

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

## November 2009



Most of us know the history of Thanksgiving in the United States. We were taught in elementary school how, on September 6th, 1620, a group left England in search of the new world and the religious freedom that the new world offered. We read how the sea voyage took two months, and how, on December 11th after a prayer of thanksgiving for their safe arrival, that determined group of people set foot on Plymouth Rock.

We have heard the stories of the severity of that first winter, of the sickness and starvation, and how, if not for the help of the American Indians, that colony might not have survived. We know that it was the Indians who taught those colonists how to plant and harvest and on December 13th, 1621, a three day celebration was held; a time to give thanks for all God had done for these colonists.

We know that story of America's first Thanksgiving. We can probably recite how, from that first Thanksgiving we have come to the annual celebration which is held on the fourth Thursday of November, and how the date was finally settled on by an act of Congress in 1941.

Were you aware that our Thanksgiving celebration actually has roots back in the Old Testament? When Israel came out of Egypt (Old Testament book of Exodus) Israel faced certain death. The Red Sea loomed ahead of them, a barrier they could not quickly cross. And from behind them, the Egyptian army was quickly approaching.

In what can only be described as a miracle, God opened the sea and made a way for Israel.

But things did not dramatically improve for Israel once they had crossed the Red Sea. They spent the next 40 years wandering in the wilderness, as God took that group of former slaves and transformed them into a people, into a nation. During those 40 years God provided Israel with food, manna, quail, and water, in two separate occasions the water actually came from rocks. It was amazing how the clothing of the people did not wear out. As those people wandered, God provided for them, protected them, and guided them.

Once the people had settled into the promised land, God instructed them to observe a festival, a week of holy days called "Sukkot" (today we know that holiday by two names, the Feast of Booths or the Feast of Tabernacles.)

This seven day holiday was meant to be a time of great joy as the people moved out of their homes and into little booth-like structures they built for the occasion.

And during that week of feasting and celebrating the people remembered it was God who made all of this possible. It was God who called them out of slavery. It was God who lead them through the Red Sea. It was God who protected them. It was God who provided for them. It was God who made all of this possible.

What a great reminder for us today. Our own history shows us how God guided those first settlers across the ocean and to this "promised land," how God protected those first colonies, and how God provided such abundant blessings that we are still in this land, two hundred years later.

Thanking God for all His blessings,

Pastor Bob



*O give thanks  
to the LORD  
for he is good ....*

PSALM 107:1, NRSV

## Guide Dog for Brian

I applied for acceptance to the San Rafael campus of “Guide Dogs for the Blind” earlier this year. ([www.guidedogs.com](http://www.guidedogs.com)) After a lengthy evaluation process, I was accepted to receive a guide dog, and will be going for training soon!

Getting a guide dog is a major life change for me, but I seem to be doing that a lot lately! A guide dog will help me to regain some of the independence that I have lost as my eyesight has deteriorated over the last five years. A guide dog is a lot of work, and will be with me nearly everywhere that I go. But, the benefits of having a canine helper with me will be tremendous!

The dog will be with me in the Church office, around the Church campus, and will join us for worship in the Sanctuary! There will be several opportunities for our Church Family to meet this pastoral pup, and also to learn “guide dog etiquette!” For as you may know a guide dog while wearing its harness it is working, and needs to focus on doing the difficult job of helping me! Our Church Family will need to learn the discipline of ignoring this great dog, and not distracting the dog from its vital role in my life. I’ll need all of you to help me maintain this discipline/etiquette around Church. When the dog is at home and out of harness, he/she can relax, and return to “a dog’s life!” I am willing to set up “play dates” for the pup and any visitors who would want some quality time with my off-duty partner! You may need to bring both the off-duty dog and his off-duty owner some treats, but... I do welcome you.

I will be at the Guide Dogs for the Blind campus in San Rafael for the 19 day residential training from Nov. 23 – Dec. 12. I will be in training six days a week, and will be immersed in learning everything there is to know about guide dogs. I did not request any specific breed or gender, in order to allow the experts to make the best match possible. I will be matched with my dog on Thanksgiving Day, after three days of initial training.

I would appreciate your prayers, your support, and your encouragement as I begin this new adventure.

Brian Ralston  
Associate to the Pastor

## Centenary’s Missions Team presents Opportunities for Meaningful Giving

Do you ever struggle with picking out Christmas gifts for your loved ones? How about the family member that seems to have “everything?” Have you ever thought of giving them a flock of geese, a trio of rabbits, maybe a pig or a water buffalo? These are examples of meaningful gifts that can be given in your loved ones’ names through organizations such as Heifer Project. These gifts help children and families around the world become more self-sufficient as they battle poverty in their communities. Though your loved one may not appreciate an actual flock of geese in their home on Christmas morning, they may appreciate knowing their Christmas gift is helping a family in need.

At the Christmas Celebration, on Sunday, December 13, Centenary’s Missions Team will have various opportunities for you to learn more about alternative giving. These organizations include Heifer Project, Samaritan’s Purse, Compassion International, Serve International, and Advancing Vibrant Communities. Many of these organizations will send your loved one a card about the gift you have purchased in their name. The Missions Team will also have cards available.

If you would like more information before the Christmas Celebration, below is some contact information:

### Heifer Project International

[www.heifer.org](http://www.heifer.org)

Contact Number:

(800) 422-0474

Some of the opportunities through Heifer Project include a flock of ducks, chicks, geese (\$20 per flock), a trio of rabbits (\$60), water buffalo (\$250), or a Heifer (\$500). Check out



their website for a longer list of alternative giving opportunities.

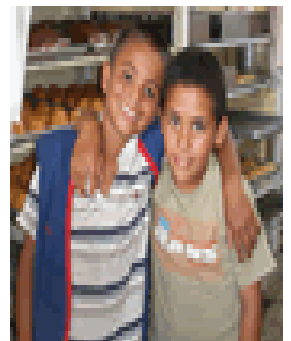
### Samaritan’s Purse

<https://>

[www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org)

Contact Number: (828) 262-1980

Some of the opportunities through Samaritan’s Purse are helping a child learn to read or write (\$15), clothing and food for a child (\$25), or Honey Bees (\$30). Check out their website for a longer list of alternative giving opportunities.



**Rock Youth Group  
Adopt-A-Family  
Christmas Service Project**



**Change-for-Change**

This Christmas, the youth group will be raising money to help provide food, clothing, and presents for a family in need in our community. Change-for-Change is an opportunity for you to help! In November, we will collect your pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters, and bills in a container in the back of the church. By donating that change in your pocket or purse, you are helping to provide for a family this Christmas!

**Pumpkin Ice Cream Pies from Cold Stone**



The Rock Youth would like to give you the opportunity to enjoy a delicious pie on Thanksgiving and help our Adopt-A-Family. We will be selling Pumpkin Ice Cream Pies (pumpkin ice cream, a graham cracker crust, garnished with cinnamon frosting and chocolate leaves) through Cold Stone Creamery.

They will sell for \$12 and we will receive \$5 from each pie sold. Pie vouchers will be sold beginning the weekend of October 31<sup>st</sup> after each service until Sunday, November 15. Kim Wolfswinkel will have vouchers available after Saturday night services. You will be given a pie voucher and you will need to pick up your pie at the Cold Stone Creamery on the corner of McHenry and Standiford (in the Barnes and Noble shopping center) on Sunday, November 22 or Monday, November 23. The pies will only be available at the McHenry store.

Thank you for your support! Contact Lindy Collins with any questions, 236-0238.

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## Less Stress Holiday Cooking Part V

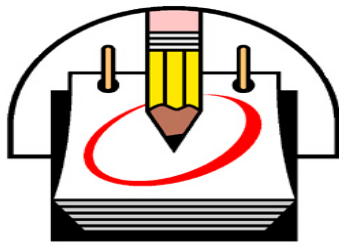
*The Early Bird*  
*Friday, November 13, 2009 at 6:00 p.m.*  
*Fireside Room - \$10/person*



Learn how to prepare your Turkey Dinner and all the trimmings  
with Less Stress by doing it ahead of time.

Demo & tastings of Roast Turkey, Stuffing, Mashed Potatoes, Gravy 101 and more!

Call the Church Office @ 527-5441 to sign up



**SUNDAY**

MEN'S FRATERNITY 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.  
 YOUNG ADULTS GROUP Rm. 20 - 6:30 P.M.

**MONDAY**

BETH MOORE BIBLE STUDY Rm. 6 - 6:30 P.M.

**TUESDAY**

THRIFT SHOP - 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.

**WEDNESDAY**

MEN'S FRATERNITY Rm. 15/16 - 6:00 A.M.  
 SPIRIT SALON FALL SESSION Rm. 6 - 9:00 A.M.  
 WEDNESDAY NITE LIVE - 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.



11/1	KATHLEEN BANKARD	11/12	ED BURROUGHS
11/1	JAMES BEAVER	11/13	MARISSA CONNACHER
11/2	MAE KRIESE	11/13	ALICE SMITH
11/2	ROBERT PALMAYMESA	11/13	TYSON WHORTON
11/2	JEANNE SIMONSON	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	VIVIAN NEUMANN	11/17	LUCILLE STEWART
11/6	DIANNE KRIESE	11/18	AMBER VASCHE
11/6	BEVERLY KEMPF	11/18	SANDY BARNETT
11/7	DELORIS HUBBARD	11/20	DOROTHY DEMERS
11/7	BETTY GIBSON	11/20	GREGORY SAVOY
11/8	KATHIE DECKER	11/21	DICK SPRAGUE
11/8	CRISTINE SMITH	11/21	LYNNE DIXON
11/9	PAUL SCHUNKE	11/22	BOB DUNNE
11/9	WAYNE MCGHEE	11/22	HELENE WHEELER
11/9	JO CHAMPION	11/23	DICK SHANKS
11/9	RICHARD ASCASO	11/23	LYNNE PRUITT
11/9	ANNA FALLS	11/23	JANE CLEARY
11/9	SANDERS LAMONT	11/23	GENE FRUECHTENICHT
11/10	ELIZABETH MALI	11/24	ZACK LAMONT
11/11	SOVANTHA BUN	11/24	CHUCK BERT
11/11	VELMA SPARKS	11/25	BEN DANIEL
11/11	JOYCE UNDERWOOD	11/26	DE LAUN
		11/26	BLANCHE MAGUIRE
		11/26	ED TRAPP
		11/27	DON SINGER
		11/27	CHUCK WYRICK
		11/28	LORETTA GRACE
		11/29	BERTHA ALSPAUGH
		11/30	RYAN BYRNE
		11/30	ALTA ROBBINS



- November 1 Daylight Saving - Fall Back
- November 1 Communion/Food Bank Sunday
- November 2 Ad Council Meeting
- November 9 Board of Trustees Meeting
- November 11 Veteran's Day - Church Office Open
- November 12 SPRC Meeting
- November 13 Less Stress Holiday Cooking
- November 15 Blood Pressure Screening
- November 16 Finance Committee Meeting
- November 17 Children's Ministry Team Meeting
- November 19 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
- November 22 Thanksgiving Service
- November 22 Shoe Box Dedication
- November 26 Thanksgiving - Church Office Closed
- November 27 Church Office Closed
- November 29 Family Worship

*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!*



**Helen Helton**  
 passed away on  
 September 27, 2009

**Elizabeth Ann Sutherland**  
 passed away on  
 October 9, 2009

**Jack Crossfield**  
 passed away on  
 October 17, 2009



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

#### FAITH BASED EXERCISE

Staying healthy is not just about outward appearances. Good health begins from within. Connecting with your faith through exercise is a great way to stay motivated, especially when you may not be seeing the results you want. Faith-based exercise can give you that extra encouragement, strength, and support that other facilities may not provide. Not only will you feel great, but faith-based exercising is an excellent way to worship and praise God at the same time! Please try on of our classes... we will be blessed to have you attend and we think you'll leave feeling the same way.

*"Your goals don't start in your head; they start in your heart." Author Unknown*

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 @ 578-1616

### Healthy Habits

Below are some simple suggestions from our Parish Nurse team to help our bodies fight off illness especially during the cold and flu season:

- > Try to get 8 hours of sleep each night
- > Drink lots of fluids, preferably non-caffeine
- > Eat a healthy diet to boost your immune system: Fresh fruits and vegetables with antioxidants
- > Try to handle stress in a positive manner
- > Exercise boosts your immune system, too!



### Healthy Living Tips

#### Mark Your Calendars!

The Thrift Shop will be open on these dates: **12/1 & 12/8**

The Thrift Shop will be closed on these dates: **11/24, 12/15, 12/22 & 12/29**

We will reopen on January 5th, 2010.



Please hold your donations until we reopen in January, The church office is unable to store the donations that would accumulate.

Thank you for your continued support, whether you donate items, shop with us, volunteer at the Thrift Shop, or all of the above! Because of you we are able to support local mission work in Modesto.



## Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

Shoe box donations for Operation Christmas Child will be accepted between November 16-23. We will have a limited number of shoe boxes available in the office, if you would like to pick one up.



#### Women's Fun & Fellowship Card Night

November 17th  
6:30 p.m.

at Lin Herron's House.  
Call Lin at 869-6414 for more information or for directions.



It is November and we are beginning to see a change in our weather. The cool mornings have been a welcome change and we've enjoyed watching the leaves as they begin to turn into their beautiful fall colors.

God blessed us with a fantastic October! The first two weeks we focused on "Safety." On October 2, the fire fighters from Briggsmore station paid us a visit.

They taught the children many important safety tips, including, stop, drop, and roll, to crawl low under the smoke, the importance of smoke alarms and that every family should be prepared with a plan to safely exit their house and have an established place to meet once they are out. One of the fire fighters put on all of his safety gear to show the children what he would look and sound like if he was going to rescue them from a burning building. This was such an important lesson so our children would know what to expect and be less fearful. Then, we all went out to see what was in all those compartments on the fire truck. It was so exciting! We are so thankful for all the hard working fire fighters who help keep our community safe.

On Thursday, October 8, the Center for Human Services did a safety presentation entitled "On the Safe Side." They brought P.C., the talking robotic car to talk to the children about pedestrian and bicycle safety. The children learned about traffic lights, stop signs, looking all four ways before crossing the street, and always wearing a helmet when riding a bike. P.C. said that children should always ride their bikes on the sidewalk (not in the street), and at the corners they should get off their bikes and walk across the street in the crosswalks. Also, when walking or riding a bike children should always be with an adult they trust. The children loved P.C. and listened intently to him. What a great way to get his important information to our children.

The last two weeks of October our theme was "Harvest Times." On October 19, we went to the pumpkin patch at Resendiz Family Fruit Barn in Hughson. The children had a great time planting broccoli, learning about some of their farm animals, feeding the Koi fish in the pond, going through the hay maze and picking out their very own pumpkin. We had so much fun! We are looking forward to carving pumpkins, roasting pumpkin seeds

and enjoying a "Harvest Festival" party on October 30th.

Our themes for November will be *Transportation* and *Thanksgiving*. Our chapel themes will be *joyfulness* (Prov. 17:22), *obedience* (Eph. 6:1), *thankfulness* (Eph. 5:20), and *courage* (Joshua 1:9).

I'd like to extend a very heartfelt "thank you" to Warren Hawkins and Norm Buus for putting together our new loft for the toddler room. It looks great! The children love it and we love it too. Thank you so much for this and all the other things you repair, fix, and adjust for us. God so good and we thank Him every day for so many blessings!

In His love,  
Janet Lewis



"No shade! No shine! November!" Thomas Hood's quote makes one kind of dread the onslaught of autumn and winter but maybe it would make us feel better to cross a sprig of poison ivy with a four-leaf clover. That way we'd forget bad weather and might have a rash of good luck! Just think though how lucky we are to have all of those good books in the Church Library! On the Fiction shelves we have "The Penny" by Joyce Meyer and Deborah Bedford. Jenny has no idea how her life will change the day she picks up the penny. It starts a chain of events that transforms her life and those around her. Going to the Library's Christian Living shelves we find "Confident in Christ: Living By Faith Really Works!" Written by Dr. Robert Wilkin. This book provides a treasury of answers to difficult Gospel passages and also suggests ways to please God through faith.

In the Library's Family Life section is "Creative Correction" which contains some extraordinary ideas for everyday discipline of children. Perhaps you have tried several methods and none of them work. When correction is done "creatively," it's more rewarding — both for the child and for the parents—and it can be more effective in producing long-term results. Karen Kingsbury has written two books with another writer, Gary Smalley. On the Fiction shelves, are "Rejoice" and the fifth book, "Reunion" in the "Redemption" series. These tell about God's grace in even the most difficult times.

Margaret Bell



# DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

As November approaches, I begin looking forward to my favorite holiday, Thanksgiving. I know, my favorite should be the day we celebrate Jesus' birth or His resurrection, but, no – I love Thanksgiving! I love baking pies and hosting a big meal. I love mashed potatoes and gravy! I love gathering my family together and just having a relaxing day with no pressure to buy gifts or hide eggs. And most importantly, I love 'taking inventory' of my life, looking at all the blessings God has provided for myself, my family and my friends.

I am thankful for my church family who come together each week to worship our loving and merciful God. I'm thankful for the committed teachers who spend hours every month teaching our children about God's love and His plan for them. I am thankful for the dozens of volunteers from our congregation who take part in our outreach events like Fall Festival and Vacation Bible School, becoming the face of Jesus to our community. I am thankful for the families of our children here at Centenary, who make their Christian faith a priority in today's busy culture. Finally, I am thankful that our children are growing in their faith, asking questions and seeking to make the Bible and its truth apply to their lives. It gives me great joy to watch as these children are transforming their head knowledge about God into a heartfelt relationship with Jesus.

These are things I'm grateful for today. I know you have many blessings to count, too. One way that we can show God our gratitude is by giving back to those in need. Centenary is collecting shoeboxes for Operation Christmas Child again this year. The Shoebox Ministry is an excellent way to join with others and send Christmas gifts and the message of Jesus Christ to literally millions of children around the world. Simply pack some inexpensive toys, school supplies and hygiene items in a shoebox, add \$7 to cover shipping costs (or pay online at [www.samaritanspurse.org](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) and 'track' the destination of your shoebox) and bring the box to church by noon on Sunday, November 22. The shoeboxes will then be sent to children in over 100 different countries. Your gift can make a huge impact

on a child who may not have heard about Jesus or who may not have ever received a gift before.

Thank you for supporting our children at Centenary and also for sharing your blessings with children around the world.

In His Service,  
Heather Daniel



Greetings fellow Centenarians! Is it just me...or did that introduction seem like I was writing to life-forms from another planet? Well, as Christians, sometimes it can feel like we are from another planet! In fact, the Bible says that we are "strangers" and "aliens" in the world (1 Pt 2:11). I don't know about you, but I don't like feeling like a "stranger" that is all alone. Fortunately, we are not alone. We have a Father in Heaven who loves us very much. Not only that, but God has also given us the church so that we do not have to be alone in our Christian life. As the church, we are called to "do life together." What does that mean? It means to encourage and strengthen each other through friendship, prayer, study, and service. That can happen in formal ways, like a Bible study group. It can also happen in informal ways, such as calling a brother or sister in Christ just to see how they are doing. You see, we need more than "just a little Jesus" on Sunday mornings. We need the encouragement of God, His Word, and each other all week long.

There are plenty of ways for you to move beyond a Sunday morning Christian life. Please call the church office if you would like to know more about how you can find a place to NOT be a stranger. As the Director of Young Adult Ministry, I would like to extend an invitation to anyone in/around college age to come and join us on Sunday nights (@ 6:30) for Bible study and fellowship. We are beginning a new series, so now is the perfect time to come and check it out. No one wants to be alone...and you don't have to be! We look forward to meeting you! God bless!

In His Service,  
Matt Riddle



# Centenary United Methodist Church

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED



# Thanksgiving Services November 22, 2009 9:00 a.m. & 11:00 a.m.

*"I will praise God's name  
in song and glorify Him  
with thanksgiving."  
Psalm 69:30 NIV*