

Centerpoint Fellowship
Centering Lives on Jesus

This Week at Centerpoint, 27 Dec 09

We hope that everyone in our fellowship's faith community had a truly blessed Christmas! It was a week of excitement and joy at Centerpoint, and we hope the same was true for many in our congregation who were away visiting, vacationing, and travelling over the holiday. We pray for blessings and travel mercies for those who will be away over New Year's as well!

This past week:

- Despite becoming [quite renowned in the River Region](#) lately, we are assured that our pastors are still approachable by mere mortals. Actually, John and Scott profess to being quite humbled by the [Montgomery Advertiser's outstanding coverage](#). In terms of spreading the message of Christ that we carry, we could not have asked for a better Christmas present! (And did we mention that it was on the [front cover of Sunday's paper](#), above the fold? If we didn't, [it was](#). You can read it [here](#).)
- We held our first Christmas Eve candlelight service at Hunter Hills Church of Christ. Thanks again to the Hunter Hills congregation for allowing us to use their beautiful facility! Over 400 joined us as several of our families read the Christmas story and Rob Webster led us in singing. At the height of the service, with everyone's candle lit, John reminded us of Jesus' words, *"no one lights a lamp and then covers it with a bowl or hides it under a bed. A lamp is placed on a stand, where its light can be seen by all who enter the house"* (Luke 8:16 NLT), at which point everyone in the congregation held up their candles and the lighting changed from a soft glow to a dramatic sanctuary-filling brilliance. It was a very moving moment in an inspiring service. Although the venue may change, this service will be a Centerpoint tradition.
- John concluded his nativity series with "Operation Nativity:" Jesus came to earth on a rescue mission – on a mission to make God known to us – and it cost Him everything to complete it. Our part of the mission is to respond and seek Him. (Sermon notes are attached for reference and study). Over 400 attended Sunday, including nearly 50 new faces. We're honored that you came!
- Thanks to the Clement family for turning their yard into a mini-Jerusalem for the "pick-up Christmas pageant" last Wednesday. Nearly a hundred joined to watch, listen, and/or participate in the Christmas story. We thought the wagon-donkey was a particularly effective special effect, but next year will be more ambitious: We plan to have the Angel Gabriel swing in on a rope line from the trees above...
- Rob Webster honored us a second time by leading worship on Sunday. Rob was in town visiting family (as many of you know), so we're doubly grateful that he took the time to share his ample gifts with us!

[Background courtesy of Billy Pope]

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The upcoming week:

- Centerpoint's youth will be holding [or, if this doesn't get out by Tues. 7:15... held] their **Nearly New Year's Eve Party tonight** 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 at the fountain in front of Eastdale's JC Penney's at 8:00pm. Eat at the Food Court and then hit the ice for broom hockey from 9:00 to 10:00pm. Parents can pick up kids at the Ice Rink at 10:00 pm or the Legends at 10:45 pm. Please bring \$5 plus money for food. Also bring your friends and join us for our great fun and fellowship!
- Oh, yes... If you were our fan on Facebook, you'd already know all about the **NNYEP**. Like, yeah, we're on Facebook. Duh! Just search "centerpoint fellowship" (under "pages") and become a fan (making sure you pick the Prattville CPFC page – there's also a "Centerpoint" in Albuquerque). We fleshed out details today for website design, domain names, and other details, so more will follow soon concerning Centerpoint's presence in cyberspace.
- Ryan John (Snell) joins us this Sunday to lead worship. We are excited to welcome this up-and-coming talent!
- John begins a new sermon series, "New and Improved," this Sunday. We'll also add some new worship service elements, such as drama, to help emphasize the message.

Farther out:

- **On Sun Jan 10th 2010** we are trying a new style of worship service, just to add a bit of spice (no pun intended) and a touch of that edgy unpredictability expected of our kind of new-fangled non-denominational fellowship. **We will meet at the Legends for an abbreviated service from 9:00 – 10:00 am** and then immediately [head out to the Camp Grandview YMCA complex in Millbrook](#) for a follow-up teaching hour, followed by a church-wide covered dish fellowship meal. The church will provide meat and drinks, so please bring a side or desert to share. In fact, **bring extra and invite your friends!** We look forward to seeing you there! (Okay, for those accustomed to old-timey camp meetings, we apologize – we realize this idea isn't really all that "new-fangled.")
- "Normal" (if anything in our fellowship can be described that way) youth activities will resume on Weds., Jan. 6th from 5:30 – 7:30 pm at Camp Grandview.
- Small group leadership training will begin in January. If you are interested in leading a small group, please let John Schmidt or Don Darling know, call the church at 356-3076, or tell us via connection card on Sunday.

For this week: " 'You call upon me and come and pray to me and I will listen to you. You will seek me and find me when you seek me with all your heart. I will be found by you,' declares the LORD" (Jer 29:12-14 NIV)