

This Week at Centerpoint, 31 January 2010

So much is happening at Centerpoint – so many “moving parts” are working and so much is beginning to come together – that we should strive to remain like the “noble wife” in [Proverbs 31](#), energetic and strong, virtuous and capable, our hands busy with all good works. Yes, we’ll “blow it” sometimes, but we know we’ve followed where the Lord has led thus far and as our ministry grows into new areas, like connect groups and membership classes, we pray that we continue to faithfully follow His guidance.

The past week:

- Okay, right up front: We blew it. We admit it and we’re starting over: In last week’s newsletter, we stated that Pastor John Schmidt taught the last sermon in his “new and improved” series on the 24th. Not true. This past Sunday in fact marked the end of “new and improved,” as John brought all the elements together to show us that Jesus came to give hope and a new start to people who have “blown it” (Note: that would be *all of us*.) When we realize we are utterly helpless, we must admit we’ve sinned, believe that God truly forgives us, and commit (or re-commit) our lives to Him. John’s notes are attached, as usual.

- Bethany Barr-Phillips and her band led us in worship again on Sunday. What a blessing her group’s music and her leadership were, even though John interrupted them in the middle of their set to lead the congregation in prayer. It was all a clever staging trick – John was just modeling “blowing it” to prep the congregation for his message. He meant to do it. Really. Bethany will be back with us this coming Sunday. Check out her [website](#), too.



- We celebrated our first communion as a congregation. It was an important time of private contemplation, of course, but it was also moving to share in the commemoration of Christ’s sacrifice together for the first time as a body of believers.
- Our faithfulness: 575 joined us, giving a total of \$13,062. We are so glad that you chose to be with us and are very grateful for your generosity!

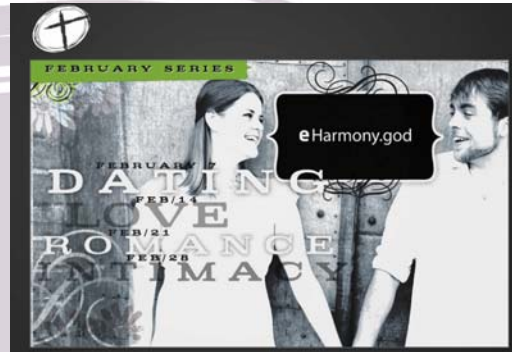
Upcoming and ongoing:

- **Our website is up!** (And it looks danged good, if we do say so ourselves!) [Centeringlives.com](#) (also .net and .org) has vital information about our fellowship (like our statement of beliefs), up-to-date news, info on how to get connected with us, ministry-related resources (like sermon notes and back-copies of these fabulous newsletters), truly breathtaking photos of our pastors, and more! We will also soon feature podcasts of John’s messages. [Check it out!](#)

Centering Lives on Christ

- Youth meet on Wednesdays at [Camp Grandview](#) from 5:30 – 7:30 pm. This week's guest speaker will be Jamie Culpepper. Bring your Bibles and \$3 for pizza. Our youth will also be gathering for Super Ultimate Frisbee this Sunday, Feb 7th from 2:00 – 3:30 pm, behind the [Prattville East YMCA, 972 McQueen Smith Rd.](#)

- John will start a new series of messages on relationships this Sunday: “eHarmony.god.” This week will provide Biblical insights on dating and “courtship.” Feb 14th will cover romance (and give Biblical “tips for the romantically challenged”). Feb 21st will deal with “intimacy.” Please note that this will be a “PG-13” message; we will have activities for children during the service in the downstairs rooms at the Legends. Feb 28th will conclude the series with “true love” and this will also be a communion Sunday. (in case you are wondering, Centerpoint will observe communion at least once during worship each sermon series.)



- Connect Groups are off and running. Sixteen groups have been formed so far and others are forming. Many of those already formed still have space available. Our goal is to get everyone possible connected to a small group in order to go deeper into God's word than the Sunday sermon allows; to make new friends; to get encouragement and support; and to serve others in the community. [Go here for a current listing of groups](#), or contact Don Darling, our Connect Group “Guru,” at 549-5524 or darlingdesignbuild@yahoo.com.
- Speaking of “off and running,” our inaugural Centerpoint Challenge 5K / 10K / 1 mile run will be held on April 10th. Proceeds will go to support our mission trip to Peru later this year and other mission activities. For details, pick up a flyer at the next service, contact the church at 356-3076, or contact our event organizer, Karen Bernard, at 868-0920.
- A number of people have stepped up to help with our Technical Team, but now we have a very specific need: Someone who can *creatively* edit video. We are losing our resident genius, Taylor Hall, to Australia for a few months, but the need he now fills will remain. This person will also work closely with the Worship (“creative”) Team. If you can help in this vital area, please contact Sammy Peoples at (334) 361-7343 or speoples@rocketmail.com.
- Another urgent artistic need: Calling all actors, writers, stage hands, key grips, best boys, Hollywood producers – and yes, **video editors** – along with anyone else who would like to be part in our Drama Ministry (and trust us, people: This is a growth industry at CPF). There will be a meeting next Tuesday, Feb 9th, at 6:00 pm in the church office ([696-C Commerce Court, Prattville](#) – right behind the Prattville K-Mart). If interested, contact Karen Hunerwadel at 358-8638 (jklandm@charter.net) or Cyndi at the church. Come discover the thespian you've kept hidden inside for so long!



Centering Lives on Christ

- Other continuing volunteer opportunities:
 - o Friday mornings at 9:00 am we need people at the church office to help “stuff” our bulletins. No Centerpoint bulletin shall go unstuffed!
 - o On communion Sundays, we need volunteers to help set up. The next opportunity, as mentioned, will be Feb 28th. Please be at the Legends no later than 8:30 am.
 - o For both, please contact Cyndi Lombardi at the church office, 356-3076 or cyndi.lombardi@centeringlives.com
- Don't forget the Legend's excellent buffet is available for brunch after the service.
- We are still in the planning stages for two Sunday services, which means many of our volunteer requirements will double. We will transition to two services no later than Easter, but it may happen sooner, contingent on attendance.
- Finally, we have two new but very important announcements:
 - o **Centerpoint Fellowship will hold the formal ordination ceremony for John Schmidt and Scott Schumpert on Sunday, February 21st at 5:00 pm at the Legends.** This will be a very special and moving event, so we hope you can come.
 - o **Membership in Centerpoint Fellowship:** Our first membership class will be offered **Mar 7th from 11:00 to 12:00** in the Legends ballroom (i.e., right after worship, in lieu of the “going deeper” sessions). We will have more details on our membership covenant and additional classes soon.
- Follow church events in cyberspace at:
 - o www.facebook.com/CenterpointFellowship
 - o **And on the web at www.centeringlives.com**
- Remember, you can always contact us at 356-3076, or:
 - o john@centeringlives.com
 - o scott@centeringlive.com
 - o cyndi@centeringlives.com

As we close, remember Paul's words to his leaders and volunteers at Ephesus: *“I have been a constant example of how you can help those in need by working hard. You should remember the words of the Lord Jesus: ‘It is more blessed to give than to receive.’”* (Acts 20:34-36, NLT) So many hands at Centerpoint have been working so hard – and so many have become examples like Paul – let's all take heart from his words!

Photos courtesy of Anita Thebo
& Bethany Barr-Phillips
Other illus. courtesy of Billy Pope