

# THE ROCK BLOCK



## CENTENARY YOUTH GROUP NEWSLETTER

MARCH & APRIL 2009



Greetings to all of you out there in Newsletter Land! I hope this newsletter article finds you all well. I just wanted to drop you all a line and tell you about a favorite memory of mine. Once when I was on the Jungle Cruise ride at Disneyland, the boat captain told a cheesy joke, (and no I'm not mad about copyright infringement). He told the passengers there that some of the rocks that we had seen were made of limestone. He then promptly told us that he was telling us this useful fact so that we wouldn't take the limestone "for granite"..... Yup that was about the same response that we gave him on the boat. But cheesiness aside, it made me think about all of the many blessings that I take for granted in my own life. I attended a Christian high school and was blessed to be able to learn about God in a school setting. Unfortunately, I treated my Bible class as an academic exercise (Get an "A") and not as a chance to memorize, learn, and train myself. Please take a moment to look around and explore what you might be taking for granted (Parents, friends, the awesome grace that is given us in Christ Jesus, and maybe even youth group). Sure we do fun stuff, but this is an important time to grow in your own personal faith in Jesus. In other words, don't waste it. Until plaid and side burns go out of style, make mine The Rock!

Steve Collins

### Quiet Time Bible Study: Mark

I know, the words "quiet time" may cause some uncomfortable feelings. Many of us feel guilty or overwhelmed by the thought of a daily quiet time. We lack motivation or simply time.

I encourage you to pray about it. Ask God to help you to find the time to pray and to read your Bible. If you miss a few days, start where you left off. If you need some help in studying the Bible or would like a new study, check out this month's youth quiet time study about the **Gospel of Mark**. This Easter, prepare your heart by studying Jesus' ministry and his death and resurrection. The study should be available at Sunday School on March 1.

SOMETHING TO THINK ABOUT!

### Cinnamon Roll Fundraiser February 1, 2009

We raised over a \$1000 to help bring down the cost of Winter Retreat!

A special thanks to Deanna Hutton for the careful planning in preparing and baking the cinnamon rolls!

**Thank You!**  
**THANK YOU!**



EASTER IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER. THERE WILL BE NO SUNDAY SCHOOL EASTER MORNING. CHECK OUT THE EASTER SERVICES AT 7, 9, AND 11 A.M. THERE IS NO YOUTH APRIL 15TH!

### Habitat for Humanity February 7, 2009

The youth helped prepare

alot for a new home! Awesome job everybody! Thanks for giving up your Saturday and assisting a family in taking a few steps closer to having their own home! Thank you to youth, youth staff and parents for your help!



# ROCK BLOCK BULLETIN BOARD

## Redwood Christian Park Summer Camps (A.K.A. Steve's Favorite Place in the World)

Many of the members of the youth group will head back to Redwood Christian Park this summer for high school or junior high camp. If you have never attended, check it out this summer!

Some of the activities at camp include:

Swimming, hiking, bible studies, bookstore, paintball, snack bar, 40' rock climbing tower, basketball, ropes course featuring a zipline, leap of faith and a challenge course high in the trees, ping pong, campfire, exciting evening meetings with genuine worship and dynamic speakers, beach day and messy games.

**Junior High Camp • Sunday, July 12 to Saturday, July 18, 2009**

• Cost: \$320

**High School Camp • Sunday, July 19 to Saturday, July 25, 2009**

• Cost: \$330

Check our RCP's website at <http://redwoodchristianpark.com> or contact Steve with any questions. Also, if the cost would prevent you from attending camp, please talk with Steve to look at options to help assist you in attending.

### What is your favorite part of RCP?

**Taylor Barnett**- Getting to hang out with my friends, learning more about God, and I look forward to Christy throwing goldfish at me when I sleep (j/k).

**Christy Daniel**- Playing Ping Pong

**Heather Richards**-The Oatmeal

**Billy Daniel** - The creek

**Alicia Still**- How you can constantly feel God's presence: In the quietness, the lessons, and the people.

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IF YOU CAN IDENTIFY WHO THIS MEMBER OF THE YOUTH GROUP IS, CONTACT STEVE AT 505-4483. THE FIRST PERSON WITH THE CORRECT ANSWER WILL WIN A SPECTACULAR PRIZE. ONE GUESS PER PERSON!

- Future Career:** Chef
- Favorite Place to Eat:** Home Town Buffet
- Favorite subject:** Math
- Favorite Animals:** Dogs & cats
- Place I would like to travel to:** Hawaii

MYSTERY YOUTH FOR  
JANUARY/FEBRUARY  
PATRICK CLEARY

## YOU'VE BEEN ROCKED!

### Steve and Lindy are Rock'd

On January 3<sup>rd</sup>, Steve, Lindy and baby Joshua woke up to a Christmas tree lot in their front yard. Pictures proved both parent and youth participation!



### Hang out at the Wolfwinkel's Courtney Gets Rock'd

Courtney Nawrocki was thrown a Surprise Birthday party on January 30. Since her Birthday's not for a few months, it truly was a surprise! Thanks to Courtney's mom for the Barney Cake and Barney decorations!



## College Corner

College on the mind? We have again hunted down some former Rock youth members to find out what helped them to adjust to their first semester in college and how they found a church when they moved away. This month's former members include **Rachel Wade** (Freshman at California State University, Long Beach, Downey High Alumni), **Natalie Hellman** (Sophomore at Seattle Pacific University, Beyer High Alumni), and **Sarah Harden** (Freshman at Azusa Pacific, Downey High Alumni).

### 1. What helped you to adjust to college your first semester?

#### **Rachel**

When I arrived in Long Beach, I didn't know anyone, but I didn't let that phase me. I made sure I **picked up things that I loved** when I was in Modesto: I joined choir, took dance classes and even pushed myself to become involved in new things like intramural soccer and the Long Beach State Rowing Team. **Becoming involved in what the campus had to offer** was key in adjusting to my first semester. I made so many friends, ones that I know will last throughout my time here and probably even past that! It almost seems impossible that I came here not knowing anyone.

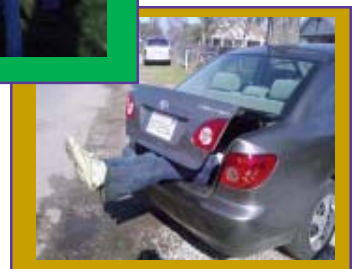
#### **Natalie**

I was actually pretty overwhelmed at first. But the best thing for me was to **force myself to meet new people** and especially to meet with people one-on-one. Feeling like I was getting to know people on a more personal level helped so much.

#### **Sarah**

There are certain things that you never want to happen to you. One of those things is having a bad college experience. I am a firm believer that wherever you go, you will get a college experience and I promise that it will be **nothing that you expected**. Preparing for such an event is hard. How do I pick a school? My answer, **Pray**. How do I make friends? Laugh and take every opportunity to talk to new people and remember you are in college; it is okay to ask for peoples numbers... well for "study groups." How should I decorate my room? **Get posters, the softest blankets and make sure you have a refrigerator!** The one thing that I wish I would have known is that **conflict is okay**. You are living with someone in a closet, literally! Be upfront with your roommate and make sure you are on the same page when it comes to food, music, studying, friends and sharing. This is very important! College is great. **Before you make your mind up about your school you need to give yourself at least a semester**. You need to adjust.

## MAKING MEMORIES ROCK YOUTH GROUP WINTER '09



# THE ROCK BLOCK



**Our Youth Staff**  
Steve Collins, Director of Youth Ministry  
Lindy Collins, Youth Staff Volunteer  
Brian Pepelnjak, Youth Staff Volunteer  
Melissa Sparks, Youth Staff Volunteer  
Kim Wolfswinkel, Youth Staff Volunteer (Our newest volunteer!)

## Centenary United Methodist Church

1911 Toyon Avenue  
Modesto, CA 95350  
(209) 527-5441

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

# March 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
1 Youth Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	2	3	4  The Rock 6-8p.m.	5	6	7
8  Youth Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	9	10	11  The Rock 6-8p.m.	12	13 <b>RCP</b> <b>WINTER RETREAT</b> <b>GET ENCOURAGED!</b>	14
15 <b>RETURN FROM RCP</b>	16	17	18 The Rock 6-8p.m.	19	20	21
22 Youth Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	23	24	25 The Rock 6-8p.m.	26	27	28
29 Youth Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	30	31				

# April 2009

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
			1 The Rock 6-8p.m.	2	3	4
5 Youth Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	6	7	8 The Rock 6-8p.m.	9	10	11
12  No Sunday School <b>EASTER</b>	13	14	15 No Youth Group!	16	17	18
19 Youth Sunday School 10:30 a.m. - 11:30 a.m. Girl & Guy Hangout 12p.m. to 4p.m.	20	21	22 The Rock 6-8p.m.	23	24	25
26 Youth Sunday School 10:30 - 11:30 a.m.	27	28				



If you are unable to attend a youth event due to the cost, please let Steve know. We do not want any youth excluded from events due to cost.



**Winter Retreat @ Redwood Christian Park**

Friday, March 13 to Sunday, March 15  
Cost: \$75.00

**THE ROCK BLOCK  
EVENT DETAILS !**

Are you ready for a weekend at RCP? Need some encouragement in your walk with God? Has it been over two years since you've seen Steve stuff 20 sausages in his mouth? Come join us for a weekend at RCP! Whether it is your first time or 10th time, come and experience Winter Retreat at RCP! Call Steve with any questions, 505-4483

Please contact Steve if the cost of the retreat may prevent you from attending.

**Lessons on a Biblical View of Sexual Purity and Dating**

Wednesday March 4 and March 11  
6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m.

**Come check out Steve's lessons on making wise choices in the area of dating and sexual purity.**

The topics for each night will include dealing with sexual temptation and some practical examples to help you make wise choices. After each teaching, you will join a small group based on your grade and gender. Small group leaders include Steve Collins, Brian Pepelnjak, Lyndi Pepelnjak, Melissa Sparks, and Kim Wolfswinkel.



**Generation Change**

(Dave Ramsey's Youth Version of (Financial Peace University) Study beginning at end of April

**Girls' and Guys' Hang out**

Sunday, April 19, 2009  
12 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Guys at Steve's  
Come for an afternoon of pizza and video games!  
1516 Bandera Lane  
236-0238

Girls Hang out @ Kim Wolfswinkel's Lunch and Girl Stuff  
Come for an afternoon of movies, chocolate, and hanging out.  
1217 Chehalem Dr  
578-9782

Did you know that students entering college are offered an average of **eight credit cards** in their first week of school(Jumpstart Coalition for Personal Financial Literacy, Annual Summary)?

How can you make wise choices in a world that encourages you to spend money you don't have to buy things you don't need to impress people you don't even like(Dave Ramsey)?

As a teen, who can we turn to for wisdom when it comes to our own choices about money? Dave Ramsey (creator of Financial Peace University) has created a teen focused study called *Generation Change* that points teens towards a biblical view about money. The youth group will begin this 4-6 week study at the end of April. There will be a small cost towards materials. As always, we want everyone who is able to participate in the study and ask if cost is an issue please let Steve know