*

*Directed by: Debi Dix
Accompanist: Jenner Swanson*

