

This Week at Centerpoint, 17 January 2010

Each week here at Centerpoint is more exciting – and challenging – than the last. This past week was no exception. It is inspiring, but also sobering, to think about how far we've come in just two months or so since Pastors John Schmidt and Scott Schumpert joined us. We still face numerous challenges, and require time, to realize many vital aspects of Centerpoint's ministry. But we know that we should, as James said, *"consider it a sheer gift...when tests and challenges come at us from all sides. You know that under pressure, your faith-life is forced into the open and shows its true colors"* (James 1:2-4 MSG). We see "true colors" showing every day at Centerpoint, as members of the congregation step forward to offer their time, talents, services, property, and resources to help us grow. It truly is "awesome," in every sense of the word!

The past week:

- John spoke on News Radio 107.9's popular Morris and Montiel show last Friday. They provided an excellent, positive venue for John to explain the aims and direction of our ministry. So we at "Cornerstone" Fellowship forgive the slight confusion over our name during the promotional spots for the show (John noted that he was glad our name was not construed into "Centerfold Fellowship.")
- We thank Bryan Isbell for leading us in worship on Sunday. He had the whole crowd worshipping through song as seldom before. Even those at the Legend's buffet down the hall noted our singing (asking the management to "please turn down the stereo.") Bryan returns to lead us this coming Sunday.
- "Ask and you shall receive," said Jesus, and He proved the truth of His word this week: For some time, we've needed a trailer to store all the equipment we move back and forth to the Legends every weekend. Shortly after Tony Brewer from our Leadership Team made an appeal concerning the trailer, someone stepped forth and offered to buy one for us. Praise God and our generous benefactors!
- Finally, John continued the "New and Improved" sermon series, (Notes attached, as always) teaching about our relationships with the church and the community, and pointing out our responsibility to serve both. He emphasized that God created us with certain abilities and shaped our lives with various experiences in order to serve where we are meant to serve with passion.
 - o What's more, John taught this Sunday with a zeal that had those familiar with his ministry saying, "all right", John's back in his groove!" Others, not so familiar, seemed ready to call out, "tell it, brother, tell it!" That was until he pulled his copy of "The Bay City Roller's Greatest Hits" out of a box of favorite albums. We can safely say most everyone at that point thought, "ooh, I don't think I'd of told that one, brother!"



* Alternatively spelled, "alright."



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- Our faithfulness: No less than 644 joined us in worship Sunday, and giving topped \$16,000. Wow. What else can you say? Well, for one: Thank you, both for coming and for giving! Secondly: Our numbers are reaching a point where we are close to the Legends ballroom's maximum capacity. This is forcing us to consider alternatives for expanding worship. More on this below.

The upcoming week:

- Youth will meet on Wednesday at [Camp Grandview](#) from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Please bring \$3 for pizza.
- Corporate officials at our highly-profitable affiliate product line, TempleZone, were disturbed by the lack of advertisement during our last service, so they are planning a “comeback” this weekend. We have no idea what they have in mind, but be prepared...

Other Issues and Events:

- Everyone has seen the tragedy unfold in Haiti this past week. Most want to help, but feel powerless to do anything meaningful. But there are ways you can make important – even life saving – contributions. Here are three charities that spend almost all their contributions on relief (and not bloated bureaucratic overhead), are not afraid to go places even when not guaranteed armed security, and which represent the true spirit of Christian service:
 - o [Compassion International](#)
 - o [Samaritan's Purse](#)
 - o [World Vision International](#)
- Centerpoint needs volunteers to assist the tech team – with sound, video, cameras editing, etc. Several have stepped up, but we need more. If you have expertise, equipment, and or facilities that can help in this important ministry area, please contact Sammy Peoples at (334) 361-7343 or speoples@rocketmail.com.
- Did you know that you can attend worship at the Legends and stay there to eat afterwards? A few have discovered this opportunity, but most simply aren't aware: The Legends offers an excellent Sunday brunch buffet from 11 am to 2 pm, featuring the “Craving Station,” made-to-order omelets and waffles, peel-and-eat shrimp, a salad bar, and homemade desserts. Adults eat for \$14.95, kids 7-12 for \$5.95, and kids 6 and under eat free.
- As we've mentioned several times before, a crucial part of centering our lives on Jesus is participation in “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. True Christian care and growth must come through such groups. **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. Group leader training has begun and we will conduct more this



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weekend, beginning our first group “semester” next month, which will run through April. Come join us!

- We are growing so rapidly that our numbers have forced us to begin planning for two Sunday services. No details concerning when and how have been finalized. Our leadership team will be holding a planning session this Sunday. Here’s our biggest dilemma and our greatest opportunity: Two services mean twice the number of people needed as ushers, nursery workers, parking lot assistants, tech team members, and so on. If you’ve been “chomping at the bit” to serve (and we know many have), here’s your opportunity to step forward. Please fill out the connect cards found in your Sunday bulletins and turn them into our ushers. You can also contact the church directly at 356-3076.
- Remember to follow church events on Facebook at:
 - o www.facebook.com/CenterpointFellowship
- You can contact the church at:
 - o john@centeringlives.com
 - o scott@centeringlive.com
 - o cyndi@centeringlives.com

Lastly, remember that Christ said, *What I've done, you do. I'm only pointing out the obvious. A servant is not ranked above his master; an employee doesn't give orders to the employer. If you understand what I'm telling you, act like it—and live a blessed life* (John 13:15-17 MSG).

NEW & improved