

Centerpoint Fellowship

Centering Lives on Jesus

Christmas Week at Centerpoint, 20 Dec 09

We had another exciting week of blessings, growth, and connection at Centerpoint! We hope everyone is at least beginning to feel Christmas in their hearts, and sing, with choirs of angels,

*"Yea, Lord, we greet thee,
Born this happy morning;
Jesus, to thee be all glory given!
Word of the Father,
Now in flesh appearing!
Oh, come, let us adore him,
Christ the Lord!"*

The past week:

- John Schmidt continued his nativity series with "Wise Men Still Seek Him." (Notes are attached for study and reference.) John spoke of three ways we can respond to the birth of the Savior: We can go about our business; we can reject Jesus as a rival to our "thrones" (control of our lives); or we can, as the wise men did, worship Jesus. We, unlike the wise men, recognize him fully as Savior and Lord... or do we?
Don Darling led an excellent session of "going deeper" following the sermon and explained some of the principles by which our "life groups" (small groups) – still in the formative phases, but we believe a vital, necessary part of Centerpoint's ministry – will operate.
- Tommy McGregor blessed us as worship leader again this week. He was joined by the Tommyettes: Lara Lander and Emily Hunerwadel, vocals, and Keith Harris on the Djembe (please don't ask us to pronounce that). They put a great new spin on many traditional carols.
- From Centerpoint's vast Department of Church Demographics and Worship Service Statistical Analysis and Mathematical Extrapolation, we received the following report: We had a total of 94 first- and second-timers this Sunday. We were so honored to have these folks with us! Many are sticking around, too: Of those who filled out connection cards, 106 had been 3 times or more, or counted themselves "regular attendees" (or "members," which is interesting, because we don't formally have "membership" yet). Total in worship: 420.
- Our young people enjoyed Centerpoint's first annual Youth Christmas Party at the Plantation House, Prattville's version of Graceland. Great fellowship, great food, and great fun! The youth also enjoyed the full extent of this... suffice to say... remarkable house and its grounds.
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The upcoming week:

- Tomorrow (Wednesday, 23 Dec): **Gather to see the Christmas story** from 6:00 – 6:30 in Craig and Robyn Clement's front yard, [503 Fiveash Oaks in Prattville](#) (36066). This will be a "pick-up" Christmas pageant, which means there will be no rehearsals. A few of the main characters have been chosen, but your children are welcome to participate. Just dress them up as angels, wise men, shepherds, or stable animals and put them in their designated places. Someone will guide them when it is their turn to enter the story. The whole event will be outdoors, so dress warmly! If you have questions, please call Robyn at 361-8585. Come help celebrate our Savior's birth!
- **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service will be at Hunter Hills Church of Christ** from 6:00 to 6:45pm. Thanks again to Hunter Hills for graciously allowing us to use their facilities. If you've travelled I-65, you've seen Hunter Hills – it's the large white church on the southwest corner of exit 181 (the second Prattville exit). [Here's a map and directions](#). We want the whole family to enjoy this service (no infant or child care provided). Please come join us for a wonderful time of carol singing and a moving candle lighting ceremony.
- We are very excited that Rob Webster will lead worship on Christmas Eve and this Sunday. Rob is Media Director at Church of the Resurrection in Kansas City (the largest United Methodist Church in the US) and was worship leader at Frazer UMC for eight years. Many of you may remember Rob's unique and powerful gifts. Come listen!
- No youth activities this Wednesday.

Other Matters:

- Our next youth event will be the **Nearly New Years Eve Party on Tues. 29 Dec**: The Student Ministry will be sweeping in 2010 a little early at Eastdale Mall Ice Rink on Tuesday, December 29. There will be a caravan leaving from The Legends Marriott at 7:15pm or you can meet us at the fountain in front of Eastdale's JC Penney at 8:00pm. We will eat at the Food Court and then hit the ice for broom hockey from 9:00 to 10:00pm. Parents pick-up at the Ice Rink at 10:00pm or The Legends at 10:45pm. Cost is \$5 plus food money. Bring your friends and join us for our Nearly New Year's Eve Party!
- "Normal" youth activities will resume on Weds, 6 Jan at Camp Grandview.
- A reminder: 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 covered-dish fellowship meal.

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- We are now an incorporated entity, so make tithe and offering checks out to "Centerpoint Fellowship" from this point on.
- Please use the connection cards our greeters and ushers hand out each week to send in prayer and visit requests, as well as to give us or update your contact information.

And this Christmas, let us recall how the shepherd's hearts stirred them to action:

"Suddenly, a great company of the heavenly host appeared with the angel, praising God and saying, 'Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace to men on whom His favor rests.' When the angels had left them, and gone into heaven, the shepherds said to one another, 'Let's go to Bethlehem and see this thing that has happened, which the Lord has told us about.' So they hurried off and found Mary and Joseph and the baby, who was lying in the manger. When they had seen him, they spread the word...about this child, and all who heard it were amazed..." (Luke 2:13-18, NIV)

