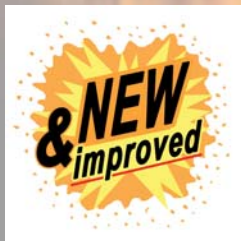


This past week saw us take a somewhat different approach to worship – an experiment of sorts. We stepped out in a new direction and God blessed us again. He leads, we follow, and where He’s led us so far has proven more exciting each week!

The past week:

- We started our worship service at the Legends half an hour early. The time change was just one of those edgy, new-church things all the church-planting literature recommends to periodically challenge the congregation... (Alright, alright – it was really because of a scheduling conflict at the Legends. Happy now?) Even with the time change, though, more attended than the week prior, including many first-timers. We are so honored that you chose to worship with us at Centerpoint!
- Immediately after the service, we moved lock, stock, and broccoli casserole out to Camp Grandview YMCA complex in Millbrook for a fellowship meal. Over 400 gathered and most brought side dishes or desserts – enough to fill five long serving tables beyond capacity. [As Pastor John Schmidt said](#), “we hope this will become a big part of Centerpoint [in the future]: Lots of eating.” (And speaking of the chicken fingers he mentions, we started out with six trays, which quickly and completely disappeared, and yet had nearly four left over after the meal. Hmmm. A “loaves and fishes” thing? Hard to say. What a few of us who hit the first six trays hard *can* say is that we don’t want to even *hear* the words “chicken” and “fingers” put together again for quite awhile...)
 - o We want to extend a warm thanks to the folks at Camp Grandview, to our event’s organizers, to all those who helped set up and prepare for the meal, to all the wonderful cooks who provided food, and to everyone else who helped, from parking cars to cleaning up. There are just too many to name!



- John continued his “New and Improved” series this week, covering our relationships with others and concentrating on the importance of Christians’ interactions within small groups. We discuss the issue of small groups at greater length below. As usual, John’s notes are attached for further study.
- TempleZone, marketers of our spin-off product line, also advertised their latest creation: “PalWow!” This product is not available in stores, [so call 1-800-PALWOWNOW](#) to get yours while supplies last!
- We welcomed Bethany Barr-Phillips back to lead worship this week. Bethany and her band have an exciting sound and a true gift for leading a congregation in musical praise. We hope she is



* NOTE: TempleZone and Centerpoint Fellowship are not responsible for instances of spontaneous human combustion or hair loss caused by PalWow’s quantum nano-mechanical paramagnetic effects.



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able to join us again before her impending move to Japan! [Check out her website](#) for more information.

- Our faithfulness: We had 588 in worship this week, with over 400 at our first fellowship meal. We received offerings of \$8,971.75. Thanks to all who gave for your great generosity!

Upcoming events:

- This coming Sunday, we will resume worship at 9:30 am at the Legends.
- Youth will meet at [Camp Grandview](#) on Wednesday from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Join them for), games, worship, break-out groups, and lots of fun! Bring a friend and plan on meeting lots of new ones! Please bring \$2 for food, which will be... (wanna guess? Yep, you got it on the first try) chicken fingers!
- *Volleyball, anyone?* We are organizing a co-ed volleyball team to play in a church league at [Prattville's East YMCA](#). If interested, please call Dale or Vicki Osterman at 361-5248 for details. Deadline for sign-up is January 22.
- We are organizing a photography ministry, so anyone interested in participating please contact Anita Thebo at 799-8452 (or nospam61@gmail.com), or Billy Pope at 462-6776. There's no deadline for sign-up, but the earlier you contact us, the more we can do.
- As we've mentioned before, a crucial part of centering our lives on Jesus is participation in small groups, which we at Centerpoint call "connect groups." Sermon-based small groups are the best mechanism for gaining greater understanding of God's word; for gaining trust, friendship, and support from other Christians; and for developing a deeper relationship with God. The need for small group connection will become vital as we continue to grow in numbers – no pastoral staff can possibly fulfill the close personal needs of a large church. True Christian care and growth must come through connect groups. In fact, any truly healthy church is one made up of a network of strong connect groups. John's sermon notes for this week explain a great deal about the Biblical basis for small group ministry and we've attached a connect group card explaining more and giving you a place to sign up. You'll also find these cards inside your Sunday bulletins. Please fill them out and let us know how you'd like to connect. We'd like to begin training group leaders as soon as possible and begin our first group "semester" next month, which will run through April.

Finally, as we contemplate our place in a connect group network, keep these words in mind, *"Let us think of ways to motivate one another to acts of love and good works. And let us not neglect our meeting together, as some people do, but encourage one another, especially now that the day of his return is drawing near."* (Heb 10:24-25, NLT)