

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

May 2009



“One of them, an expert in the law, tested him with this question: ‘Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the law?’ Jesus replied: ‘Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: Love your neighbor as yourself. All the Law and

Prophets hang on these two commandments.’ ”
~Matthew 22:35-40

These are among the most well known and well loved of Jesus’ words. What tremendous teaching, to love God with all of your being and love your neighbor. This is indeed the heart of the Christian life.

Unfortunately, too many Christians have a hard time defining “neighbor.” If I were to ask you, who is your neighbor, you might think of the parable of Jesus - the good Samaritan who stopped to help the man in need. You might identify neighbor as “those in need.” Or, you might say that the neighbor is the person next door, the people across the street, even people in our city. I wonder if we would ever identify neighbor as the people we live with, those in our own homes?

We are so slow to love the neighbor under the same roof. Sadly, home has become the one place where it is almost acceptable to “not be nice.” It is tragic how we will care so much about total strangers, being so polite to them, and so uncaring to our very own family.

Our first call as Christians should always be to our families. Those people, above all others, should be the first to see Jesus living in us. Thus, during the month of May as a part of our *Committed to the Cause of Christ* series, we will work together to build strong families.

Maybe you know someone who would benefit from our study time together. Why not encourage them to join you for worship. “Each one reach one” was a tremendous success for our Easter services. Why not

continue that outreach as we work together to strengthen the family?

Shalom,



Pastor Bob

Speaking of strengthening relationships, remember Friday, May 8th, we will be showing the movie “Fireproof” followed by a one day workshop on Saturday, May 9th. Call the Church office to sign up (527-5441).

Building Strong Families...Together



Love is Forgiveness, Compassion, Submission and Respect

A healthy marriage is made up of compassion, submission, respect and forgiveness. Did you notice that I didn’t even use the word “love?” That’s because all of the above constitutes love. When you demonstrate these character traits with others you are essentially turning these words into loving action.

Couples ought to be respecting each other for trying to do what is right. They ought to be supporting and encouraging one another in the Word of God and helping each other to be all they can be in the respective positions given to them by God. This is love! This is marriage.

Written by Angie Lewis

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“FIREPROOF” ENCORE MOVIE NIGHT

FIREPROOF



YOUR MARRIAGE

**If you missed it the first time around there's still time to “Fireproof” your marriage!
Friday, May 8 ~ 6:30-8:30 PM ~ Sanctuary**

“FIREPROOF” YOUR MARRIAGE WORKSHOP

One day workshop to equip you to protect your marriage from disaster.

**Saturday, May 9
8:30 AM – 4:00 PM
\$25/couple
\$12.50/individual
Includes materials,
continental breakfast
& lunch**

**Child care available for
nursery through 6th grade.
(Please provide a sack
lunch for your child.)**

**Typically, of course,
marriage workshops are
for married couples.
But, if your spouse does
not wish to participate
and you do, please come!
We will have small group
opportunities for you, too!**

**Call the church office
at 527-5441 to
sign up.**

**And don't forget to invite other couples you know to join you.
Share this experience with friends, family and co-workers.
Couples of all ages and stages can benefit in Fireproofing their marriages.**

Church Family News



Hearty Hash Brown Soup Served at the 2009 Women's Conference



Serves 8

Ingredients

- 1 lb. frozen shredded hash browns
- 2 cups water plus 2 bouillon cubes (I use 2 cups chicken broth)
- 1/2 large onion, chopped
- 1/3 cup sliced celery (I use 1/2 cup and include the tops)
- 1/4 tsp celery seed (I don't use)
- 1/8 tsp pepper

- 2 (10.75 oz) cans cream of chicken soup
- 2 cups milk
- 1 tsp garlic salt
- 1 tbsp fresh parsley, chopped
- 4-6 slices bacon, cut in 1/4" to 1/2" strips and cooked
- 1-2 cups grated cheddar cheese

Directions

1. In a Dutch oven or soup kettle, combine the first 6 ingredients
2. Bring to a boil
3. Reduce heat, cover and simmer for 20 minutes. Vegetables should be tender
4. Mash vegetables with cooking liquid (I use a hand held blender or potato masher)
5. Add soup and milk (I blend them together until smooth before adding), stir until smooth
6. Add parsley, garlic salt (I feel there is enough salt from the bacon), cooked bacon and cheese
7. Simmer for 10 minutes or until heated through
8. Bon Appetit!

Deanna Hutton



Home with the Lord

Please pray for the family and friends of:
Roger Holmes who passed away on 3/30/09
Nick Bacca who passed away on 4/23/09



Births in the Church Family

Jackson Michael Bottoms born on 4/25/09
to parents Julie & Joseph Bottoms and
grandparents Lance & Sharon Underwood
and great-grandmother Beverly Underwood

Special Concerns



Please keep these members of our
Church family in your prayers:

Wendy Robertson	Gail Bucheli
Mimi Fisher	Anita Weiss
Alexis Eriski	Deanna Hutton
Kay Mooreland	Helen Helton

Weekly Events

SUNDAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY RM. 15/16 - 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.

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY- PERKO'S RESTAURANT 6:00 A.M.
 SPIRIT SALON - RM. 6 - 9:00 A.M.
 WNL DINNER/FELLOWSHIP CENTER - 5:30 P.M.
 WEDNESDAY NITE LIVE - 6:30 - 8:00 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.

SATURDAY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE - 6:30 P.M.



Events & Meetings In May

May 3	Communion/Food Bank Sunday
May 8	"Fireproof" Movie Night
May 9	"Fireproof" Marriage Workshop
May 10	Mother's Day & Women's Sing
May 11	Board of Trustees Meeting
May 14	SPRC Meeting
May 15	Youth Laser Tag Lock-In Event
May 18	Finance Committee Meeting
May 21	Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
May 24	Graduate Send-Off
May 25	Memorial Day - Church Office Closed
May 27	Final Spring WNL Session



5/2	VALERIE CHANTHAVONG	5/12	VIRGINIA SCOTT
5/2	KYLE PERRY	5/12	JOYCE WILLIAMS
5/2	LAUREN RASH	5/13	NIKKI WHORTON
5/3	CHEA IM	5/13	CHRIS VASCHE
5/3	STEVE HARDEN	5/13	FELICIA NEFF
5/3	HON CHEA	5/15	ROGER METTLER
5/4	WILLIAM DECKER	5/15	LANAYA BLACK
5/4	CORY STRUCK	5/15	JANE EISENHauer
5/6	SAVOEUN CHEA	5/16	BOB USIAK
5/6	LUKE BARNETT	5/16	BRIAN FRUECHTENICHT
5/6	NICK RICHARS	5/16	GEORGE JACOBS
5/6	KATIE WADE	5/17	JOANNE DIX
5/6	ELIJAH LEY	5/17	JOHN EISENMAN
5/7	SEAK NGANN	5/17	JOHN STARN
5/7	ALAN SPARKS	5/18	LYUI SO
5/7	VIVIAN THEISEN	5/18	DARLIENE LOWRY
5/7	MARVYL BRAUN	5/18	GARY SIMONSON
5/8	DORIS BUUS	5/19	MARISA SHRADER
5/8	JIM VANDERWAL	5/21	JERRY LOVELADY
5/9	SYDNEY YOUNGBLOOD	5/21	JEAN BAUGHN
5/9	DUANE HUTTON	5/21	VALERIE GONZALES
5/10	JULI RHODES	5/22	MIKE KERR
5/11	RYAN SHANKS	5/24	LINDA LARCHE
5/11	ROLF BUCHELI	5/24	RANDY OLSON
5/11	CHERYL COLLINS	5/24	DAVID SMITH
5/11	CAROLYN JOHNSON	5/24	KATIE TORRANCE
5/12	LARRY KLOAK	5/25	BILL REISZ
		5/25	DAVID STREET
		5/26	LANCE UNDERWOOD
		5/27	JOHN WEATHERLY
		5/28	KURT WEINHEIMER
		5/28	CINDY BROUGHTON
		5/28	DORIS JOHNSON
		5/30	PAUL GREGORY
		5/31	LINDA BRACHT
		5/31	RANDALL HILL

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!



2009 First Quarter Update From the Finance Committee:
 Net Revenue over Expenses is \$1,288.00. However, expenses are over the budgeted amount by \$ 5,041.83. Finance Committee Members: Mike Hellman (Chairperson), Marlene Urban (Secretary), Kathy Boyd, Ted Bracht, Paul Ehrmann, Bruce Norris, Ryan Redner, John Wallace. Staff Members: Pastor Bob Collins, Administrator Brad Barnes.

INTERESTED IN A JOB IN A CITRUS GROVE? I have a friend who applied for employment at one. The foreman of the grove asked, “Have you had any experience picking lemons?” “Yes, I have. I’ve been divorced four times!” Well, the church library doesn’t have any books about working amongst fruit trees but we have many books that might be just what you are looking for. Lots of categories to choose from: Biography, Fiction, Christian Living, Bible study, etc. Children’s selections range from Pre-school to Youth. The latter will be interested in “The One Minute Bible for Students” by Dr. John Kohlenberger. This contains devotions for daily living in a different format with helps. On the Bible Study shelves adults will find “Friendships of Purpose” from the Friend to Friend series, This is a study of Ephesians. It is warm, easy to understand, and filled with visual imagery.

Everyone can enjoy the humor and wisdom in a series by Effie Wilder. If you have been following these books, we now have two more on the Fiction shelves. The third one is “Older But Wilder.” The author gently pokes fun at growing older and reflects on the challenges that seniors face and on the wisdom gained.

Book four is “One More Time (Just For the Fun of It.)” This, too, is written with humor and grace. The author lets us know that there is much to celebrate even though there are things to lament also. These are “Guidepost” type books. Lisa Whelchel has written “Creative Construction,” a Focus on the Family book. This is to help one win the discipline battle. Find this in the FamilyLife section.

—Margaret Bell



**Coming to Spirit Salon
in May:
The Importance of
the Word “The”**

Have you ever struggled with the “all paths lead to God” topic? Of course, we would never talk about this out loud, but is Christianity as we know it really the ONLY way? We can understand that world religions not acknowledging Jesus are “wrong paths,” but what about those religions that do acknowledge Jesus in some way?

Jesus Himself said it best: “I am The Way and The Truth and The Life. No one comes to the Father except through Me.” (John 14:6)

On Wednesday mornings, May 13th and 20th come join us in the Fireside Room, as Brian Ralston leads us in a look at several religions that would like us

to consider them to be “just other denominations” of Christianity, and to understand why their own view of Jesus makes this impossible. John 14:6 is the key.

Spirit Salon Fellowship time begins at 9:00 am, and Brian’s discussion will begin at 10:00 for an hour. Child Care is provided next door in room 4.



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

Headaches and Exercise

If you frequently have tension headaches, here’s more motivation to get fit. Some research suggests that those who suffer from headaches show a decrease in frequency and intensity of headaches when they increase and improve upon their physical workouts. Working out calms the body by helping your brain release endorphins which help decrease pain and promote feelings of well-being.

A note to migraine sufferers: While aerobic exercise appears not to be as beneficial as it is to those with tension headaches, some experts believe that low-impact, low intensity exercise at the first signs of migraine may be helpful. There have been several times when I’ve had a headache coming in to the classroom, but left feeling more relaxed and the headache has disappeared!

I think that exercise can renew and refresh our body the same way that attending church service can do that for our mind and spirit.

**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**



DIRECTOR OF CHILDREN'S MINISTRIES

Whew!
April was a very busy month in Children's Ministry, yet also a wonderfully rewarding month. We

finished up one session of Wednesday Nite Live and started another. We held our annual Easter Eggstravaganza and hosted over 100 people for family activities, yummy cinnamon rolls and a fun egg hunt. Holy Week brought many opportunities to hear of God's love for us and His Son's amazing sacrifice. On Easter morning, over 90 children and their families joined us at Centenary, and each heard the Good News and the miracle of Jesus' resurrection.

Thank you to those of you who contributed eggs and candy to fill over 1000 eggs for our Eggstravaganza egg hunt. Thank you to those who offered your time and talents to make the event a success. Also, thank you to those who faithfully serve, week after week, sharing Jesus with our children on Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights.

May brings us more opportunities to reach a child for Jesus. On May 8th and 9th, we are opening Centenary's doors to the community, offering a viewing of the movie "Fireproof" and an all-day marriage workshop. We know there are thousands of hurting families in Modesto and we can offer them hope. One obstacle for people as they decide to attend may be child care, so we are offering free child care for both the movie night and the Saturday workshop.

We will need many people from Centenary to step up and offer their help in caring for these children. Our plan is to play with them, laugh with them, share meals with them and love them, showing them that Centenary is a place where they, too, can find love and hope.

May also brings our huge promotion for this year's Vacation Bible School. VBS doesn't actually begin until June 28th, but it takes months to put everything into place. Last year we had over one hundred children experience a week of games, crafts, Bible stories and much more. Looking back over the years, we realize that over half of the children that attend VBS are not Centenary children. This month, you'll have the opportunity to financially sponsor a child's week of VBS, so that every child invited can experience a free week of God's amazing love. We will also have sign-ups available for supply donations, volunteer needs and child registration. Look for that on the patio each Sunday.

We can continue making an impact on the lives of the children of Modesto. However, we cannot do it alone. Please pray about how you can serve in these next few weeks. We'll need people offering care, reading stories, serving snacks, making crafts and just playing with the children for the Fireproof workshop. We need VBS crew leaders, craft/snack/game helpers, registration and decorating help, and supply and financial donations for our VBS 'Crocodile Dock'. Contact me with any questions or to offer your help in Children's Ministry.

In His Service,

Heather Daniel
527-5441
hethdaniel@yahoo.com

Senior Send-Off Dinner

Sunday, May 24, 2009 ~ In the Fellowship Center @ 5:30 p.m.

Seniors and their families are invited to a dinner to honor high school graduates. Come join us for an evening of sharing memories, encouraging and honoring our Seniors.

Please R.S.V.P to Steve Collins at 505-4483

Donations basket will be present to help offset the cost of the dinner.

Wounds to Scars

My friend Dave is a cancer survivor. He fought two battles with a vicious form of the deadly disease and credits God with saving his life. As a result of the many surgeries and treatments Dave went through, he has many, many scars on his body. He is not

ashamed or embarrassed about the scars. He says that they remind him daily of the love and grace of his Savior, who saved not only his life, but also his soul.

That's the way it works. Terrible wounds, if we allow God to work, will heal, to become scars. Those scars can become reminders that God is good, that He loves us, and that He helped us through some terrible times. Jesus has scars that also remind us of the love and grace of God. The Scriptures tell us that He was crucified, wounded and pierced on the cross, to pay for our sins (Isa. 53). After His resurrection those terrible wounds had been healed and were scars that proved His love for us. (John 20:25-29).

We all are wounded every day, but few of those wounds are physical or visible. Being wounded is not something that we often choose; it's just a reality of life in this fallen, sinful world. How we respond to our woundedness; that is where we get to choose.

We can choose to hide those wounds, to keep them concealed, and hope the darkness covers them sufficiently. Wounds that remain hidden, concealed, and covered never heal into scars. They just become infected, fester, and impact our daily lives more than we even realize. Whether our wounds are physical, emotional, sexual, social, or spiritual, they will not heal in darkness.

However, if we choose to allow the light of the Lord into our darkness, He will heal our wounds. Remember, Jesus also has scars that were once wounds. God knows how to heal wounds into scars. Jesus is "the light of the world," and through His completed work on the cross, offers us a way to be "children of light," and to be healed "by His wounds" (Jn. 8:12, Eph. 5:8, Isa. 53:5).

We can choose to allow God to heal our wounds into scars. We can let the light into our lives through the Word of God, through the people of God, and through the power of yielding our lives to Him fully. We can be healed, but ONLY if we are willing to allow the light of God to reveal our wounds and heal them into scars.

Brian Ralston



It is the beautiful month of May! As I look out the window of my office and see the beautiful gardens I am so thankful to be doing God's work in such a pleasant, serene environment. I am just sitting here counting my blessings and

realizing there are so many. I feel so blessed to be working with the children and families at Centenary Christian Preschool. God is so good!

We had a very busy April. Our theme for the first part of April was "Spring Brings New Life." On April 3rd the children went for a walk in the Church grounds. Some of the things they noticed were: baby birds chirping in their nests, the sound of a lawn mower and the smell of cut grass, colorful flowers, insects, worms and caterpillars, the sound of leaves rustling in the wind and buzzing of the bees. What a great sensory exercise!

The week of April 6-9 we concentrated on Easter. It is such a joy to teach the children the Easter story. The children learned about the hope and joy that Easter brings to all of us. They learned that Jesus loves us so much that He died on the cross and rose again that we might be able to live in Heaven with Him one day. The children also had fun dyeing Easter eggs and enjoying an Easter egg hunt on April 9th.

The week of April 13th, the children planted vegetable seeds. They learned that seeds need good soil, sunlight, and water to grow. Some are already starting to sprout!

We enjoyed celebrating children April 20-24, the "Week of the Young Child." Children truly are special gifts from God. We had a great turnout for our open house on April 21st. The teachers and children had the rooms looking great for their visitors. The teachers were available to talk to the parents and family members about the progress their children have made and many pictures and artwork were on display.

The last part of April we learned about "God's Mighty Universe." They learned that Earth is the planet we live on. On April 15, the children took an imaginary trip to the moon. The children even snacked on freeze-dried ice cream just like the astronauts eat. It was a great adventure! The children also learned that God made the planets, sun, moon and stars. He really is a mighty God!

We are looking forward to a marvelous month of May. Our themes will be "Mother's Day" and "Farm Animals." Our chapel themes will be *Love* (1 Cor. 13:4), *Creation day 1* (Gen. 1:3), *Creation Day 2* (Gen. 1:6), and *Creation Day 3* (Gen. 1:9).

I hope that everyone had a happy Easter celebrating our risen Lord with family and friends. Thank you so much for your continued prayers and support.

Janet Lewis
Preschool Director



**Centenary United Methodist
Church**

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RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Thank You Spirit Salon

A big Thank You goes out to Spirit Salon who organized a very successful Bake Sale on April 26 to help offset costs for our Laser Tag event!

LASER TAG LOCK IN

**Friday, May 15 @ 8 p.m.
to Saturday, May 16 @ 6 a.m.**

Cost: \$25

Jr. High and High School students

Meet at the Youth Room (rm. 4/5) at 8 p.m. for a magnificent mystery game, dinner, and devotion.

We will leave for Laser Quest, 2100 Standiford Ave., at 11:30 p.m. From midnight to 6 a.m. we will be playing laser tag, watching movies, playing video games, eating, sticking licorice in Steve's ear and hanging out!

Invite a friend!

Parents, pick up your youth at Laser Quest @ 6 a.m. Parents let us know if you can help driving the youth to Laser Quest at 11:30 p.m.

