

# THE CIRCUIT RIDER

*A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church*  
October 2009



Some of us are old enough to remember the television show “Candid Camera.” The show featured a hidden camera that would record people’s reactions to strange events. For example, a person might think they are being hired to work in a pet store. They are told to try and sell a parrot because it does not talk. Then, when the store

worker leaves the room, the parrot begins talking up a storm, even holding a conversation with the new employee. When the store owner returns, the parrot stops talking and the new employee cannot convince the store owner that the parrot really can talk.

In England they have a show that is very similar, but crueler. In one episode, a person is told that they are the one millionth customer at a grocery store. They are presented with a gold shopping cart and told everything they can put into that shopping cart, excluding alcohol, and return to the starting place, all within 60 seconds, will be theirs, free and clear.

A buzzer sounds, the shopper enters the store, and the crew that gave the shopper the good news leaves. Inside the store you can see the individual running, frantic, trying to get all they can and still get back to the starting point in time. You see the faces of others inside the store, wondering what this individual is up to. Finally, you see the shopper exit the store, get to the starting point, all within the 60 seconds... only to discover that it has all been a hoax. There was no contest, he was not the one millionth customer, he has just exited a store with a shopping cart full of unpurchased groceries. Surprise.

That’s the way some people are feeling, like life is a just a cruel joke, an unwanted “surprise.” How many people bought homes, hoping to experience the “American Dream,” only to lose those homes when the economy went south? Surprise! How many people were looking forward to retirement, to the “Golden Years,”

only to discover that with Social Security, Medicare, and loss of savings, those golden years might be tarnished brass? Surprise!

Let me take you to a familiar passage of scripture, Mark 6:45-48: “Immediately Jesus made His disciples get into the boat and go on ahead of Him to Bethsaida, while He dismissed the crowd. After leaving them, He went up on a mountainside to pray.

When evening came, the boat was in the middle of the lake, and He was alone on land. He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them. About the fourth watch of the night He went out to them, walking on the lake.”

This story of Jesus walking on the water follows the story of the feeding of the 5000. These are two remarkable miracles. What I want you to see is hidden in the midst of these mighty deeds.

Verse 45, Jesus made the disciples get into the boat, following the feeding of the large crowd, and go on toward Bethsaida without Him.

Verse 46, Jesus went up onto the mountainside to pray.

Often when we pray we bow our heads and close our eyes. Here it appears Jesus did not close His eyes for in verse 48 we are told: “He saw the disciples straining at the oars, because the wind was against them.”

What I want you to notice is that Jesus never take His eyes off His followers. Even while praying, Jesus kept His eyes on His disciples.

In the midst of all of the “surprises” that life throws at us, it is good to remember that these events are never “surprises” for Jesus. His eyes are always on us.

Shalom,

Pastor Bob

The Centenary Parish Nurse and Women's Ministries  
Invite you to attend

**The Women's Health Awareness Workshop 2009**



Friday, October 23<sup>rd</sup> 6:30 P.M.  
Centenary Fireside Room

**Take Your Health to Heart**

Guest Speaker:

**Susan Garcia, R.N.**

Cardiac Independence, Manager -Memorial Medical Center

Please join us for a Heart Healthy Supper Before the workshop at 5:30 P.M.  
Donations accepted

Childcare provided upon request

Questions? Please contact Deanna Hutton @ 527-5441



**FALL SESSION WEDNESDAY NITE LIVE**

**It's never too late to join in our mid-week fellowship and study!**

Dinner at 5:30 PM in the Fellowship Center  
Classes for all ages and nursery at 6:30 PM  
The Rock youth group at 6:00 PM

Choose from the following adult classes:

**"Thrill Rides"** with Pastor Bob Collins

**"The Big Picture of the Bible"** with Matt Riddle

**"A Case for Christ"** with Alissa Collins

**"Parenting: The Early Years"** with Janet Lewis

**"Parenting Your Teenager"** with Insa Duke

**Mystery Tour 2009**  
**For Junior High & High School Students**

Yeah! That's right! We're not tellin'! Come check out the spectacular mystery destinations that have been planned by Steve and the Youth Staff.



# Mystery Tour

Here's what you need to know:

Saturday, October 24

8 a.m. to 10 p.m. Meet at the church.

Cost: To Be Determined (around \$30.00)

Contact Steve with any questions.

Parents, we need help driving!! ! Let Steve know if you can come along. Remember, if cost is an issue, please talk with Steve.

**Bake Sale**  
**Adopt-A-Family Service Project**  
Sunday, October 11

Between 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Services in the fellowship area. The youth and their families will be preparing baked goods to raise money for a family in need in our community. Please come prepared to purchase some yummy goodies!



## BAKE SALE



**Canned Food Drive**

An Amazing Success!! We raised 1400 cans! The cans were distributed between Centenary's food closet and Interfaith Ministries. A thank you card from Interfaith stated, "The only way to describe the results of your food drive is AWESOME!! Know that your effort models the love of Christ . . . for those most in need." Thank you to our church family for your support and helping us to give to our community.

Coming in November!!!

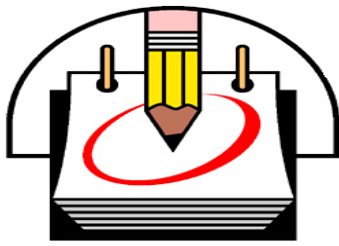
## Less Stress Holiday Cooking Part V *Defeating Your Fear of Filo*



Have you been afraid to attempt working with Filo Dough? Come to our "hands on" cooking class in November and learn how easy it can be to make an Appetizer, Side Dish, Entrée and Dessert, all featuring Filo Dough.

You will be able to stock your freezer with these flaky delights ahead of time and be prepared to extend warm Christian hospitality throughout the holidays and beyond.

Dates and times to be announced. Questions? Contact Deanna @ 527-5441



## Weekly Events

### 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

MEN'S FRATERNITY RM. 20 6:00 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 - 8:00 P.M.

### THURSDAY

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY RM. 15/16 - 9:00 A.M.  
 MEN'S FRATERNITY RM. 6

### SATURDAY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE - 6:30 P.M.



October 1 Praise in Motion Resumes  
 October 4 World Wide Communion Sunday  
 October 6 Children's Ministry Team Meeting  
 October 8 SPRC Meeting  
 October 9 Choir Retreat at Eagles Rest  
 October 11 Youth Bake Sale  
 October 12 Columbus Day/Church Office Closed  
 October 13 Preschool Get Acquainted Night  
 October 15 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting  
 October 19 Flu Shot Clinic  
 October 19 Finance Committee Meeting  
 October 23 Women's Health Awareness Workshop  
 October 24 Youth Mystery Tour  
 October 25 Blood Pressure Screening  
 October 26 Ad Council Meeting  
 October 31 Fall Festival

## Birthdays of the Month



10/1	NATELLY PEOU	10/16	JOHN HAYNE
10/3	DORIS WHALEY	10/17	LAURIE STAFFORD
10/4	REBECCA VORN	10/18	ELLA PEER
10/4	BRUCE NORRIS	10/19	KRISTI TERRY
10/4	NORM BUUS	10/19	SAM VORN
10/4	MARY CHRISTIAN	10/19	NANCY FISHER
10/4	LINDY COLLINS	10/19	FRANK AZLIN
10/5	BERNICE DOERN	10/20	LYNDA CHHAP
10/5	LAYNE MCGHEE	10/20	SUSAN WALLACE
10/6	DAVID NGEF	10/20	SENG SATH
10/6	BARBARA WYRICK	10/21	BETTY JEAN REYNOLDS
10/6	CONNIE HARRIS	10/21	MOULLYKA CHEA
10/6	KIM CLOUSE	10/22	BARBARA JUDD
10/7	DON BECK	10/22	NANCY TEK
10/7	SOUMANG CHANTHAVONG	10/22	MISSY MONDAY
10/7	RAEDINE LILLIE	10/23	MARLENE URBAN
10/8	ROBERT GENTRY	10/23	JACK KRIESE
10/8	ROSALIE SHAVER	10/23	KATHLEEN CHRISTIAN
10/8	WENDI RODMAN	10/25	KIMI HELM
10/9	CAREY NEFF	10/25	HEATH SEABOURN
10/10	DEBRA VANDERWAL	10/25	MIKE ROSS
10/10	TOM CONTRERAS	10/26	KARIN METTLER
10/11	CINDY DUENAS	10/26	PENNY YOUNGBLOOD
10/12	BRYAN HARDEN	10/26	PAM DARK
10/12	BECKY HUDSON	10/26	MAXINE BLANCETT
10/12	SIGGA SHARP	10/27	MANITH CHEA
10/12	BILLIE SCOTT	10/27	BOB KRIESE
10/13	DALE NOTTLEY	10/27	PHYLLIS HART
10/13	ELINOR COLEMAN	10/27	BOB COLLINS
10/14	DENNIS TERRY	10/27	BOB COLLINS
10/15	RYAN REDNER	10/28	MARY SALTS
10/15	HEATHER DANIEL	10/29	CAROL MEININGER
10/15	BUD ANDERSON	10/29	MARIETTA SHARP
10/16	BILLER MAURER	10/29	KYM SIMONSON
		10/29	DEBI DIX
		10/30	BARBARA BERT
		10/30	FRED HEGWOOD
		10/30	BRIAN PEPELNJAK
		10/30	MO MERCER
		10/30	ROBIN SHANKS
		10/31	SUE ELLEN RITCHEY
		10/31	JOYCE USIAK
		10/31	HEATHER SILVEIRA
		10/31	CAREN BURHANS

*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!*



**Congratulations to  
 Heather Hegwood  
 & Jeremiah Bach  
 who were married on  
 September 06, 2009**

**Weddings**



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

### SENIOR AEROBICS CLASSES

I want to remind you that we have a “Senior” aerobics class at Centenary which is not only for “seniors” but for anyone with special limitations. Even though it is named, “Easy Does It,” you will still get a complete and effective workout. Some exercises are seated in chairs, while others are standing or walking (for those who are able to stand.) There are no exercises performed on the floor (mats) as in the other classes. The class is for BOTH women and men. This class averages between 12 and 20 participants. The atmosphere of this class is very warm and welcoming. The instructor is Sylvia Swan and Erika Cummings often fills in.

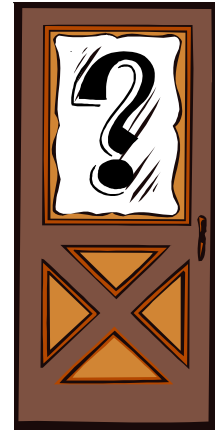
Exercise will actually delay the aging process and bones become stronger with exercise. Exercise also helps with arthritis, balance, memory, weight control, and a number of other benefits.

Fred Astaire once said, “Old age is like everything else... to make a success of it, you’ve got to start young.” I say, it’s NEVER too late to start an exercise program. We’re waiting for YOU. We hope you will join us!

**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**

## THE BROWN DOOR

Have you ever wondered what’s behind the brown doors of the building north of the Fellowship Center? Well, come by on a Tuesday morning and see the energy that comes from within, and reaches out to many in our community. We appreciate your donations of clean, usable clothing, house wares, collectibles, books and shoes. To donate larger items, give us a call, Marge 529-0858 or Diena 521-1853. Come by Tuesdays between 9:30 to 12:30. We love to see new faces come to shop, and we always welcome helpers too. Our Lord is good!



P.S. Proceeds benefit our church, Interfaith Ministries, Redwood House, Gospel Mission and more.

## Sunday Morning Adult Bible Study

**Begins new study  
Sunday, September 27th  
9:00 a.m.  
Rm. 15/16  
The Book of Psalms  
Led by Betty Hevrin**



## Operation Christmas Child

A PROJECT of SAMARITAN'S PURSE

**Shoe box collections for  
Operation Christmas Child  
will be between  
November 16-23**



## WHY I SING IN THE CHOIR

I sing in choir because I can carry a tune and I love to sing! Church choir members become family to one another. We sing, laugh, cry, pray and sometimes, eat together, We rejoice in God’s generous gift to us, the ability to make music. Singing, practicing, and learning music lifts my spirits, exercises my brain and body and makes my soul dance! The choir assists in worship services through our music. Singing is a beautiful expression of praise to God reaching out in song, drawing all of us closer to our Lord Jesus Christ—our way of saying, “Thank You, Jesus, for this opportunity to serve You!” On Thursday evenings the choir room door, and our arms and hearts are always open to welcome anyone who wants to join us in this enriching experience.

By June Scott



Red, yellow, orange and brown  
The leaves are falling all over town!

You will hear the preschool children happily chanting this little rhyme this time of year. Yes, it is October and autumn is officially here. Soon, we will see all the beautiful fall colors on the trees. It's a great time of year to teach the children about the fall season, fall colors, what makes the leaves change colors and to thank God for creating this beautiful, colorful world in which we live.

September was the beginning of a brand new school year. Many of our friends left to go to kindergarten. We gladly welcomed several new friends to our preschool and infant/toddler program. The first two weeks of September we spent some time getting to know one another. Some children needed to adjust to a new room and a different teacher as well as new friends, so we took our time to get comfortable. On September 16th each child brought a fruit to school. The children worked together cutting the fruit for a big fruit salad. The children enjoyed sitting down and eating the nutritious snack with all their new friends.

The last two weeks of September we learned about "community helpers." We have some awesome parents who took time out of their busy schedules to come talk to our children about how they help our community in the jobs they do. We had a police officer, a nurse, a nutritionist, a banker, a writer, and an animal control officer. We appreciated all our visitors and learned so much from all of them.

On the day nurse Sherrie came to visit we took the opportunity to impress the children with the importance of thoroughly washing their hands. The children have been taught to wash as long as it takes to sing "Happy Birthday" or "Jesus Loves Me." Sherrie brought a special light that showed all the germs that were left on their hands after washing. All of the children were surprised to see how many germs were still on their hands. What a great visual lesson for us all, especially with the flu season upon us!

For October, our themes will be "Safety" and "Harvest Times." We look forward to a visit from the

fire department, a field trip to the pumpkin patch and a "Harvest Festival" party. Our chapel themes for October will be Learning (Prov. 1:5), Love (John 15:17), Work Hard (Col. 3:23), and Kindness (1 Peter 3:8).

Our God is so awesome. We thank Him for all our wonderful families and precious children we are so blessed to serve. Please keep us in your prayers as we go through the flu season, especially with the H1N1 already in our community. Thank you so much for your continued support and prayers.

In His Love,  
Janet Lewis



We are always glad to get blessings so let's start the month off with a Gaelic blessing: "May those who love us, love us /And those that don't love us, /May God turn their hearts. /And if He doesn't turn their hearts /May he turn their ankles /So we'll know them by their limping!" So from this blessing we go to books written by Karen Kingsbury whom many people consider a blessing. Now on the church Library's Fiction shelves we have Books 2, 3, and 4 in popular Author Kingsbury's "Sunrise" series. We have books by another popular author, Max Lucado in the Christian Living section. "In the Grip of Grace" Lucado tells you to "jump off the cliff of self-sufficiency, leap out of legalism, walk away from guilt and condemnation to land in the loving arms of the Father who loves you." Also on the Christian Living shelves is "One Month to Live" by Kerry and Chris Shook. This is a resource to give you a "no-regrets life." It is a guidebook for a 30-day challenge for making every day count to help you live "passionately, lovingly, completely." For those of us who wish to further our marriage, look up Gary Chapman's book "Toward a Growing Marriage" on the Family Life shelves. Dr. Gary Chapman, Ph.D., gives you advice on building the love relationship of your dreams, learning how to communicate, how to rekindle love, and avoid financial bondage. Lori Salierno and Esther Bailey have written "Designed for Excellence." This is in the Youth section but both old and young alike are invited to the exuberance of a faith-filled party where the celebration is to be in the Lord's presence and in following the Lord's ways so you can be proud when you look in the mirror!

Margaret Bell



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 at Centenary and that you are growing closer to Jesus and sharing His love with others.

One way we are able to make Jesus known to others is through outreach events like our Fall Festival. The plans are coming together for our annual Festival and it is the perfect opportunity to open Centenary's doors to friends, neighbors and the whole community. Last year, an estimated 600 people attended the Fall Festival in a 2 hour period, the majority of them not being regular members of Centenary. People are drawn to a relaxed and fun event that can give them a glimpse of the people and the atmosphere of the church. Many people return 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 cornbread, and provide the children with fun games to play as an alternative to trick-or-treating. We also collect canned food for Inter-faith Ministries as a way to provide for others in our community. Hosting a successful 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 186 pounds of candy and most of that was given out to the children! More 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, Barbara Wyrick or Kim Reisz.

In His Service,  
Heather Daniel



### Staying “Fired Up” for Fellowship

A member of a small church, who previously had been attending services quite faithfully, stopped going. After a few weeks, the pastor decided to visit him.

It was a chilly evening. The pastor found the man at home alone, sitting before a blazing fire. Guessing the reason for his pastor's visit, the man welcomed him cautiously, led him to a comfortable chair near the fireplace and waited.

The pastor made himself at home but said nothing. In the silence, he contemplated the dance of the flames around the burning logs. After some minutes, the pastor took the fire tongs, carefully picked up a brightly burning ember and placed it to one side of the hearth all alone then he sat back in his chair, still maintaining the silence.

The host watched all this in quiet contemplation. As the one lone ember's flame flickered and diminished, there was a momentary glow and then its fire was no more. Soon it was cold and dead.

Not a word had been spoken since the initial greeting. The pastor glanced at his watch and decided that it was time to leave. He slowly stood up, picked up the cold, dead ember and placed it back in the middle of the fire. Soon it began to glow, once more with the light and warmth of the burning coals around it.

As the pastor reached the door to leave, his host said with tears in his eyes, “Thank you so much for your visit and especially for the fiery sermon. I shall be back in church next Sunday.”

We live in a world today, which tries to say too much with too little. Consequently, few listen. Sometimes the best sermons are the ones left unspoken.

Prioritize staying connected to fellow believers in true fellowship, and do not try to go it alone. Each one of us is responsible for the level of fellowship that we are experiencing at Centenary. Each person in our Church Family must be willing to not only “notice” when someone is not here, but be willing to reach out to encourage and “spark” that family member back into fellowship.

 **Centenary United Methodist  
Church**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

**BOUNCE HOUSE  
&  
GAMES**

# FALL FESTIVAL

**October 31st, 5:00 - 7:00 P.M.  
100% INDOORS, SAFE & FUN!**

**FREE  
FAMILY  
FUN!**

**EVERYONE  
WELCOME!**

**Suggested Donation  
for Entrance:  
One canned food  
item to benefit  
Inter-Faith Ministries.**

**Please, no scary  
or gory costumes!**



**Candy, Prizes  
& Food**

**Stew & Cornbread  
dinner will be  
available for a  
small cost.**

**Call for  
more information  
527-5441**