

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

November, 2011



With the coming of November, our minds often begin thinking about Christmas. We will have homes to decorate, cards to send, presents to buy and wrap and activities to attend. All of that is wonderful, but as we come to the end of the year, let's not rush past Thanksgiving.

My fear, is that we are forgetting Thanksgiving. Typically we will work Monday through Wednesday

Thanksgiving week. The day after Thanksgiving, Black Friday, has become the "big" shopping day for Christmas. Somehow sandwiched in-between work and Christmas shopping Thanksgiving has become, a day to gather and eat. So often we forget to be thankful for all the blessings we receive.

Being thankful is an attitude, and it is a choice that we make. Years ago we lived in the Lassen National forest, in the small mountain community of Chester. Chester was a beautiful place to vacation and I remember one summer a nephew of mine called to ask if he could stay with us for his vacation.

Of course we said "yes."

He stayed with us and during that week we entertained him as much as we could, since Cheryl and I were both working.

I contacted a member of the Church and he let us use his boat for a day of fishing. A neighbor took us on many evening hikes pointing out the sights of nature, beaver dams and the like. At the end of his vacation, I drove my nephew to the Reno Airport so he could catch a flight back home.

The week with my nephew went fine but during my drive home from the airport I noticed that something was wrong with me. I found myself angry at all of the other drivers on the road. Reno is about a two and a half hour drive from Chester. When I stopped for a rest I found the restrooms were not clean enough and service was too slow. I discovered that I was angry.

The problem was I couldn't think of any reason for being angry. I had entertained a nephew, gotten my work done and had done everything else asked of me. I had no reason to be angry.

And then it dawned on me; not once during that entire week had my nephew said "thank you." Not for the accommodations, not for the meals, not after the hikes to see the beauty of nature, not after the day of fishing, not even after the ride to the airport. Not once had my nephew chosen to say "thank you."

I was upset because of the lack of gratitude.

To be fair, those events took place over twenty years ago and since that time my nephew has grown and matured greatly. But how easy is it for us to fail to give thanks for what we receive. Every day God blesses us. We have a place to stay, a planet that was created in just a way so as to have seasons and everything else we need to sustain our lives. We have food to eat that is grown on this planet because of those seasons and that atmosphere. We have the beauty of nature. We receive all of these blessings and so many more each and every day, and so often we forget to say "thank you."

We have an opportunity to change all of that this month. November gives us a natural opportunity to pause and express our thanks to God and to others. In the midst of all the busyness leading up to Christmas, let's take the time to give thanks.

Shalom,

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

Pastor Bob

When you or  
someone you know  
is in need of care...





*The "Season" is Upon Us.....*

**Please accept this invitation to help prepare our Church Home for Advent**

**Week of November 14 - Sanctuary**

Prepare garlands/wreaths for hanging \* Decorate Chancel area  
Hang garlands and wreaths \* Set up Christmas Trees \* Decorate Trees

**Week of November 21 - Fireside Room and Outdoor Decorating**

Hang garlands \* Hang outdoor lights \* Hang ornamental swags

**Week of November 28 - Fellowship Center**

Prepare garlands/bows for hanging \* Hang evergreen garlands and bows  
Set-up Christmas Trees \* Decorate Trees/Entrance Area

Contact Deanna Hutton at 527-5441, with questions or to sign up to help.



**Mission Team Update**

The holiday season is just around the corner. Your Missions Team will continue to provide opportunities for you to serve in our community through both our ongoing commitments to the Gospel Mission and Interfaith Ministry, but also with opportunities to provide extra help.

**Every Fourth Sunday of the Month  
Dinner at the Gospel Mission**

In November, our usual fourth Sunday will fall on Thanksgiving weekend. Sign-up now at the Missions Table to serve that Sunday. Out of respect for the standards and safety regulations at the Gospel Mission, children age 10 and over are welcome and everyone must follow the dress code. Do not wear flip flops, shorts or sleeveless or tank top shirts.

We will serve dinner 7:30 to 8:30.

Watch for information about the Christmas dinner.

**Interfaith Ministries**

**Prepare Food for Distribution**

Interfaith Ministries continues to need your help preparing

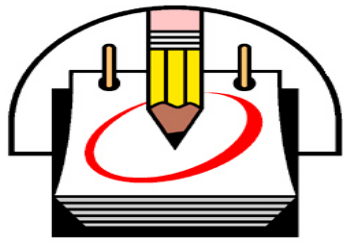
rice and canned foods for distribution to families in need. We can use up to six people each Tuesday and Thursday morning during the month of July, 9:00 to 11:00. This is a family friendly opportunity, children nine and older are welcome to help. Get more information at the Missions table after services, or just show up at Interfaith on one of these days.

**Support Mission Team Projects**

**Give your change to the "Change to Change Lives" Jar at the Mission Team Table**

Join the Mission 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. We meet in the youth room (Rm. 4/5).

Check us out on Facebook. Look for Centenary's Mission Team at [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) We will post updates on upcoming activities, along with information on past services.



## 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. HIGH Rm. 19/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 9:30 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 WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY/FELLOWSHIP - Rm. 6 9:00 A.M.  
 WEDNESDAY NIGHT BIBLE STUDY - 5:30 DINNER/6:30 CLASSES  
 JR. HIGH Rm. 19/SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP Rm. 4/5 6:00 P.M.

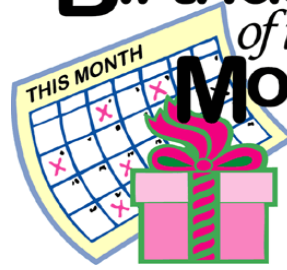
### THURSDAY

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - Rm. 15/16 9:00 A.M.  
 CHANCEL CHOIR REHEARSAL - Rm. 2/3 7:00 P.M.

### SATURDAY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30 P.M.

# Birthdays of the Month



11/1	KATHLEEN BANKARD	11/11	VELMA SPARKS
11/1	JIM KRIESE	11/11	JOYCE UNDERWOOD
11/2	MAE KRIESE	11/13	ALICE SMITH
11/2	ROBERT PALMAYMESA	11/13	TYSON WHORTON
11/2	JEANNE SIMONSON	11/13	MARISSA CONNACHER
11/3	STEVE BOYER	11/15	PHYLLIS GAARDE
11/4	JOHNNIE CHHUOY	11/16	PATTI HERR
11/5	DAVID COLLINS	11/16	SUE HOLZINGER
11/5	MARY OWEN	11/16	GREG AYER
11/5	KIM WOLFSWINKEL	11/16	SCOTT RASH
11/6	KATHY RALSTON	11/17	LUCILLE STEWART
11/6	VIVIAN NEUMANN	11/18	AMBER VASCHE
11/6	BEVERLY KEMPF	11/18	SANDY BARNETT
11/6	DIANNE KRIESE	11/20	DOROTHY DEMERS
11/7	BETTY GIBSON	11/20	GREGORY SAVOY
11/7	DELORIS HUBBARD	11/21	DICK SPRAGUE
11/7	AMI MISHLER	11/21	LYNNE DIXON
11/8	CHRISTINE SMITH	11/22	HELENE WHEELER
11/8	KATHIE DECKER	11/23	DICK SHANKS
11/8	JO CHAMPION	11/23	GENE FRUECHTENICHT
11/9	RICHARD ASCASO	11/23	JANE CLEARY
11/9	SANDERS LAMONT	11/24	CHUCK BERT
11/9	PAUL SCHUNKE	11/24	ZACK LAMONT
11/10	ELIZABETH MALI	11/25	EVAN DEMERS
11/11	SOVANTHA BUN	11/25	BEN DANIEL
		11/26	DE LAUN
		11/26	BLANCHE MAGUIRE
		11/27	CHUCK WYRICK
		11/27	DON SINGER
		11/28	LORETTA GRACE
		11/28	MELINDA BOYER
		11/29	BERTHA ALSPAUGH
		11/30	RYAN BYRNE
		11/30	ALTA ROBBINS

### ***Baptisms:***

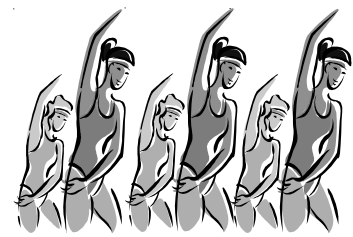
*Gianna Lowery  
 Jaleena Lowery  
 Emily Rabbiosi  
 Benjamin Mishler  
 Scott Sachau  
 Peyton Silveira  
 Makayla Silveira  
 Jeremy Rodriquez*

### ***New Members:***

*Evanell Marlow  
 Shirley Wincentsen  
 Colby & Jaymarie Tatroe  
 Jason Rabbiosi & Andrea Rabbiosi  
 Emily Rabbiosi  
 Deanna Rabbiosi  
 Jan Goode  
 Jim Bryan  
 Ben and Kristen Akina*



*November 10 SPRC Meeting  
 November 11 Veteran's Day/Church Office Closed  
 November 14 Board of Trustees Meeting  
 November 17 Missions Team Meeting  
 November 17 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting  
 November 20 Thanksgiving Worship/One Service/10:30 a.m.  
 November 21 Finance Committee Meeting  
 November 23 Church Office Closes at Noon  
 November 24 Thanksgiving/Church Office Closed  
 November 25 Church Office Closed  
 November 28 Ad Council Meeting*



## S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

### Group Exercise

It is November and we are beginning to have some cooler mornings and evenings. I love the change of seasons, so I'm really enjoying the cooler days. We've been talking about the leaves turning into their beautiful fall colors. The children are watching every day and reporting on any changes! I can't wait to see the display of red, orange and brown leaves. It is yet another one of God many blessings. He really is a magnificent God.

October was a busy and fun month! The children enjoyed learning about "safety" the first two weeks of October. The children practiced some safety rules as they went for a walk on our campus. The children learned to hold hands with a "buddy," stay in line behind the teacher, keep their feet on the sidewalk (not in the street) and to listen to their teacher's directions. We also talked about bike safety rules which we will practice on our next bike day!

Since October was fire safety month, the fire fighters from the Briggsmore Station came to talk to us about fire safety. They told the children that if they find matches or a lighter, they should tell an adult right away. They said every house should have smoke alarms and that every family should have an escape plan with a safe place to meet once they are out of the burning house. The children learned to dial 911 if there is an emergency and to stop, drop and roll if their clothing is on fire. They also learned to touch a door to feel if it is hot, before opening it, and to crawl low to breathe the good air when getting out of a burning building. It was all such good information for the children to learn. We're so thankful for all the fire fighters who work so hard to help keep us safe.

On October 11, we were delighted to hold our "Get Acquainted Night." The parents were invited to come see our classrooms, talk to their child's teachers and find out what their child is learning in preschool. They also had the opportunity to meet and fellowship with some of the other families. We loved having the opportunity to answer questions and just having the time to talk to everyone there.

On Wednesday, October 19, we had a fantastic time at the Resendiz Family Fruit Barn "Pumpkin Patch." The children learned about the water cycle, made water cycle bracelets, planted broccoli, learned about some of the animals on the farm, fed the Koi fish in the pond, played in the hay maze and picked out a pumpkin to take home. The weather was beautiful and we had a great time! We are so thankful to all the parents who helped drive us safely to and from the pumpkin patch. We are so blessed! I thank God for watching over us and keeping us safe everyday.

We are looking forward to a beautiful November. Our themes will be "Transportation" and "Thanksgiving." Our chapel themes will be *honesty* (Prov. 12:22), *courage* (Joshua 1:9), *thankfulness* (Ephesians 5:20) and *gentleness* (I Thess. 2:7) Thank you so much for your continued love and support. Please keep us in your prayers as we head into the holidays!

In His love,  
Janet Lewis

Exercising with a group keeps you involved. When you are with a group of people, it is not as easy to talk yourself out of your workout.

In a series of studies stretching back more than a decade, Professor Kevin Spink has found those who feel a greater sense of "groupness" and cohesion within an exercise class are more punctual, have better attendance and even work harder. "As long as I perceive the people I'm exercising with as a group, my adherence is better," he says. About a third of people enjoy exercising in groups, another third prefers exercising alone, while the remaining third is indifferent, Dr. Spink notes. For those who are happy exercising alone, there's no reason to join a group. For everyone else, exercising with partners or in groups has all sorts of benefits that have nothing to do with neuroscience, all from the simple act of committing to meet someone and exercising together. But the endorphin findings help explain how exercise is transformed from a chore to a lifelong habit, and indeed a pleasure, for some people. S.W.E.A.T. Aerobics is Group Exercise. Join us!

**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**

## Use Me Here

Ben Akina  
Director of Contemporary  
Worship



Recently we've begun singing a new song in our weekend services. I've known this song for about ten years, but it just recently started breaking my heart. The lyrics to the chorus are as follows:

*Use me here, where I am  
I'm not gonna pray anymore  
that You'll change Your plans  
Despite my fear, I place my life in Your hands  
The future can wait, tomorrow might be too late  
So Jesus, use me here*

Please consider these two readings of this song:

1) It's very easy for us to look at our own lives and say, "I can't be used by God, because I don't have the giftedness of a missionary or the devotion of a pastor." But in the same way the foot is mistaken in thinking it's not as important as the eye (1<sup>st</sup> Corinthians 12), we do ourselves a disservice when we assume we can't be useful because we're not saints and seraphim. God knows your limitations, your weaknesses, and your vices. Every facet of your personality and character was chosen by Him with intention and precision. He built you, and placed you in your exact location because He considers you the *perfect* person to witness in that place.

2) I tend to read the song geographically - "I may not be a missionary in Africa, but I can minister to the people I encounter in my daily life." A person I admire told me recently about how this song ministered to them. They've been experiencing health problems for some time now, and they've been saying to themselves, "Once I get well, *then* I can volunteer in *that* ministry. Once I'm healthy, I can minister in *this* area." But when they heard this song, they realized God can and *does* have work for them to do *right now*. If they need strength, God will give it. If they need guidance and perseverance, God will provide. I think that's a very brave declaration.

In the same way, brothers and sisters, be brave. Many of you reading this don't have the giftedness of a pastor or missionary. That's why God put you in your life - because a pastor or missionary wouldn't be right for the task... *you* are. And it doesn't matter whether you feel up to the task. You're not. That's His job. He doesn't need you to be qualified or saintly, He just needs you to be willing to declare, "use me here."



**DIRECTOR OF  
CHILDREN'S  
MINISTRIES**

As Thanksgiving and Christmas approach, I find myself thinking about the traditions we have in my family. Every Thanksgiving when my family gathers we sing the Doxology as the blessing before the meal. For years, I just sang along with my family, expressing the words of praise to my Heavenly Father, but not giving it much thought beyond that. This last year we had a new guest at our table and I asked my mother, as a way of explanation about the song, how long we'd been singing the Doxology before the Thanksgiving meal. She said as long as she could remember, so she asked my grandfather how long he remembered singing it. He replied that he'd been singing it with my grandmother's family ever since he and my grandmother began dating in their teens. So, my family has been singing this hymn of thanks for over 70 years. I'll never know how far back the tradition started, but I am so grateful to the many generations that came before me, raising me with a strong foundation in Christ.

Another of our family's traditions is stockings on Christmas morning. Stockings are an important part of our Christmas experience and each generation has added something as an 'expected' gift, along with a few surprises. My grandparents always put tangerines and walnuts inside, along with some candy. My parents added those items and some small toys. With my own children, I add the ever practical toothbrush and socks. We always empty our stockings first, enjoying the 'appetizer' before the real 'main course' of gifts that await us. It's a Christmas tradition I've experienced all my life.

I realize that I often take these experiences for granted. I don't always appreciate the eternal significance of having several generations of Christian relatives, helping to shape my own faith in God. I don't always see the overflowing stocking as a wonderful gift in itself. This year, as in many years past, I am reminded once again of their importance through the Operation Christmas Child Ministry.

Every year, people like you and I have the opportunity to reach out to a child around the world and offer them what we sometimes take for granted - a foundation in Christ and a few small gifts to show God's love. Often our gift of a filled shoe box is the only gift they'll receive all year. And often the book with the Gospel message inside is the first they'll hear about Jesus. Please join with our Church Family as we bring hope and love to children around the world. Pick up a brochure in the Sanctuary or in the church office or contact us for more information. The deadline to bring your filled shoe box to church is Sunday, November 20, when we will dedicate them before they are sent out.

In His love,  
Heather Daniel



**Centenary United Methodist  
Church**

1911 Toyon Avenue  
Modesto, CA 95350  
(209) 527-5441  
www.centenarychurch.net

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

*Thanksgiving Worship  
One Combined Service  
November 20*

*at 10:30 a.m.*

*Fellowship Center*

*"I Will Magnify Him  
with Thanksgiving"*

*Psalm 69:30*



*Thanksgiving*