

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

October, 2011



One of my favorite times at Redwood Christian Park Family Camp comes on Thursday afternoons. Typically the afternoons are a time of rest and recreation, but on Thursday afternoon there is a time of prayer in the Prayer Chapel.

The Prayer Chapel is a very small building, holding only about ten or twelve people,

which lends itself to a wonderful sense of intimacy. On Thursday afternoons, people come to be prayed for or to pray for loved ones. It is an encouraging time.

The experience of that prayer chapel and time of prayer seems especially comforting these days. 2011 has been, to say the least, a difficult year for many here at Centenary. We witnessed twenty three memorial services this year. Many of those were people who have worshiped alongside us for years. They have been good friends of ours. Others have been connected closely to you: A loved one, friend or relative.

In addition to the pain of loss, we have had other loved ones in the life of our Church Family experience grave illness, economic struggle, job loss, foreclosure, marital separation and divorce, and countless other difficult life struggles.

With everything going on, the idea of the prayer chapel; the quietness, the support, the intimacy with God seems more and more inviting.

I need a prayer chapel experience more than just once a year at Redwood Christian Park, and maybe you do too. Let's open up our prayer chapel just off the Sanctuary, after every worship service on the third weekend of each month, for a time of prayer. Come to be prayed for, to pray for others, to be anointed with healing oil, or to pray for loved ones that may be heavy on your heart. Come and pray and remember that you are not alone.

Shalom,

Pastor Bob

The Work of a Pastor

~by Cindy Duenas

Many years ago, my grandfather told me: "The work of a pastor is never done. A pastor is on-call every day, regardless of weekends, evenings, or holidays. He needs to be ready at any moment to help someone with a crisis or pray with the dying, while preparing to preach and running a Church. He needs to counsel, help resolve conflicts, work with new believers, and grieve with those who have lost loved ones. There is always more to do."

My grandfather was an engineer by profession, but had been a strong Christian for many decades, a leader in his Church, and often his pastor's best friend. He taught me a lot about pastors, including the fact that "a pastor rarely can manage to please the many people who think that it's their role to be his boss." That's why a pastor needs to be secure in who in the church actually "is" his supervising authority, (elders, committees...) but always remember that his ultimate boss is the Lord God Almighty. His only significant compensation for this never-ending work load is a never-ending reward from His Lord, and the consistent encouragement and appreciation of those who have been helped by his efforts.

October is "Pastor Appreciation Month." Please take some time to remember the pastor who serves faithfully, though not always perfectly, in your Church. Pray for him also, as that can be the greatest way to encourage the one who prays so frequently for others.



Stephen Ministry

Stephen Ministry is grounded in Jesus' command to love one another.

Stephen Ministry is for:

Loneliness

Loss of a spouse

Despair

Separation or divorce

Chronic illness

Any life changing event

Stephen Ministry provides:

Someone who cares, supports and listens with confidential love.

email: stephen_ministry@sbcglobal.net
or call Caren @209-918-1003

Attention Devotional Authors... you know who you are!

Remember the deadline to get your submissions in is Friday, October 14th. They can be handed in, mailed to the church office or emailed to briralston@sbcglobal.net or to roxanhays@aol.com If you have any questions, Pastor Bob, Brian, Roxann and Ben Akina are waiting to hear from you, and would be happy to answer your questions! There will be workshops on Wednesday, October 5th from 5:30-6:15 in Room 15/16 and on Thursday, October 6th at 6:30 in Room 14 if you need any direction, inspiration, or a jump start!

Attention all those who are not Devotional Authors... you know who you are!

Expect your "footsteps" to lead you to a special spiritual adventure coming soon! Stay tuned to learn more details in your friendly, neighborhood Church newsletter!



Life With Lansing ~ by Brian Ralston

For nearly two years now, I have lived and worked with a guide dog in my life, named Lansing. I have greatly enjoyed this adventure, and walking with Lansing has helped me to regain some lost independence. Daily routes with Lansing have also helped my physical health, my mental abilities, and even my prayer life. But one of the unexpected benefits of having Lansing has been the increased opportunities to talk with strangers. (Just what the shy, reserved, and quiet son of John Ralston needed, right?) Some of these encounters have been amusing, some touching "God moments," and some down right frustrating, and I'd like to share a few of them with you over the next few months in this newsletter.

We will start with the top 10 comments.

10. "That Dog is going too fast!" (Comment from a helpful woman who realized that I could not see the "pedestrian speed limit signs!" Lansing and I like to walk fast, and on well-maintained, familiar sidewalks, it's safe.)

9. "I think your dog is being distracted by my cat. Fluffy just does not like to walk on this leash." (Taking your cat for a walk on a leash? You would be distracted too!)

8. "I think it's terrible that you enslave that dog and make him work." (Enough said on this one during a sermon. If Lansing seems "enslaved" to you, let me know!)

7. "Can I pet your dog?" (While I'm quite use to this comment when we are seated/standing in public, it's rare that someone shouts it at me as we walk quickly by their house.)

6. "What is.... that!?" (This from a confused/disgusted little

girl who obviously had never seen a guide dog helping a human before and just could not understand what this crazy combination of man and canine could be!)

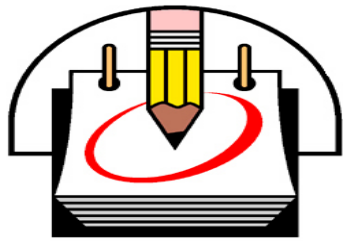
5. "Where can I get a harness like that for my dog?" (This from a man who went on to explain that he had an out-of-control dog that he thought would magically behave if wearing that "cool harness." His wife was chuckling at him the whole time!)

4. "Where can I buy a dog like that?" (She went on to clarify that she meant a guide dog. Umm, you kind of need to have a visual impairment or some degree of blindness to have a guide dog. They do not have them at Costco yet!)

3. "How does your dog know when the stoplight changes?" (Good question; he doesn't. We work as a team, and I decide when it's safe to cross based on audio clues from the traffic. If I get it wrong, he is trained to block me from walking out into traffic, unless he's mad at me!)

2. "And will your dog be having anything today?" (This question from a worker at an unnamed fast food establishment. After my incredulous but amused reaction, he went on to explain that there was a woman who would buy her service animal food along with her lunch regularly.)

1. "Are you training him to be a guide dog?" or "Is that a guide dog?" (By far the most frequent comment/question that I hear. People see us walking quickly and confidently, knowing where we are and where we are going, and assume that I'm training him to be a guide dog. No, we are able to work so well together because we are now both well-trained and enjoy being out every day on the streets of Modesto!)



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. AND 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

THRIFT SHOP 9:30 A.M. - 12:30 P.M.
 MOM2MOM - Rm. 6 9:30 A.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. AND SR. HIGH YOUTH GROUP 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

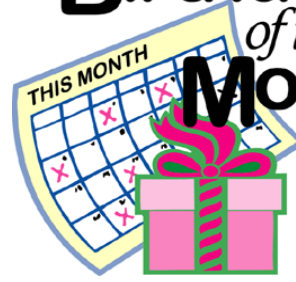
CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE 6:30 P.M.



OCTOBER

October 2 Women's Fun & Fellowship "First Sunday"
 October 3 Board of Trustees Meeting
 October 8 Church Work Day/8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
 October 10 Columbus Day/Church Office Closed
 October 13 Staff/Parish Relations Committee Meeting
 October 17 Finance Committee Meeting
 October 18 Women's Fun and Fellowship Card Night
 October 20 Missions Team Meeting
 October 20 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
 October 24 Ad Council Meeting
 October 28 Women's Fun and Fellowship Cards/Lunch
 October 31 Fall Festival

Birthdays of the Month



10/17	LAURIE STAFFORD
10/18	ELLA PEER
10/19	KRISTI TERRY
10/19	SAM VORN
10/19	NANCY FISHER
10/19	FRANK AZLIN
10/20	LYNDA CHHAP
10/20	SUSAN WALLACE
10/20	SENG SATH
10/21	BETTY JEAN REYNOLDS
10/21	MOULLYKA CHEA
10/22	MISSY MONDAY
10/22	BARBARA JUDD
10/22	NANCY TEK
10/23	MARLENE URBAN
10/23	JACK KRIESE
10/23	KATHLEEN CHRISTIAN
10/25	KIMI HELM
10/25	HEATH SEABOURN
10/25	MIKE ROSS
10/26	PENNY YOUNGBLOOD
10/26	KARIN METTLER
10/26	PAM DARK
10/26	MAXINE BLANCETT
10/27	MANITH CHEA
10/27	PHYLLIS HART
10/27	BOB KRIESE
10/28	BOB COLLINS
10/28	MARY SALTS
10/29	KYM SIMONSON
10/29	CAROL MEININGER
10/29	DEBI DIX
10/30	FRED HEGWOOD
10/30	MO MERCER
10/30	BARBARA BERT
10/30	ROBIN SHANKS
10/30	BRIAN PEPELNJAK
10/30	RON DAVIS
10/31	JOYCE USIAK
10/31	SUE ELLEN RITCHEY
10/31	HEATHER SILVEIRA
10/31	CAREN BURHANS

10/1	NATELLY PEOU
10/1	DAVE MISHLER
10/3	ALICIA STILL
10/3	DORIS WHALEY
10/4	REBECCA VORN
10/4	BRUCE NORRIS
10/4	NORM BUUS
10/4	LINDY COLLINS
10/5	BERNICE DOERN
10/6	CONNIE HARRIS
10/6	DAVID NGEF
10/6	BARBARA WYRICK
10/7	RAEDINE LILLIE
10/7	SOUMANG CHANTHAVONG
10/8	ROBERT GENTRY
10/8	JAKE WAMMACK
10/8	ROSALIE SHAVER
10/8	WENDI RODMAN
10/9	CAREY NEFF
10/9	BILLY DANIEL
10/10	TOM CONTRERAS
10/10	DEBRA VANDERWAL
10/11	CINDY DUENAS
10/12	BRYAN HARDEN
10/12	BECKY HUDSON
10/12	BILLIE SCOTT
10/12	SIGGA SHARP
10/13	DALE NOTTLEY
10/14	DENNIS TERRY
10/15	RYAN REDNER
10/15	HEATHER DANIEL
10/15	BUD ANDERSON
10/16	JOHN HAYNE
10/17	ALEXIS FAUGHN



Women's Fun and Fellowship

October 2, after second service, we will have "First Sunday" of the month luncheon. We will be meeting at Village Baking Co. in the McHenry Village for lunch and fellowship. We hope to see you there!



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

Exercise, Nutrition, and REST

The weather has been so beautiful and we are enjoying lots of fun outdoor activities. We are now heading into the month of October and anxiously waiting for fall to show its beautiful colors! We have many exciting activities to look forward to in October, including our Harvest Festival Day that we celebrate with a party, dressing up in costumes and a trick or treat parade through the church office!

We had a great September. We have several new children that we are getting to know. The first couple of weeks we took some time to allow them to explore their classrooms, get used to our daily schedule and begin a caring relationship with their teachers and friends. On September 13, each child brought a fruit to school. The children worked together cutting the fruit for a big “friendship salad.” They enjoyed sitting down and eating the nutritious snack with all their new friends.

The last couple of weeks we learned about “community helpers.” We had several parents who agreed to talk to the children about the services they provide for our community.

Darin Jesberg, a fire fighter, came to the classroom on September 20. He brought in all of the protective gear he needs to put on to be safe while he is working. The children were impressed with how hard fire fighters work to help keep us safe.

On September 22, Dawn Young, a nurse, came to talk to the children about how she helps our community. Dawn works at Memorial Hospital on the surgical floor. She makes sure her patients are comfortable and tends to their medical needs until they are well enough to go home.

Monica Ojcius was with us on September 28. She is a fund developer for the Center for Human Services. She just wrapped up an event held at McHenry Village called “A Taste of Modesto” which brought in money to help provide the many services their center offers to our community.

On September 29, Virginia VanDusen joined us in the classroom to talk about her job as a baker for Save Mart. She brought in a warm, freshly baked loaf for us to taste. It was delicious and made our classroom smell so good. We know we are so blessed to have so many parents who are willing to help out in our classrooms when we need them.

We are looking forward to an amazing, fun filled October. Our themes for October will be “*safety*” and “*harvest times.*” Our chapel themes will be *learning* (Proverbs 1:5), *love* (1 John 15:17), *hard work* (Colossians 3:23) and *kindness* (1 Peter 3:8). Our God is so awesome! We thank Him for all the wonderful families and precious children we are so blessed to serve here at Centenary. We look forward to our annual “Get Acquainted Night” on October 11, a pumpkin patch field trip on the 19th, pumpkin carving and more! Please continue to keep us in your prayers as we begin a very busy month!

In His Love,
Janet Lewis

The key to being physically fit is balance in three important areas—exercise, nutrition, and rest...yes, REST! Rest is usually the area that is most neglected. We all lead busy lives and it is easy to forget that our bodies were designed (by Him) for rest. Listen to your body. If it is saying, “slow down,” follow directions.

God created the world in six days and on the seventh, He rested. He created night and day so that we might REST. He wants us to rest in Him. Rest was planned into the creation. Psalms 37:7 instructs us, “Rest in the Lord and wait patiently for Him.”

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



Church Work Day

October 8, 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.

Coffee and donuts will be served in the morning, and a B.B.Q. lunch will be served at noon. Come be a part of this ministry to help spruce up and beautify our Church campus.

We hope to see you there!

Are you lost?

~ Ben Akina

I was a pretty dumb kid.

I did well in school, but there's always been an aloof (heck, *clueless*) quality to me that was even more pronounced when I was a child. One memory in particular comes to mind.

When I was eight and my brother was ten, there were two brothers living on our street that weren't much older than us. They had a Nintendo and tolerated our presence, and that was pretty cool. At the time I didn't know much about "special needs" or "mental disability." But I had noticed that Jimmy, the older of the two neighbors, walked in a somewhat stilted manner. His hand tended to curl into a hook shape. His speech was often hard to understand.

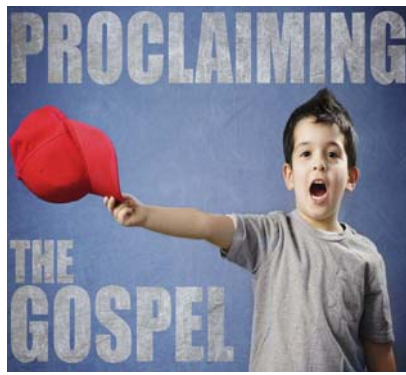
One day I asked him, point blank: "Are you handicapped?" I wasn't being malicious. In my eight year old mind, there was nothing wrong with being handicapped. I didn't even realize there was a mental component to the physical manifestations I'd seen. I was just being an innocent, curious, dumb kid. I got an immediate dirty look from my red-faced brother, but Jimmy just responded with an affirmative.

I'm a little better informed now, and I realize how I'd acted with (albeit well-intentioned) rudeness. You just *don't* ask those questions.

But Jesus liked the honesty of children. "The kingdom of heaven belongs to such as these," he famously said in Luke 18. He obviously thought we adults had a lot to learn from them as well: "Unless you change and become like little children, you will never enter the kingdom of heaven" (Matthew 18:3). I'm taking this out of context, but I still feel there's value in that principle.

What if we were childlike in the way we shared our faith? In my own experience, I don't tend to ask people about their spiritual condition with well-intentioned bluntness. What if we didn't care about the political correctness of our conduct and were willing to ask those questions not out of malice or spite, but curiosity and concern?

Are you saved? Do you love Jesus? In asking these blunt, beautiful, childlike questions, the social risks are low...but the benefits may very well be eternal.



Fall is here and it brings me great joy to look around our church campus throughout the week and see our church family gathering together for study, worship, service and fellowship. My prayer is that you are finding ways to connect to others here at Centenary and that you are growing closer to Jesus and sharing His love with others.

One way we are able to reach out to our community and share Jesus is through our Fall Festival on October 31st. The Festival is the perfect opportunity to open Centenary's doors to friends, neighbors and all of Modesto. Last year, we estimate about 600 people attended the Fall Festival between 5:30 and 7:30 p.m., the majority of them not being regular members of Centenary. People are drawn to a relaxed, fun and indoor event that can give them a glimpse of the people and the atmosphere of the church. Many people return here for worship and Sunday School and some have made Centenary their church home.

The Fall Festival is a great time to come together, share a simple meal of stew and corn bread, and provide the children with fun games to play as a safe alternative to trick-or-treating. We also collect canned food for Interfaith Ministries as a way to provide for others in our community. Pulling off an outreach event like this requires many helpers. We need people to help prepare the food and serve it. We need many volunteers to run the specific game booths for an hour that night. We also need candy – lots of candy! Last year we collected over 150 pounds of candy that was given out to the children! But most importantly, we need our church family to pray for a successful outreach into our community, so we can reach those that have no relationship with Jesus. Come and be a part of our Fall Festival. Be the face of Jesus for someone who may not otherwise see Him.

If you would like to help with our Fall Festival, please contact Heather Daniel or Barbara Wyrick.

In His Service,
Heather Daniel



**Centenary United Methodist
Church**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

The Centenary Parish Nurse and Women's Ministries Invite You to Attend
The Women's Health Awareness Workshop 2011
Sunday, October 23, 2011 ~ Centenary Church Fellowship Center

Eat Right Today for a Healthier Tomorrow

Marla Nawrocki, RD, CDE

Health Educator at Sutter Gould Medical Foundation for 20 Years
Specializes in Diabetes, Cardiac Health and Eating Disorder Education

*Please join us following worship for a Light Lunch before the
workshop ~ Donation Basket*

Childcare Provided Upon Request

Questions? Contact the church office at 527-5441 or
Jane Hellman: mjhellman@sbcglobal.net or
Deanna Hutton: deanna10@aol.com

