

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

May 2011



More years ago than I would like to admit, I used to frequent a fast food chain restaurant. For some reason it was never busy in the afternoon which made it a wonderful place where I could sit and study without interruptions (and where I could get a cup of coffee and a cookie or two.) A couple of days each week I would pile my car full of books and tablets and pencils and arrive at this restaurant to spend time

studying. The restaurant became a pleasant office away from the office for me.

I liked not only the quiet that I found there in the afternoon, but the scenery as well. Located near the restaurant was a flower shop, and the florist had the most beautiful store windows in the area. I remember his Easter window. He had painted in large letters, almost filling the window, "He is Risen" and with the space left in the window he had painted a beautiful scene of flowers. I am not the most artistic human being in the world, but I really enjoyed this window display.

I remember going to "my" restaurant on the Monday after Easter. Typically that is one of my vacation weeks, but for some reason, we had opted to stay home that year and thus, I was back to studying and preparing for the coming Sunday. I remember seeing the florist shop owner outside of his shop. With hose and bucket in hand, he was scrubbing away the Easter window display. I walked over to him, wanting to say something to him about how much I appreciated his lovely window display. Instead I stumbled over my words, and it came out something like "why are you washing the window?" He looked at me like I was simple-minded and explained, "Easter is over. Time to move on."

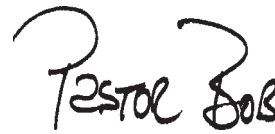
I wonder how many Christians live like that - Easter is over, and it's time to move on. I wonder how many of us make a big deal about this one day of the year, and then move on.

As with the florist, I feel as if I am stumbling over my words again. What I fear is that for many of us, Easter makes no difference. So many of us live our lives just trying to be good enough. We live our daily lives without Easter; without the understanding of the height and depth and width of God's love for us, a love so great that He willingly traded the life of

His Son for our lives.

I hope you don't live in such a way that says, "because it is Monday or May or whatever, Easter is now over." I hope Easter changes your life forever. I hope that because of Easter you know that your sins and failures are no longer held against you. I desire for you the hope and the joy of Easter, all year long.

Shalom,



Pastor Bob

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## Mission Team update

Thank you to everyone who participated in LOVE Modesto on April 2. What a great demonstration of service to our community.



Opportunities to Serve Dinner  
Every fourth Sunday of the month at the Gospel Mission

Sign up with the Mission Team at the table after church services. Space is limited so sign up early for your preferred dates.

LOVE Modesto 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, make checks payable to Centenary with Africa Project in the memo line. More details on this and other June projects coming up.

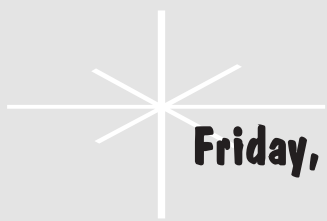
Support Mission Team Projects  
Give your change to the "Change to Change Lives" jar at the Mission Team table.

## Summer Beth Moore Monday Night Bible Study

Our Monday night women's Bible study class completed our 9th Beth Moore study in April. These classes over the years have been challenging, enlightening and pure joy as we have gotten to know one another and grown deeper in our knowledge of Scripture and our relationship with our God. As intense as these studies are and as much as we look forward to a break, we are always ready to begin the next one.

Our next Beth Moore study will be starting on May 9th and is titled, THE INHERITANCE. It is a nine week study done in three segments. We will have two breaks, one after each segment - making for three, three week segments. THE INHERITANCE is a little different than our other studies as it has no homework! If you've been wanting to attend one of Beth's studies but have been scared off by the homework, this summer may be the perfect time to give it a try.

We will be meeting Monday nights at 6:30 in the Fireside Room. Please call the church office to reserve your spot or if you have any questions. And remember that you are always welcome to invite a friend. Come and see, as God's child, what inheritance He has promised you.



**Youth Group  
Laser Tag Lock-In  
Friday, May 6 to Saturday, May 7  
8 p.m. to 6 a.m.  
Cost: \$30**

Meet in Youth Room @ 8 p.m. for games, pizza, music and a message.  
Around 11:30 p.m., we will leave for Laser Quest  
to play hours and hours of Laser Tag.

Wear dark clothing and bring some snacks for Laser Quest.  
Permission slips required. Invite a friend!



Top Row: Colin Daniel, Carly Duenas, Elias Futch. Bottom Row: Courtney Nawrocki, Kim Wolfswinkel

This summer, four members of the Rock Youth Group and one Youth Leader have accepted the call to serve God through missions with Royal Servants. Their mission trips will be five to six weeks. We asked them to share with us their reason for choosing

their location, what they are looking forward to this summer and how we as a church can pray for them. If you are interested in supporting them financially, contact them individually or you can make a donation to the Designated Missions Fund that has specifically been created for them. Checks can be made out to Centenary, and be sure to write "Royal Servants" in the Memo line.

**Elias Futch, 17 years old**  
**Senior at Hughson High School**  
**Mission Trip Location: Sierra Leone, Africa**

"I felt God called me specifically to Sierra Leone to help the people and learn some things along the way. I am looking forward this summer to being able to share my faith with someone who needs hope. Please pray that God will bless me with the courage to undertake this trip and not be afraid to do His will."

**Courtney Nawrocki, 17 years old**  
**Junior at Hughson High School**  
**Mission Trip Location: Sierra Leone, Africa**

"I have always wanted to go to Africa for a mission trip one day. When I saw pictures and heard about the circumstances in Sierra Leone, I really felt that it was where God wanted me to be. I am looking forward to serving, loving, and spreading the message of Christ to all the people I meet there. Please pray that God will use me in amazing ways to spread His word and take away any worries I have."

**Colin Daniel, 15 years old**  
**Sophomore at Modesto Christian High School**  
**Mission Trip Location: Costa Rica**

"I feel that God has led me to Costa Rica to teach the people there about Jesus. I will be playing soccer to build relationships with the locals. This summer, I am most looking forward to helping the helpless. I need prayer for a servant's heart along with spiritual growth before and during my mission trip."

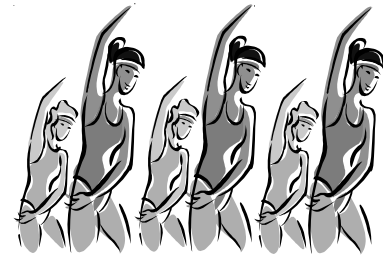
**Carly Duenas, 16 years old**  
**Sophomore at Beyer High School**  
**Mission Trip Location: Sierra Leone, Africa**

"I have prayed and thought about it a lot and have decided to

give my summer to God by serving Him in the mission field. One reason I chose Sierra Leone is because of the work we will be doing developing relationships in schools, detention centers, handicapped homes and orphanages. Please pray for me and the journey I'm looking forward to taking this summer. Your support and prayers mean a lot to me."

**Kim Wolfswinkel**  
**Youth Volunteer Leader for the Rock Youth Group**  
**Mission Trip Location: Scotland**

"For more than 15 years I have been in service with the Lord through the youth program at Centenary. In the past, God has called me in the mission field on a short-term basis to Mexico, Las Vegas, and San Francisco. I have also worked locally with Teen Moms through Youth for Christ. Now God is asking me to go to Scotland. God has given me a heart for teens. My passion is for them to know Him personally. I am excited for the great opportunity to reach out and meet some youth from another culture. Will you please pray with me and for me as I take this leap of faith? Pray for me as I continue to raise my financial support, for my physical health and that God prepares my heart for what He has in store for me."



**S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS**

**Having Trouble Sleeping at Night?**

If you have ever spent a night tossing and turning or counting sheep, then you know how important deep, restful sleep can be. Did you know that aerobic exercise can help you sleep more soundly? Studies have found that exercisers go to sleep more quickly, sleep more soundly, and wake more refreshed the next day. Exercising has a natural, sedative effect that occurs approximately one to two hours after a workout.

"I lay down and slept; I woke again, for the LORD sustained me." ~Psalm 3:4-5

**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**



It is May and we are looking forward to some beautiful weather for outside play! It's been a long, cold winter and a rather cool spring, so we are overdue for some nice weather for bike riding, picnics, walks to

the park and even water play!

We had a very busy April. The first two weeks our theme was "Spring Brings New Life." The children planted flower seeds the week of April 4-8. They learned that plants need good soil, water and sunlight to grow. The children checked their plants every day and were so excited when they finally saw some sprouts coming up! Maybe we'll have some pretty flowers by Mother's Day.

On April 13, the children went on a nature walk to find some signs of Spring. They heard baby birds chirping in their nests, and saw butterflies and bees buzzing around. They also discovered caterpillars, earthworms, rolypoly bugs and snails crawling on the ground. They especially enjoyed the beautiful, bright colored flowers. Spring is so beautiful and we're enjoying all of God's blessings!

The week of April 10-16 we celebrated "The Week of the Young Child." On April 12, we had our annual open house. The children and teachers worked hard on projects and getting the rooms ready for our visitors. It was a beautiful evening with a great turn out of families and friends. The children were so proud of their accomplishments and we enjoyed a lovely evening of fun and fellowship.

The week of April 18-22 we had the pleasure of teaching the children the Easter story. They learned about the hope and joy that Easter brings to all of us! Of course, we also had to dye Easter eggs and enjoyed an egg hunt on the 21st.

The last week of April we had to squeeze in some time to learn about "God's Mighty Universe." The children learned that there are several planets in our universe, and earth is the planet we live on. The children did some creative role playing on the 26th. With the "moon trip" 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 learned that God made the sun, moon and stars. He really is a mighty God!

In May our themes will be "Mother's Day" and "Farm Animals." Our chapel themes will be **Obedience** (Eph. 6:1), **Love** (1 Cor. 13:4), **Creation Day 1** (Gen. 1:3), **Creation Day 2** (Gen. 1:6), and **Creation Day 3** (Gen. 1:9-11).

We hope all of you enjoyed celebrating our risen Lord on Easter Sunday with your family and friends. Thank you so much for all your love and support. Please remember to keep us in your prayers as we share Jesus with our precious children every day.

In His Love,  
Janet Lewis

*Fanny Crosby Without  
Her Piano  
is Just a Lady With  
a Funny Name*



Hello, Dear Siblings.

I've been stunned recently to discover the number of college students, youth, and children in our congregation who have an interest in learning

musical instruments—guitar, bass, drums, piano—for the purpose of joining our contemporary worship ministry. Many have already played for or become a part of the Wednesday night youth worship team and Saturday night contemporary team. God is moving in a potent way. I am currently teaching six students on a regular basis, and about ten have come in for lessons overall.

Progress has been wonderful with these students: they are hungry to grow, and eager to learn. But I noticed a problematic situation fairly early on.

As I frequently tell my students, most of the progress possible in music lessons is dependent on building muscle memory early on. Muscle memory can't be established during 30 minute lessons once a week—it's the result of painstaking repetition. When students don't have instruments to practice on at home, they cannot build that muscle memory. They hit a glass ceiling, and it becomes nearly impossible to progress.

What amazing things could be accomplished in a child or student's life if they have access to a musical instrument in their home? Even if they only practice their worship songs twenty minutes a day, it adds up to over two hours each week. Two hours of kingdom building when they might have been playing video games or watching television.

So now for my appeal: do you have a guitar collecting dust in your garage? An old keyboard propping up a table in your den? Stop by the church or call me sometime, and we'll talk about getting it out of the garage and into the hands of our church's next worship leader. Your clutter may have eternal value, and I would be grateful for it. It may be the difference between young Johnny Q. Child being the next Fanny Crosby (the 19<sup>th</sup> century Chris Tomlin) or being the next Raymond Hessel. You might be wondering, "who is Raymond Hessel?"

Exactly.

Ben Akina



## DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

May is already here and we have many plans being made for the children of Centenary! Our goal is to give each child the best hour of their week right here

at church. With family schedules busier than ever, it's certainly a challenge to reach each child very week in a way that makes a meaningful impact on their young life. But, we do take our plans seriously because we know that the foundation we build here will last a lifetime.

Soon we'll be transitioning into our Summer Sunday School and we need your help! We need several volunteers to commit to a month of Sundays to share Jesus with our children. We have a great curriculum called 'Parable Quest' and we'll present each of Jesus' parables and how they apply to the children's lives today. We're asking just a few people to commit to one month in order to provide consistency for the kids and give them a chance to build trust through relationships. If you don't have that many Sundays available, we also need helpers to be an extra set of hands for our leaders. We'll provide everything you need – all we ask is that you love Jesus and have a willing heart. The children will bless your time, I promise!

The next few weeks will be busy for us. We have Teacher Appreciation and the end of our traditional Sunday School year. And, of course, Vacation Bible School is right around the corner. Mark your calendars for June 26-30 and experience Panda Mania as we explore Psalm 139 and learn that God is wild about us!

To offer your help or inquire about any aspect of our children's ministry, please contact Heather Daniel at 527-5441 or [hethdaniel@yahoo.com](mailto:hethdaniel@yahoo.com) or come to the Children's Ministry/VBS table on the patio at Fellowship time.

In His Service,  
Heather Daniel

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### Graduating Class of 2011

We would like to acknowledge and congratulate our graduating class of 2011. Please submit the names of your students graduating from College, High School and Junior High. Please include the school name, and the degree for College graduates, if you would like this information included. Please call the church office at 527-5441, before May 27th with your information.



## 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.**

You saw the movie. But did you ever read the book? Centenary's library has The Chronicles of Narnia: the Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis. Lucy is the first to find the secret wardrobe in the professor's mysterious old house. At first, no one believes her when she tells of her adventures in the land of Narnia. But soon Edmund and then Peter and Susan discover the magic and meet Aslan, the Great Lion, for themselves. In a blink of an eye, their lives are changed forever. Recommended for ages 8 and up.

Tired of the traditional Bible study? Try Bad Girls of the Bible by Liz Curtis Higgs. Women everywhere marvel at those "good girls" in Scripture: Sarah, Mary, Esther, but on most days that's not who they see when they look in the mirror. Most women (if they are honest) see the selfishness of Sapphira or the deception of Delilah. Like Bathsheba, Herodias, and the rest, today's modern woman is surrounded by temptations, exhausted by the demands of daily living, and burdened by her own desires. So what's a good girl to do? Learn from their lives, says Liz Curtis Higgs, and by God's grace, choose a better path. In Bad Girls of the Bible, Higgs offers a unique and clear-sighted approach to understanding those "other women" in Scripture, combining a contemporary retelling of their stories with a verse-by-verse study of their mistakes and what lessons women today can learn from them. With her trademark humor and encouragement, Higgs teaches you how to avoid their tragic mistakes and joyfully embrace grace. The book includes reflection questions at the end of the each chapter.

Kids ages four to eight will love How Many Veggies? by Phil Vischer. How many veggie pals can Bob the Tomato fit on his rather small ship? That's the big question facing captain Bob when he sets out to sea and is joined one at a time by all his Veggie Tales friends. As the crew does their veggie best to avoid getting wet, kids will laugh out loud while learning the value of numbers.

Kari Swanson

# Centenary Spring Sale

June 11 7a.m. to 4 p.m.  
Fellowship Center, Room 15/16  
& Parking Lot



## Ways you can help:

- 1) Pray
- 2) Donate items
- 3) Volunteer to help
- 4) Spread the word—Tell your friends and neighbors

## Suggested Donation Items:

### **General Items:**

automotive items	sporting goods
furniture	appliances
housewares	computers
TVs & DVD players	cameras
CDs & DVDs	entertainment & electronics
books	hand & power tools
video games/board games	
baby & children's equipment, furniture, toys and clothing	

**Premium Items:** such as designer clothes, antiques, watches, jewelry, and desirable collectibles

## Pick Up Information:

**Pick ups will be starting May 31. Call Jeff Wolfswinkel (578-9782) to schedule a pick up time.** If it's necessary that your donated item(s) must be picked up before May 31, call Jeff Wolfswinkel.

- Items too large for your vehicle, but we can carry in a pick-up truck.
- Items too heavy for you to lift and carry.
- You are physically unable to bring to the church

## Drop off Information:

### **Drop offs:**

**June 4, Saturday (8 a.m. – 4 p.m.) and June 6 – June 8, Monday – Wed. (9 a.m. – 2 p.m. and 6 – 9 p.m.)**

**Bring items to Fellowship Center.**

**Receipts for donations will be available.**

Due to limited storage space, we prefer you drop off your donation items at the above times. If it's necessary to drop off your items prior to June 4, please call **Pam Vasche (578-0949)**.

## Proceeds:

General Fund (20%)  
Missions (15%)  
Samaritan Fund (15%)  
Children's Ministries (10%)  
Youth Ministries (10%)  
Men's Ministries (10%)  
Women's Ministries (10%)  
Worship Ministries (10%)

**Overall Sale Chairpersons: Mark and Pam Vasche**  
**578-0949** [pkvasche@sbcglobal.net](mailto:pkvasche@sbcglobal.net)

## Volunteer Opportunities:

**Operations Section: Bob and Diena Street, Section Coordinators (521-1853)**

Sorting donations (week prior to sale)  
Pricing (week prior to sale)  
Sales assistants (day of sale; help customers, answer questions, keep area neat, etc.)  
Cashiers (day of sale)

**Logistics Section: Jeff Wolfswinkel, Section Coordinator (578-9782)**

Pick up donations (let us know if you have a pick-up truck you can use)  
Receive deliveries (let us know if you have dollies we can use)  
Set-up (tables, signs, etc. on Saturday, June 4)  
Clean up (following sale)  
Security (monitor parking lot and exits)

**Planning Section: Mark and Pam Vasche, Section Coordinators (578-0949)**

Help at volunteer sign-up table (after Saturday or Sunday worship services)  
Signs/posters (design and make prior to sale)  
Getting supplies (prior to sale)  
Re-donation of unsold items

**Finance Section: Karen Kerl, Section Coordinator**