

THE CIRCUIT RIDER

A Publication of Centenary United Methodist Church

March 2008



Easter is early this year. Well, not exactly early. Easter always falls on “the first Sunday after the first full moon after the vernal equinox.” That’s a mouthful that simply means in an attempt to keep Easter connected to Passover, the dates change because the Jewish calendar was a lunar

calendar. Therefore, Easter falls on March 23rd this year, and is earlier than usual.

But more important than the dating of Easter is the meaning of Easter. At Easter we celebrate the reality that the creator God entered time and space, here on Earth, to save us. Max Lucado puts it this way, “He chose to face hell for us because He could not stand the thought of facing eternity without us.”

King David, when reflecting upon God, wrote in Psalm 8:

“O LORD, Our Lord,
how majestic is Your name in all the earth!
You have set Your glory
above the heavens.
From the lips of children and infants
You have ordained praise
because of Your enemies,
to silence the foe and the avenger.
When I consider Your heavens,
the work of Your fingers,
the moon and the stars,
which you have set in place,
what is man that you are mindful of him,
the son of man that You care for him?
You made him a little lower than the heavenly beings
and crowned him with glory and honor.
You made him ruler over the works of Your hands;
You put everything under his feet:

all flocks and herds,
and the beasts of the field, the birds of the air,
and the fish of the sea,
all that swim the paths of the seas.
O LORD, our Lord,
how majestic is Your name in all the earth!

Notice David said, and I paraphrase, “Your ways are too wonderful to understand, Lord. You have made all things and nothing that exists that You did not create, and You still have time to consider us and our needs. You are too wonderful to understand, Lord.”



That is what Easter is all about; a God more loving, more kind, more generous, too wonderful to understand, entered time and space and did for us what we could not do for ourselves because He would rather choose the horrors of the cross than spend eternity separated from us.

One last thought; as much as God loves His creation, as much as the greater horror for Him was to spend eternity separated from us, still the truth is, many will choose to let Jesus’ death mean absolutely nothing, at least for them. For many, His death will be in vain. Let’s make sure we are not numbered among those.

Pastor Bob



**CHURCH
WORKDAY**

Church Family
Work Day

Saturday, March 1st
12:00 - 4:00 p.m.

Coffee & Snacks
Provided

All are encouraged to participate,
no matter your skill level.
See you there!



**Income & Expenses
for 2007**

December 2007 was our largest total giving in a single month in the history of Centenary at **\$97,585**

Also given in December:
 D.C.U. \$6,107
 Centenary Youth Fundraiser \$1,036
 Total giving in December \$104,728

General Fund Income for 2007 \$665,667
 Income to Self Funding for special projects:
 (Missions, Special Projects) \$87,604
 Building Use \$14,779
 Grand Total Giving for 2007 \$768,050

Available to General Fund in 2007 \$665,667
 Spent from General Fund in 2007 \$693,242
 Spent more than we brought in (\$27,575)

We were able to do that from savings of \$30,064
 General Fund Savings \$25,100
 Estate Gift \$4,964

Our current savings total is \$18,884
 General Fund Savings \$3,920
 Estate Gift \$14,964

Budget for 2008

Every request received totaled \$780,741
 Revised budget based on anticipated giving \$711,178

Ad Council and Finance Committee are aware our giving will probably not be that high and the only other place to cut the budget is in the area of staff. (Staff did not receive a raise this year).

2007 Giving Analysis of Centenary

Giving Range	# of Givers	Average Gift
\$0 to \$99	66	\$36.70
\$100 to \$999	176	\$459.75
\$1000 to \$2999	111	\$1,743.59
\$3000 to \$4999	37	\$3,879.88
\$5000 to \$9999	26	\$6,528.01
\$10,000 and over	6	\$11,190.33

Although not everyone can give more than they are, everyone can and should be praying for our finances. Maybe you would be willing to give of your time, as many already do by volunteering. For example, we budgeted \$8,000 for child care workers. We can save if people volunteer in this vital area of ministry.

**STEPHEN
MINISTERS
GRADUATE!**



On March 13th, our first Stephen Ministry class will graduate. Seven people will have completed fifty hours of training. Topics covered included ministering to those experiencing grief, dealing with depression, helping suicidal persons get the help they need, telecare, the art of listening and, and confidentiality.

Our Stephen Ministry team, Linda Beamer, Norm Buus, Jenna Dufresne, Jane Hellman, Janet Lewis, Dave Mackley, and Melba Yarbrough will be introduced to the congregation at worship services after Easter.

Cards will be available in the pews with more information about how to receive care from a Stephen Minister after Easter.

Remember, these are your ministers willing to share your troubles and grief in a confidential, one-on-one relationship. Jesus called them to step forth and learn how to help fellow Christians. Now listen to His calling. Remember they are here to help, should you need a caring ear to listen, or a kind shoulder to lean upon, or someone to pray with, and for you.

More information is available on our website and/or by calling your Stephen Leader, Caren Burhans at 918-1003.



H O L Y W E E K

Palm Sunday Services March 16	9:00 & 10:30 a.m.
Maundy Thursday Service March 20	7:00 p.m.
Good Friday Service March 21	7:00 p.m.
Easter Sunday Services March 23	7:00, 9:00 & 11:00 a.m.

Special Concerns



Merv Bennett
 Merle Beckwith
 Marge Beckwith
 Darliene Lowry
 Marion Staberg
 Kessandra Cummings
 Gail Hilvers
 Duane & Deanna Hutton
 Harold Whaley



Parish Nurse
 Blood Pressure Screening
 4th Sunday Of Each Month
 Between Services In Rm. 15/16

March 30 (5th Sunday)
 April 27
 May 25



With Sincere Thanks

We would like to express our sincere thanks for the many prayers and sentiments shared with us as Donelle has gone to be with our Lord. God's love is so evident in His people and we have felt His love from you.

Thank you,
 Kurtis Nelson and family



Spirit Salon

The Spring Session of Spirit Salon, which begins April 2nd and extends through the beginning of June, will be another great opportunity to learn and grow together as we study God's Word.

Brian Ralston will be our Bible teacher, and will help lead us through an inductive (verse by verse) study of God's Word.

Come and join us for an hour of fellowship, worship, prayer, outreach and coffee time. Then be challenged and encouraged as Brian brings us Biblical principles, and shows us how they relate to our everyday lives. Spirit Salon will meet Wednesdays at 9:00am - 11:00 am in Room 6, with a caring nursery staff right next door.



Altar Flowers

We still have altar flower dates available for 2008. Please check the flower chart in the Sanctuary Narthex, or call Gabrielle in the Church office at 527-5441 to reserve your date.



SUNDAY

MENS BIBLE STUDY "BIBLICAL PROPHECY" /Rm. 1 - 7:00 A.M.
 CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE - 9:00 A.M.
 ADULT SUNDAY CLASS /LIBRARY - 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.

MONDAY

WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY Rm. 20 6:30 P.M.

TUESDAY

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

WEDNESDAY

MEN'S BREAKFAST BIBLE STUDY 6:00 - 7:30 A.M.
 SPIRIT SALON 9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
 WNL DINNER/FELLOWSHIP CENTER 5:30 P.M. (THROUGH 3/12)
 WEDNESDAY NITE LIVE 6:30 - 8:00 P.M. (THROUGH 3/12)
 JR. HIGH & HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH GROUP 6:00 - 8:00 P.M.

THURSDAY

PASTOR'S BIBLE STUDY - 9:00 A.M.

SATURDAY

CONTEMPORARY WORSHIP SERVICE - 6:30 P.M.



Events/Meetings in March

3/1 Church Family Work Day
 3/10 Board of Trustees Meeting
 3/12 Final Session of Winter WNL
 3/13 SPRC Meeting
 3/15 Easter Eggstravaganza
 3/16 Palm Sunday
 3/17 Finance Committee Meeting
 3/20 Maundy Thursday Service
 3/20 Preschool Advisory Board Meeting
 3/21 Good Friday Service
 3/23 Easter Sunday Services
 3/24 Ad Council Meeting

Celebrating Birthdays



3/1	JERRY BUER	3/14	BILL WATSON
3/1	SARIN BY	3/14	TOMMY KAISER
3/1	GERALD THIEMANN	3/14	BOB ECKLES
3/1	GAIL VICK	3/16	SONNY SATH
3/2	PAUL STAFFORD	3/17	ALEXANDRIA CATON
3/2	MELANIE TABAI	3/17	MIKE WADE
3/2	SUSAN McCLANAHAN	3/18	SHIRLEE COURT
3/2	BEN HELM	3/18	NICKLAS KIRKES
3/3	OLIVER ARMSTRONG	3/20	BRAD BOYD
3/3	CHEATRA TEK	3/20	MARK VASCHE
3/3	SUSAN AZEVEDO	3/20	ERIC MILLER
3/4	PAT REID	3/21	GERALD UNDERWOOD
3/4	JIM McCORMICK	3/22	JANET PERSONS
3/4	JANET LEWIS	3/22	ROLAND GUILLES
3/5	JEANNETTE CHAPMAN	3/23	CAROLINE FORBES
3/5	DRUCILLA EDGAR	3/23	BRIAN HERR
3/6	PAM DARR	3/23	DEBI YUHRE
3/6	ED GSCHIEDLE	3/24	DEE WENGEL
3/6	PENNEY WEINHEIMER	3/25	SIDARATH CHHUOY
3/7	ED AYER	3/25	BLANCHE KABELLA
3/7	JANE KINGHORN	3/25	SYDA MOEUN
3/7	ALYSSA MAAS	3/25	SARALEE MOORAD
3/8	LETA LONG	3/25	KYLE WEINHEIMER
3/8	VEASNA TEK	3/26	KEITH SCOTT
3/8	POLLY VASCHE	3/26	DOTTIE AZLIN
3/8	MARY HEDLUND	3/26	BARBARA HENRICH
3/8	ERIKA CUMMINGS	3/26	ROGER YOUNGER
3/9	JIM FLETCHER	3/27	CHUCK DARR
3/9	SOPHIA KOOMSON	3/29	ALISSA COLLINS
3/9	MILDRED MARTIN	3/29	ISAAC KOOMSON
3/9	SHARON PERRY	3/29	MOLLIE HORTON
3/10	DON STOUTAMIRE	3/29	LINNEIA NOTTLEY
3/10	GARRETT AMERINE	3/29	TRACY OGLE
3/10	NORMA BURROUGHS	3/30	LINDA JOLLIFF
3/12	KEN KLINE	3/30	LILY HINRICHS
3/12	GARY LOVE	3/30	BRAD BARNES
3/12	MELISSA MELTON	3/31	ROBBIE CUMMINS
3/13	RACHEL KELLY		
3/13	RITA BUCHANAN		

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!

***Stewardship
 January 2008***

BUDGETED	ACTUAL	EXPENSES
\$59,265	\$41,961	\$53,740

New in the Library

The “Ides of March” cometh, but I don’t think there are any Shakespeare volumes in our church library.

Or any, books on nuts, thinking of Isaiah Kenedie who accompanied a friend to visit his grandma. While the grandma and grandson visited, Isiah sat on a sofa, looked over some magazines, and nibbled on shelled peanuts in a dish on the coffee table.

As they left, Isaiah apologized for eating all of the nuts in the dish. “Oh, that’s perfectly all right,” Grandma exclaimed. “I’d already licked all of the chocolate off of them!”

Don’t forget to look for new books in the “new book” section. What our library needs is a “Publicity Director.” Any one from Centenary interested in the job? Or, just encourage people to read!

Two new videos have been donated to the Library. One is the popular author Max Lucado’s “Flo, the Lyin’ Fly (Hermie and Friends).” From the popular Veggie Tales series we have “The Wonderful World of Auto-tainment.”

On the Biography shelves is a book with an interesting title: *90 Minutes in Heaven* by Don Piper. It is a true story about a man who spent 90 minutes in Heaven and how it affected his life.

In the Christian Living Section is another book by Piper, *Heaven is Real*. After his miraculous return to earth, Piper brings us a healing message.

Another popular writer, Jerry Jenkins, gives us *Soon*, which is on the Fiction shelves. The story begins after World War III has killed millions of people and wiped out nations. No one wants more war but what is the solution? Outlaw religion! Paul relishes his job of exterminating the zealots. Then unexplainable things begin to happen.

~Margaret Bell



S.W.E.A.T. AEROBICS

PILATES BENEFITS

Pilates is thought to be the latest exercise trend, but it was actually developed in the 1920’s by Joseph H Pilates, a German boxer who came to the U.S. after World War I. Pilates training is a method of conditioning the body by stretching and strengthening the muscles. It improves posture, flexibility, and balance through controlled movements and coordinated breathing. Pilates movements are low-impact and easy on the joints. Pilates focuses on core training of the abdominals, lower back, buttocks, hips and thighs.

About a year ago, Heather introduced the “slomo Pilates balls” to our Friday morning 9:00 a.m. class as an alternative to traditional aerobics. While Heather has been doing traditional Pilates for years in past ballet and dance classes, the concept of using the balls gives a different feel to the traditional moves.

This class will begin with a cardio warm-up and may sometimes include sculpting, tubing, or other methods of strengthening the body.

*“You are never too old
to set another goal”
(C.S. Lewis)*

**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

Spring is approaching and that means our Easter Eggstravaganza is right around the corner! Our Easter Eggstravaganza is a wonderful opportunity for families to come together to hear the Easter story, fellowship with other families, and participate in a hands-on activity. We will finish off the morning with a huge egg hunt outside!

We can’t pull this off alone. We need your help! Please help us get the word out by passing out an extra flyer to someone you know. This is a great time to invite a family you know through your neighborhood, your workplace or your friends. We also need some supplies for the hunt. Last year we filled over 900 plastic colorful eggs for the egg hunt. We plan on needing even more this year! The next time you’re out shopping, please pick up a package of plastic eggs or a bag of individually wrapped candy and bring them to the church office.

The children will be decorating sugar cookies for their snack that morning, so we need help with making cookies beforehand. We’ll also need greeters for our Easter Eggstravaganza. If you are able to help, please let me know. Finally, but most importantly, we need you to lift this event up in prayer. Our goal is to reach out to new families across Modesto and offer them more than just an Easter egg hunt - we want to offer them hope in Christ. Please pray that we can reach people with His message this Easter season.

We appreciate your help and your prayers for our Easter Eggstravaganza!

In His Service,

Heather Daniel
Director of Children’s Ministry
527-5441
hethdaniel@yahoo.com



Rob Wertheim of Jews for Jesus

Christ in the Passover

Passover February 6th was Ash Wednesday, the beginning of Lent. Approximately 200 of our church family gathered together in the Fellowship Center. Rob Wertheim, of Jews for Jesus, led us through a hands on presentation of the Old Testament story of the Exodus out of Egypt and demonstrated the link between the ancient Festival of Redemption and Christ as the Lamb of God.

From the five elements on our table, we learned of their meaning as we dipped parsley in salt water, representing the newness of spring as well as the tears of sorrow shed during the captivity of the Lord's people in exile. Unleavened matzoh is used because the Bible likens leavening to sin and because our Jewish ancestors could not wait for their bread to rise before their hurried departure from Egypt. We ate this with Moror or Horseradish, the bitter herbs, a reminder of the bitterness of slavery and suffering in Egypt.

Following his presentation, Mr. Wertheim shared about the mission focus of his organization to evangelize, and bring the good news of Christ to other Jews. We are honored to send nearly \$1000 collected that night to support their efforts to share the true Messiah with unsaved Jews.

A Passover dinner of herb roasted chicken, noodle kugle, roasted spring vegetables and matzoh apple kugle was shared as part of our new understanding of Christ in the Passover. Passover has been celebrated annually for over 3500 years, making it the oldest continuous celebration in the world.

It began at the time of the Egyptian captivity, when God commanded the ancient Israelites to observe the ceremony, remind themselves of it and to tell their children why it is important. The purpose of this meal is to remind the faithful people of God that He has delivered them from Egypt and given them freedom!

The Seder dinner wasn't as much a teaching about Christ as an experience of Christ: His body broken, His blood shed, and sacrificed for us so that our sins could be forgiven, and the saving grace that has been given to us as followers of Christ.



And for those of you who enjoyed the Noodle Kugel at the Seder dinner, and would like to make this dish at home, here is the recipe:



- 1 16 oz. container Low Fat Cottage Cheese
- 1 16 oz. container Sour Cream
- 1 cup sugar
- 5 eggs, beaten
- ^{1/2} cup butter, melted
- 1 tsp. vanilla (we used ^{1/2} tsp)
- 1 pkg. (12 oz) broad egg noodles
cooked, rinsed and drained
- 1 tbsp. cinnamon sugar
(dash of cinnamon w/1 Tbsp sugar)

Preheat oven to 350 degrees. Spray a 9 x 13 inch baking dish with nonstick pan spray. Mix all ingredients except noodles and cinnamon sugar. Stir in noodles, mixing gently. Spoon into prepared 9 x 13 inch baking dish. Sprinkle with cinnamon sugar. Bake 50 to 60 minutes until center is set. Cool at least 10 minutes before cutting to serve.

Makes 16 to 18 ^{1/2} cup servings



Hello again! This month I would like to share with you some of our most recent adventures with the youth. The weekend of February 8-10 we were at Holden Valley Christian Camp for our Winter Retreat. We all had a great time hanging out, worshipping, and learning from God's Word. Our focus for the weekend was Getting Closer to God! Our teaching for the weekend revolved around Romans 12:12. From that passage we talked about the fact that God has called us to live differently than the world. Why? Because God is holy and He wants us to be holy as well. We discussed the fact that a lot of times we try to live out our Christian faith without God's help. The call for all of us that weekend was to renew our commitment to living for Christ and allowing Him to come into our lives and change us from the inside out!



Retreats are usually a time of spiritual renewal for many of our students, but they are also a time of great fellowship! We had the opportunity to get away from the camp and go to the snow on Saturday. We sledged, nailed each other with snow balls, and had a great time. Overall, the retreat was a hit! If you are a youth student, and did not get to come with us, I would like to invite you to join us for future happenings in our youth group. Please come and check it out; I promise you will not be disappointed! Praise God for all that He is and all that He does!

In Christ,
Matt Riddle



Wow! I can't believe it is the end of February already. It was very cold through the end of January and most of February. Please pray for our families here at Centenary as we have had a lot of sick little ones this year during the cold and flu season.

In February, our themes were "Love One Another" and "Our Pets." The first part of February we learned about love. Valentine's Day is a good day to show people how much you love and care about them. The children made beautiful Valentines for some of the special people in their lives. They also enjoyed a Valentines Day party with all of their friends on February 14th. Our wonderful, supportive families provided food, Valentines and treats for all of our precious little ones. The children all felt so special when they left with their folders full of valentines and treats.

Later in the month, the children made some fantastic pictures of their pets and told some pretty cute stories about them. We learned that it is our responsibility to take good care of our pets. The children said they help feed their pets, make sure they have water, keep them clean and provide a nice, warm place for them to sleep. Sometimes we even have to take them to the doctor for shots! We love our pets so much we consider them a part of our family!

For chapel, we spent a lot of time talking about love and forgiveness. We learned that we love Jesus because He first loved us. It is such a joy teaching children about God's love. It's so important to teach them that Jesus loves us so much that no matter what we do, if we sincerely ask Him to forgive us, He will. We have a loving, forgiving God. When children know that God loves and forgives them it is easier for them to learn to love and forgive one another. This is a lesson we work on everyday with the children. I think it's a lesson we adults need to work on everyday as well.

We are looking forward to a marvelous month of March. Our themes will be "Fun with the Wind & Weather" and "Dinosaurs." We will be making kites, growing leprechaun hair, dying Easter eggs, hunting for Easter eggs, and learning about all the different dinosaurs. Our chapel themes for March will be *Trust* (Isaiah 26:4), *Strength* (Isaiah 40:29), *Rejoice* (Matthew 5:12) and *Joy* (Psalm 100:1-2).

Thank you so much for your prayers and continued love & support of our children's ministry. We feel so very blessed for each day we get to spend with the children.

Janet Lewis, Preschool Director



**Centenary United Methodist
Church**

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Modesto, CA 95350
(209).527-5441

RETURN SERVICE REQUESTED

Your Family is Invited to Centenary's Annual "Eggstravaganza"

Saturday, March 15th, 10:00 to 11:30 a.m.

For children ages 3 through sixth grade

Nursery care available upon request for infants & toddlers

Come and See What All the "Egg-citement" is About!

Fun, Hands-On
Activities!

Egg Hunt!

