

This Week at Centerpoint, 3 January 2010

Before we mention anything else, we want to remind the congregation that we will hold our **service at the Legends this Sunday starting at 9:00 am, rather than 9:30, and then head directly to [Camp Grandview](#)** for a fellowship meal.

That said, we wish everyone a happy new year and want to emphasize how blessed Centerpoint's ministry has been because of all of you! A lot happened in the last few months of 2009; suffice it to say that we've come a very long way in a very short time. From 48 in Craig Clement's living room a short while ago to filling the entire ballroom at the Legend's Conference Center with 550 last week – God is moving among us in a big way! We may not be “there” yet (wherever “there” really is), but we're certainly moving forward forcefully.



[Photo courtesy of Billy Pope]

This past week:

- John introduced the 2010's first sermon series: “New and Improved,” addressing how this new year can usher a new and improved life as Christians. This week's message emphasized that God passionately desires a personal relationship with us, that relationship gives us meaning, purpose, and love forever, and that we must be intentional about our relationship with Him if it is to be meaningful. As usual, the sermon notes are attached for further study.
- This week's sermon also introduced the first video production from Centerpoint's Not Quite Ready for Prime Time Players, who introduced TempleZone's newest product: Bible Wow! [Check it out on YouTube](#). Get yours today and they'll throw in a free pencil sharpener! (Not available in stores.)*
- Our youth's “Nearly New Year's Eve” broom hockey event at Eastdale Mall last Tuesday was a resounding success. Over 80 participated in the fun and fellowship and Associate Pastor Scott Schumpert suffered no compound fractures.

* [Note: No endorsement of the University of Alabama, Alabama football, Nick Saban, the color crimson, elephants, or red algae is implied by the “Roll Tide” statement made by the anonymous young woman in the video. We extend our apologies to distraught Auburn and Florida fans.]



- Thanks to Ryan John (Snell) for leading us in worship this past Sunday. His vibrant music had the congregation on its feet and we appreciated his testimonial.
- "Faithfulness Corner:" We are so blessed to have such a vibrant and growing congregation that gives of itself freely and joyfully. Christmas week we had 410 in the candlelight service, 428 in Sunday worship, and received contributions of \$12,417. This last week we had (as mentioned) 550 attend and received \$12,236 in donations. Thanks to all for your great generosity!
- Just a reminder: **This Sunday we will meet at the Legends from 9 – 10 am then go straight to [Camp Grandview](#) for fellowship and a potluck meal.**

The upcoming week:

- Regular youth activities resume Weds night, 5:30 to 7:30 at Camp Grandview. Bring your Bibles, \$3 for pizza, and **dress warmly!** (Temps will be in the 20s...)
- Bethany Barr-Phillips and her group will lead worship for us again this Sunday (**in the service held from 9 – 10 am at the Legends, followed by a fellowship meal at [Camp Grandview](#)**). We really look forward to hearing and seeing Bethany again!
- For Sunday's fellowship meal at [Camp Grandview](#), (**following the 9 – 10 am service at the Legends**) the church will provide the chicken "main course" and drinks, but we still need folks to bring side dishes and desserts. Many have already signed up, but if you haven't and wish to help with the "loaves and fishes thing," please contact Scott at 356-3076 or scottschumpert3@gmail.com. (We challenge any genuine, authentic 'Bama backcountry cooks to show up with Sluicy-Dab in a Foot Tub. And no, that ain't one you'll find on no internet, neither. C'mon, y'all – who's up to the challenge?) **BTW, this fellowship meal will follow our 9 – 10 am service at the Legends.** Invite your friends and tell 'em, "be there or you don't get no sluicy-dab!"

Farther out:

- If you haven't already, become our fan on Facebook: Just search pages for "Centerpoint Fellowship." Look for the logo similar to the one on this page. We'll have a website up very soon as well (primary address will be "centeringlives.com"), but it's still in the design and testing stage.
- **The week after next, January 17th, will be "volunteer week" at Centerpoint.** The message and all other elements of the service will be geared to encouraging **everyone** in the congregation to find a place to serve and become actively involved in Centerpoint's ministry. We have teams for ushers, greeters (including parking lot assistants), the nursery, children's ministry, youth ministry, worship



service technical production, worship service creative teaming (including videos and drama, etc.), communication and marketing, life group leadership, prayer, outreach (including multi-site planning and missions), executive assistance volunteers (working in the church office), and others. Most or all of these teams will have designated tables and sheets available for sign-up on the 17th. Participation in one group will not necessarily preclude participation in others (e.g., you could be an usher and still be part of the prayer team).

- The requirement to increase volunteers this early is driven by our remarkable – and remarkably fast – growth. We may soon be facing a situation where we simply don't have enough room to accommodate all our worshippers in one service at the Legends. Hence we have begun contingency planning for two Sunday services. When we do this, however, we will need twice the number of volunteers on many teams in order to spread out opportunities to serve. Everyone has a calling – all believers are part of the visible body of Christ. We will be challenging you to find out what role God has for you to play.
- Small group leadership training will begin this month. 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. This will be an essential part of our ministry and our ideal goal is to get everyone affiliated with a life group.
- Finally, **did we mention that the service at the Legends this Sunday starts at 9:00, not 9:30, to be followed by a fellowship meal at [Camp Grandview](#)?** Well, it does.

For this week, amidst the abundant blessings God has shown us, perhaps we can find inspiration in these words: *As a result of your ministry, [others] will give glory to God. For your generosity to them and to all believers will prove that you are obedient to the Good News of Christ. And they will pray for you with deep affection because of the overflowing grace God has given to you. Thank God for this gift too wonderful for words!* (2 Cor 9:13-15 NLT)