

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

September, 2011



When I was a kid growing up in Dinuba, school always started the Tuesday after Labor Day. Labor Day always seemed to me to be a last chance for a vacation before the school year and all it's work began. Little did I know...

Labor Day was first celebrated in Boston, on September 5, 1882. By 1889, President Grover Cleveland signed into law the federal holiday we now know

as Labor Day.

President Cleveland had experienced firsthand what can happen to a nation when that nation forgets that its true strength lies in its labor force. During President Cleveland's presidency the railroad employees went on strike, arguing against low wages and a very long 16 hour work day. That strike brought all transportation by rail to a standstill and cost this nation over eight million dollars in lost goods and services.

Labor Day is now meant to be a day of rest and remembrance. But what are we to remember?

Don't take me wrong, I do like holidays. It's just that, well to be honest, we seem to be more willing to accept the holiday as a day away from work, but we often fail to do the "remembering" part. We seem to forget the reason and the purpose behind the holiday.

With all due respect to President Cleveland, may I suggest that the reason we celebrate Labor Day should go much deeper than a settled labor dispute.

The original concept of a day off comes from God. In the Scriptures, first in Exodus and again in Deuteronomy, God commands that we take a Sabbath day, a day to rest (the word Sabbath does not mean seventh, but means rest.)

There is a practical reason for taking a day of rest. Many of us assume that this day off is meant to help us heal or refresh so we can be prepared for another six days of work. And, while that might be a side benefit of a day of rest, that's not its purpose.

The purpose of a day of rest is to teach us that our value is not found in what we produce (we can be guilty of believing that lie, can't we.) We give preferential treatment to those who are wealthy, those who are very intelligent, those who are greatly skilled etc., because they seem to "produce more or better" than the rest of us.

That is where the day of rest comes into play. It helps us remember that our value does not come from what we can produce. The very fact that God calls us to stop producing for one day out of every week suggests that our worth cannot come from our ability to produce (otherwise we would be working 24/7.) Our worth must come from the very fact that we are created by God, in God's image, and for God. We find our value in that reality.

I would like to share with you an illustration to help us see what this means. While I was attending seminary, a friend's in-laws traveled to Canada for a vacation. While there, my friend's father-in-law suffered a massive heart attack and died. My friend and his wife flew to Canada. She flew home with her mother, he drove their car, possessions, and his father-in-law's cremated remains back to Fresno.

When he got to the border, my friend was asked about the nature of his trip and what he was transporting back into the states. He explained that he was bringing the ashes of his father-in-law back to Fresno.

The officer on duty explained that there was a tax (a tariff) on everything leaving Canada. The only way around this tax was to have the box stamped "Contents of No Value."

My friend opted to pay the tax. Good decision. There was no way that box could be seen as holding "contents of no value." That box held the remains of a man, loved by family, treasured by God.

It's hard to fault the officer in charge of that border crossing. He was trying to help my friend avoid paying an unfair tax. But there is also no way we should ever view anyone as being of no value. That label "Of No Value" opposes everything God says. God says we are of such value that we are worth even the life of His only begotten Son. We are of tremendous value and not because of what we can produce.

This Labor Day, as we rest from our labors, let's reflect. Remember that a day of rest was a gift given to us by God to remind us that we are so much more than what we produce. We are precious in God's sight.

Shalom,

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

Pastor Bob

Wednesday Night Bible Study

September 14 – November 9

The Relationship Principles of Jesus Facilitated by Mark and Pam Vasche

Life is all about relationships - and it is in those relationships that we experience life's greatest joys as well as its greatest pains. Want to radically improve, even transform, what matters most in your relationships? Over the course of this study you'll explore and implement six foundational principles that Jesus taught and lived - principles that can bring new depth and health to all your relationships, including the difficult ones. This class will use the 40-day "Relationship Principles of Jesus" a book by Saddleback Church teaching pastor Tom Holladay, along with a short weekly video by Rick Warren.

Old Testament Study of the Book of Esther Taught by Pastor Bob Collins

Have you ever experienced an impossible situation? Have you ever watched as things have gone from bad to worse? Have you ever felt like things cannot get any worse and then they do? Have you ever felt like nothing can fix what is broken in your life?

If so, I believe the Old Testament Book of Esther will touch and bless you. Esther is about a time in the history of Israel when things were as bad as they could possibly be and nothing, not even God, could fix Israel's problems ... or so it felt to the Israelites. And then...well, that's what the class is about, isn't it? Come and see what happens!

Choices and Challenges: Life Lessons from 1 and 2 Kings Taught by Brian Ralston

So often we Christians struggle to make the right choices when we face major challenges. God's Word provides us with much wisdom for these tough times. The best help often comes through the examples of the faithful and unfaithful people found in the Bible. Come and join us in a journey through two lesser known but powerful Old Testament books, as we seek out practical wisdom for our modern lives.

5:30 Dinner in the Fellowship Center
\$4 for Adults and \$2 for Children
6:30 Classes for adults and children
with nursery for infants and toddlers

Fall Spirit Salon



Women of Centenary:

You are warmly welcomed to the Fall Gathering that heralds the beginning of Spirit Salon's new session! Come join us for brunch and fellowship at 9:00 am on Wednesday, September 7.

Women just like you who come seeking a closer walk with Christ will welcome you, for it is in fellowship with other seekers that we find encouragement to continue our walk in the Scriptures.

On September 14th, we begin a 12-week study in a book by Joanna Weaver: *Having a Mary Heart in a Martha World*. One reviewer wrote "With candor, humor and passion, Joanna Weaver invites us to cultivate a 'Mary heart', that delights in time with God, and assigns Him top priority. Yet she doesn't discard the service-oriented Martha. Instead, she wisely and practically models how to balance the Mary and Martha qualities in us all. I especially appreciate her thoughts on expressing lavish love – love to God and to humanity." Judith Couchman

The \$10 book will be available on September 7. Come, join the fellowship! Spirit Salon meets in Room 6 (The Fireside Room), beginning at 9:00 am each Wednesday, and dismisses at 11:00 am. Child care is available right next door. More information is available from Dale Fruechtenicht: 869-4391

Beth Moore Monday Night Women's Study

September 12, 2011

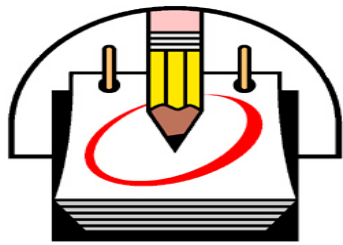
6:00-8:00 PM in the Fireside Room (Room 6)

Believing God: Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith

Do you take God at His Word, believing what He has told us, or do you just believe in His existence and the salvation He offers? Our first response is usually, "Lord, of course I believe in You!" But the real question is not if we believe in God, but do we believe God?

Based on Isaiah 43:10, *Believing God: Experiencing a Fresh Explosion of Faith* explores what it means to believe God. We will study the lives of Abraham, Moses and others from Hebrews 11 as examples of persons who believed God. Beth will encourage us to deepen our own trust in God and receive a fresh word from Him.

This is the very first Beth Moore study we did three years ago. By popular demand of those who have been a part of her studies with us, we have decided to repeat this study and recapture the richness Beth shares of our relationship with God. You do not have to have gone through the study the first time to be a part of this class. And if you did the study before you are encouraged to attend again. Please contact Roxann in the church office at 527-5441 if you would like to attend so that we will know how many books to order and how many chairs to set up. If you already have the book you will not need to acquire another one.



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.

SEPTEMBER



- | | | |
|-----------|----|---|
| September | 4 | Women's Fun and Fellowship "First Sunday" |
| September | 5 | Labor Day/Church Office Closed |
| September | 7 | Spirit Salon Fall Brunch |
| September | 8 | SPRC Meeting |
| September | 11 | Membership Class |
| September | 12 | Board of Trustees Meeting |
| September | 12 | Beth Moore Women's Bible Study Begins |
| September | 14 | Wednesday Night Bible Study Begins |
| September | 15 | Preschool Advisory Board Meeting |
| September | 15 | Missions Team Meeting |
| September | 19 | Finance Committee Meeting |
| September | 26 | Ad Council Meeting |
| September | 30 | Women's Fun and Fellowship Lunch/Cards |



| | | | |
|------|--------------------|------|------------------|
| 9/1 | SHARON BYRNE | 9/13 | DEBBI AMERINE |
| 9/1 | KIM REISZ | 9/14 | OLEN BURNETT |
| 9/1 | GREG DEMERS | 9/15 | MYLA DUNNE |
| 9/2 | BILL MOORAD | 9/15 | ROD MAYER |
| 9/2 | VANNY LEY | 9/15 | JEFF WOLFSWINKEL |
| 9/2 | GLENN RITCHEY | 9/16 | MONA SIMAS |
| 9/2 | JULIE STARN | 9/16 | DENISE MAYER |
| 9/2 | JENNER SWANSON | 9/16 | NANCY HILL |
| 9/2 | JOHN WALLACE | 9/16 | VERONIKA BECK |
| 9/3 | JOYCE PALMAYMESA | 9/16 | SHARON BENSON |
| 9/3 | ASHLEIGH HINRICH | 9/17 | PHILIP CHHAP |
| 9/3 | DAVID SOUN | 9/17 | HEATHER BACH |
| 9/4 | ALICE EISENMAN | 9/17 | LINDA GAMBLE |
| 9/4 | SOUN BUN | 9/17 | JOHN DAVIS |
| 9/4 | CHERYLYN KASPERIAN | 9/18 | REBECCA PADILLA |
| 9/5 | MAKENZIE MILDROM | 9/19 | AMY CHILDS |
| 9/6 | LAURA DUAMARELL | 9/19 | NATHAN ANDERSEN |
| 9/7 | BRYAN HAYS | 9/19 | BARBARA JOHNSON |
| 9/8 | YOTH SATH | 9/20 | THELMA KNEASS |
| 9/8 | GARY ZIMMERMAN | 9/20 | ANGELA BERRY |
| 9/9 | JOSEPHINE KOOMSON | 9/21 | EVA WYCKOFF |
| 9/10 | MICHELLE DECKER | 9/22 | KAREN BUCK |
| 9/11 | OEUNG OEUN | 9/22 | JEAN HALL |
| 9/11 | WENDY ROBERTSON | 9/22 | CLIFFORD HARRIS |
| 9/11 | KEN STEPHENS | 9/22 | JACKIE ZIMMERMAN |
| 9/13 | DAVID OWEN | 9/23 | PHILIP HEGEDUS |
| 9/13 | DICK HAVENS | 9/23 | WILLIE LABARBERA |
| 9/13 | SHARON DEMERS | 9/24 | DAVID SCOTT |
| 9/13 | LOIS CAMP | 9/24 | KEITH DECKER |
| | | 9/25 | DOT CUMMINS |
| | | 9/25 | REBECCA GONZALES |
| | | 9/25 | JASON VASCHE |
| | | 9/2 | JILL HUMPHREY |
| | | 9/26 | ED HAVEN |
| | | 9/26 | JANE HOCHREN |
| | | 9/27 | MARY ANN VLACH |
| | | 9/28 | RENATA LAMBERT |
| | | 9/28 | CARL BECKWITH |
| | | 9/28 | PAT CLARK |

It is not our intention to overlook your birthday. If your birthday was not listed, please call the church office @ 527-5441, so that we can update our records. Thank You!

Women's Fun and Fellowship

We will be adding a new gathering to our fun and fellowship! Starting September fourth, after second service, we will have "First Sunday" of the month lunch (location to be determined.) After lunch, those that wish to join will be going to see a movie at Regal Cinemas. Contact Lin Herron for more information at 869-6414.

Centenary College Scholarship Recipients 2011-2012

Cody Daniel... the son of Ben and Heather Daniel, is beginning his second year at California State University, Monterey Bay with a major in Kinesiology. He plans to attend graduate school following completion of a Bachelor of Science degree and then work in the field of physical therapy. Being part of the Centenary Church family has been integral to Cody's growing faith. He attends Shoreline Community Church with friends from school and knows that being part of a church family will always be a priority in his life both now and in the future.



Allen Mutuma...comes from a family that takes the pursuit of education very seriously. His sisters, Norah and Brenda, were also Centenary scholarship recipients and his mother, Margaret, just received her Doctorate in Education. Allen will begin his first year of study at the University of California, Santa Barbara, in September. Since air and space travel have always held an

immense fascination for him, he will be pursuing studies in the fields of aeronautical and aerospace engineering. Allen knows that this will be a significant challenge. He believes that through faith, perseverance, "one really good education," and strength from God, he will be able to achieve his dreams.

Elisabeth Hellman...is at a very exciting point in her life. On August 20th, she became the bride of Jake Oxenrider and in just a few weeks, will be starting the Master of Science in Nursing and Neonatal Nurse Practitioner Program at the University of California, San Francisco. Upon completion of the two year program, she plans to pursue a career as a Neonatal Nurse Practitioner in an underserved region, such as the Central Valley, she also hopes to work in a community clinic, providing follow-up care to former NICU patients. Elisabeth is honored to serve as God's hands and feet for newborn infants and their families. Answering the call to nursing has given her the opportunity to share the hope of Christ and the healing comfort His love provides.



Choir Rehearsals Resume

The choir has been on summer hiatus and enjoying the incredible changes in the weather.

We are all looking forward to a new choir year and some exciting music to present to you.

Choir rehearsals begin again on Thursday, September 1 at 7:00 p.m. in room 2. We hope many of you will join us this year.

All choir members will be meeting for a one-day workshop on Saturday, September 17th, from 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. in room 2 and 6, to really dig into our late Fall and Christmas advent music. Do you want to make a short term commitment and just sing for Christmas? Then come to the workshop to learn how you can participate. Please come join us this Fall in praising God with joyful noises! Hallelujah!

Melanie Tabai,
Communications Shepherd

Board of Trustees Report for July and August

1. Unplanned expenses: \$500 for new push mower, \$800 for new bagger attachment for ride-on mower and \$2,400 for industrial grade garbage disposal for the Fellowship Center Kitchen.
2. Future projected need for this fall: Outside Christmas lights as our old neon lights desperately need replacement. Many sections failed last December. These lights are a part of our outreach as they identify and beautify our church buildings for others to see.
3. Fall work day to be scheduled for a Saturday in October. Date to be announced in the October Circuit Rider.



I would like to thank my church family for your kindness, love, prayers, visits, flowers and cards during my recent hospital stay.
Blessings to you,
Betty Hevrin



It is almost September and we have already started our new school year. In August, we said good-bye to some of our families who have been with us for five to ten years. One of them had three children who went through our program from infancy to pre-K. When you know people so well, they are like family. It is truly like having a very large family that keeps growing every year! The good news is we have several new children in our classrooms with several more starting in September. We are ready to dive into a new school year!

God is so good! We had a fantastic month of August. The children learned about the trees and animals that live in "God's Wondrous Woodlands." Several of the children talked about their camping experiences and family trips to cabins in the mountains. We're so glad our families were able to share this wonderful experience together in our beautiful woodlands.

On August 4th, the children went on a bear hunt. They followed paw prints to find a big brown bear hiding behind a door. They also found a bag full of gummy bear treats to share with all of their friends. Big imaginations make bear hunting so much fun!

The children also had a great time on our "Camp Day." They set up spaces for their campsites and cooked on pretend camp stoves they made with blocks. They had story time around a pretend camp fire with only a camp lantern for light. After a light snack they made s'mores and were very comfortable napping in their sleeping bags.

The children learned about health and nutrition the last two weeks of August. They learned that God wants us to take good care of our bodies. The children learned that eating good foods, exercising, getting plenty of sleep, and keeping our bodies clean are all very important ways to help keep our bodies healthy and strong.

We are looking forward to the month of September and getting to know all our new friends. Our themes for September will be "Making New Friends" and "Community Helpers." Our chapel themes will be *love* (I Cor. 13:4), *joy* (Prov. 19:17) and *obey* (Eph. 6:1).

Thank you for your continued prayers, love and support. I feel so blessed and honored to be doing God's work at Centenary and I want to thank you for the opportunity to do so!

In His Love,
Janet Lewis
Preschool Director



Impossible is Nothing

~ B. Akina

Sometimes I feel like God is pulling my leg.

Modesto, like many other places, can be a rough town. We see a lot of ugliness in the way humans treat each other, and it can wear on the spirit. But just when I start to get cynical, God loves to throw a curve ball at me.

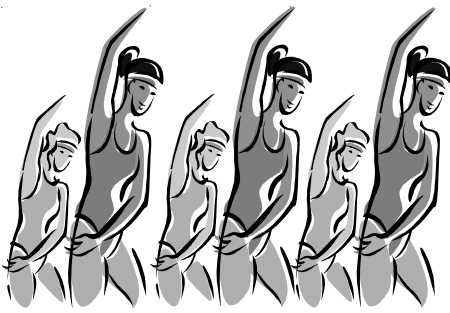
Yesterday I was at a store picking up supplies for a youth group game. I was carrying three items and standing directly behind a young couple pushing a shopping cart piled to the heavens with all manner of odds and ends. I've seen the way customers behave in line - they assert themselves... assertively, to say the least. So I wasn't expecting to get out of there anytime soon.

I had spent too much time dawdling in the aisles and ogling the merchandise, and realized too late that I wasn't going to be able to make it back to church in time to teach my next guitar lesson. While I was pondering sending an apologetic text message to my guitar student, the man ahead of me motioned to his wife, "Baby... let this guy go first." "Baby" didn't protest, she just stepped aside to let me through.

I was floored, and it shamed me that I was floored. I hadn't sighed loudly or adopted an annoyed/frustrated look, but in my heart of hearts I never expected that a person would delay their progress to help a stranger. I realized, in that moment, that God loves to throw His beloved children for a loop.

It wouldn't have been the end of the world if I'd been late to the lesson - I don't think God desperately needed me to be on time that day - but I do think He got a kick out of reminding me just how *subtly* He works, and how much He cares about us even in the most trivial of moments.

Message received, God. I love You.



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

Aerobics Affects Blood Pressure

Have you had your blood pressure checked only to be surprised that it was higher than you thought? It is sometimes referred to as “the silent killer,” because in most cases there are no apparent symptoms. High blood pressure is linked to heart disease and stroke. You may not be aware that aerobic exercise can help to lower blood pressure. How are high blood pressure and exercise connected? Regular physical activity makes your heart stronger. A stronger heart can pump more blood with less effort. If your heart can work less to pump, the force on your arteries decreases, lowering your blood pressure. Unfortunately, there’s no elevator to good health...you have to take the stairs!

**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**



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

As a new school year begins, we have big plans in Children’s Ministry at Centenary! A new year of Sunday School will kick-off on September 11th with classes for every grade level. Our teachers are eager to dig into the Bible with our kids and help them relate what they learn to their world today. We’re putting a new spin on our Back-to-School Party and incorporating those activities into our kick-off in order to get us excited for a new Sunday School year. (This will occur instead of a separate party in the afternoon.)

Our fall session of Wednesday Night Bible Study will start the second Wednesday of September with classes for the whole family. We anticipate many children coming to have fun, learning more about God’s Word and hanging out with their Church Family.

Our new 2nd Graders have new Bibles to read this year thanks to you, our generous congregation! Last year, I was able to order more Bibles than we initially needed, and throughout the year, we were able to give them to new children as they attended. Their faces lit up when I gave them their own Bible with their name in it. Many of these children have continued to attend with their families. Your faithfulness to our Children’s Ministry and sharing Jesus with our kids never ceases to amaze me. I am so grateful to be part of a Church Family that places such value on God’s children and bringing them to know Him.

In His Service,
Heather Daniel

Adding to our Church Library Collection

The Church library is building a children’s and family DVD section. Please consider donating your Christian DVD’s that you no longer use. Bring them to the library on Sunday, or drop them through the book slot on the door with a note attached. Your help is appreciated!

A few of the titles that we are looking for:

Auto B. Good Series
Max Lucado’s Hermie Series
Veggie Tales
Joseph King of Dreams

Prince of Egypt
Secrets of Jonathan Sperry
Adventures in Odyssey Series
3.2.1. Penguins

The Torchlighter Series
Gigi: God’s Princess Series
Charlie Brown Christmas





**Centenary United Methodist
Church**

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

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED




Youth Group Changes




**Beginning Wednesday, September 7th, our youth group
will divide into two groups.**

Jr. High 6th-8th grade and High School 9-12



**Sundays beginning September 11,
Jr. High Group led by Wendy Blair,
will meet in room 19 at 10:30 am.**

**High School Group under Steve Collins
will meet in room 4-5
at 10:30 am.**



**Wednesdays, beginning September 7
Jr. High Group led by Jevon Swanson
and John Stanton will meet
in room 19 at 6 pm**

**High School Group led by Steve Collins
and Ben Akina will meet
in room 4/5 at 6 pm**

**All youth can be picked from
room 4/5 at 8 pm**

