

Centerpoint Fellowship

Centering Lives on Jesus

This Week at Centerpoint, 13 Dec 09

We hope this week abounded with blessings for all and that the true Spirit of the season has begun to catch peoples' hearts! (We know the frenetic pace of secular "Xmas" captures many. Just stay mindful of, "*Fear not: for... I bring unto you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the City of David a Savior, which is Christ the Lord.*")

Our little congregation continues to enjoy great blessings, "pressed down, shaken together, and running over." This week:

- Pastor John Schmidt announced our new name: **Centerpoint Fellowship** (technically, "Centerpoint Fellowship Church, Inc.," for those who speak Legalese). John explained the rationale behind the name, summed succinctly in the phrase: "**Centering Lives on Jesus.**" Jesus should be the "centerpoint" of our lives, our worship experience, and our plans for church growth. The announcement was met with applause and many on the Leadership Team have received positive feedback since Sunday.
- John continued his series on the nativity with "Shepherds and Good News" (notes attached for further study). This week, John and Don Darling tag-teamed "The John and Don Show:" A deeper study following the sermon, continuing the effort to model how "Life Group" (aka small group) study should be conducted. Others will be joining John in this effort over the coming weeks.
- Bethany Barr Phillips and her band blessed us with outstanding music and worship leadership this Sunday. Their vibrant sound was especially inspiring (and we suspect that they sold a few CDs after the service...). We hope they will be able to return to lead worship again soon!
- 410 joined us in worship... back to that "running over" thing... We filled two sections of the Legends ballroom and still had to add chairs. Of course, we're not complaining...
- Thank you for your prayers in support of our leadership retreat this past weekend. We accomplished a great deal in a very short time. We now have a few minor details like signed Articles of Incorporation and a statement of faith worked out, but much remains to be done. More info will be available soon.

The upcoming week:

- Scott is requesting prayer for our students, most of whom will be taking exams this week. Because of this, there will be no Wednesday night student activities. We invite

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all students to Centerpoint's first annual student Christmas party, on Sunday, Dec. 20th from 4:00 -7:00 pm. We will meet in the Legends parking lot at 3:30 and caravan to the Plantation House (131 Pecan Ave, Prattville, 36067). Please bring a "dirty Santa" gift and \$2.00.

- We will welcome Tommy McGregor, Montgomery area director for Young Life, back to lead us in worship this Sunday. We may also have a surprise treat or two in terms of his accompanists... accompanists... the people who sing with him.

Please also mark on your calendars:

- Our **Christmas Eve service** will *not* be at the Legends – it will be held at **Hunter Hills Church of Christ**, which has graciously allowed us to use their facilities. The church is located at 330 Old Farm Lane in Prattville, just west off I-65 exit 181. A map can be found at: <http://www.hunterhills.org/maps.html>. (For those unfamiliar with Prattville, Old Farm Lane is very aptly named. It's builders never expected it to be anything more than,,, well... an old farm lane, so they took a somewhat notional attitude toward the whole "two lane" thing.) **The service will be from 6:00 – 6:45** and it will be "family friendly" (a euphemism for "separate child and nursery care unavailable").
- We will be experimenting with a different kind of worship service on **Jan 10th**. That day, we will have an abbreviated service at the Legends from **9:00 – 10:00 am and then head out to Camp Grandview YMCA** complex in Millbrook (where our youth have been meeting) for our follow-up teaching hour, followed by a fellowship meal. (Get to Grandview by taking I-65 north to exit 181 (Hwy 14). Turn right (east), and go ¾ of a mile, turning left at the stoplight just past the Millbrook SuperWalMart, onto Camp Grandview Rd. Go ½ mile up the hill and take the first right into Camp Grandview. If you get lost, call Scott at 531-9427.)
- "The John and Don Show" will morph over the coming months to include "guests" – we may have to get a couch and start running it like Leno (or Merv Griffin, for the older crowd). Kidding aside, the intent is to model Life Group leadership as we begin to actively conduct leadership training for small groups starting in January. Life group fellowship, accountability, and growth will be a vital part of Centerpoint's ministry from the ground up.

Finally, keep the following before you this week: *"Consider it all joy...whenever you encounter various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces endurance. And let endurance have its perfect result, so that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing."* (James 1:2-4,

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NKJV). Our growth is a testing – a very good testing – but a testing producing endurance nonetheless.