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This Week at Centerpoint, January 24, 2010

This past week gave us much to meditate on. We hope we bring a new attitude to 2010, remembering that trials are only a test of our faith, to show that it is strong and pure.

The past week:

- Pastor John Schmidt gave the last sermon in his “new and improved” series, covering the new perspective on life that knowing Jesus gives us, and how this perspective changes our attitudes about facing difficult times. (Notes are attached for your reference, as are John’s notes on “renewing our minds.”) Unfortunately, John’s discourse on the value of meditating on “whatever is true, noble, and right” (Phil 1:1-3) was rudely interrupted by Vance from TempleZone (who is none of those things) hawking his worthless “Mood Wow” mood rings. John was so flustered, he committed onomatopoeia in front of the whole congregation. Sad. We apologize to any sensitive souls who were overcome by this....
- John also gave us a new word to chew on: “Ha’gah,” the Hebrew word for “meditate” or “contemplate” – a very useful word. It comes from a primitive root word meaning “the chewing of a cow on its cud or the growling of lion over its prey.” Today’s Hebrew speakers pronounce it like we’ve spelled it in English, but since written Hebrew has no vowels, scholars think it was a much more guttural-sounding word, like “Hgchgh-Guckch,” as John explained. So if a brother or sister from Centerpoint greets you with “Hgchgh-Guckch,” say it back to them and don’t say, “Gesundheit” or back away in disgust.
- Again we thank Bryan Isbell for being our worship leader. He has a talent for enlivening the congregation, so much so that our singing “drowned” out the sound of the torrential, near-Biblical flood happening outside during the service.
- Our faithfulness: We had 606 in worship, despite the weather, and giving totaled \$15,786.46. Thanks and blessings to all who braved the rain and all who contributed to our ministry.

The upcoming week:

- This Sunday will inaugurate the celebration of communion at Centerpoint. We will observe this sacrament with communion stations around the outside of the Legends ballroom where we meet. Please go to the station closest to you, unless that station is crowded, in which case go to the nearest that is not crowded. John will explain all this edgy, “new church” stuff on Sunday. Trust us; it works.
- Bethany Barr-Phillips will join us again as worship leader this Sunday. We’ve been inspired by her music before and we look forward to her return.
- Youth will meet on Wednesday at [Camp Grandview](#) from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. Please bring your Bibles and \$3 for pizza.



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Other Issues and Events:

- We need volunteers: Here are two ways to help if you've been wanting to find a way to connect with our ministry:
 - o This Sunday at 8:00 am at the Legends to help set up the communion elements. We need about ten volunteers.
 - o Friday mornings at 9:00 (including this Friday), we need people at the church office (located at [696-C Commerce Court, Prattville](#) – right behind the Prattville K-Mart) to help “stuff” our bulletins. We know it sounds prosaic, but it's important. Who among you would like to receive an unstuffed bulletin?
 - o For both, please contact Cyndi Lombardi at the church office, 356-3076 or cyndi.lombardi@gmail.com
- Haiti still needs our prayers and our practical help. We encourage your charitable giving to the following organizations:



- o [World Vision International](#)
- o [Samaritan's Purse](#)
- o [Compassion International](#)
- Centerpoint also 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 eat there afterwards? The Legends offers an excellent Sunday brunch buffet from 11 am to 2 pm. The buffet features the “craving station,” which some have speculated may be unsuitable for a Christian fellowship, but which we are assured by the Legends management is quite “family friendly” (and tasty!).
- Mark your calendars: To support Centerpoint's missions ministry, we will hold our inaugural “Centerpoint Challenge” – a 5K/10K/1 mile run on April 10, 2010. We are looking for runners and sponsors. If you are interested in either, please contact the church at 356-3076.
- Connect groups have started! Some will begin meeting later this week and others will begin next week. We will hold another sign-up opportunity this Sunday for established groups and are still training group facilitators. Even if you're not yet signed up, there will be plenty of opportunity for you to join us! We will publish a list of available groups next week. This is a critical part of Centerpoint's ministry – Worship service provides an affirmation of our connection to Christ, but small groups provide an affirmation of our connection to each other in doing Christ's work here on earth; they provide confirmation, stability, and accountability. Contact us! Get connected!



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- As mentioned previously, we are growing so rapidly that our numbers have forced us to begin planning for two Sunday services. We're now beginning to finalize details concerning when and how to do this. Our biggest dilemma is 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 (or Ha'gah-ing over it), here's your opportunity to step forward.
- Remember to follow church events on Facebook at:
 - o www.facebook.com/CenterpointFellowship
- You can contact us at:
 - o john@centeringlives.com
 - o scott@centeringlive.com
 - o cyndi@centeringlives.com

Finally, *"Dear friends,"* Ha'gah over this: *"Don't be surprised at the fiery trials you are going through, as if something strange were happening to you. Instead, be very glad—for these trials make you partners with Christ in his suffering, so that you will have the wonderful joy of seeing his glory when it is revealed to all the world."* (1 Pet 4:12-13, NLT)