

This Week at Centerpoint, 14 February 2010

Spring still seems quite far from the air here in LA (Lower Alabama) – which is colder than the winter Olympics’ venue as this is written – but romance **was** in the air, at least in a small cloud surrounding the Marriot Legends Conference Center in Prattville, this Valentine’s Day:

- Pastor John Schmidt shared the pulpit with his lovely wife Debbie this week as they explained the Bible’s perspective on romance. Yes, (men) romance IS a Biblical virtue and, no, *Song of Solomon* does not *just* describe Christ’s love for His bride (although it also does that). God made men and women to complement each other and their roles and needs are different. John and Debbie did an outstanding job of discussing how those differing needs should be met (even though John, being a typically romantically-challenged male of the species, well.... you can see the photo...). They emphasized how both partners in a relationship should put the other’s needs before their own and how praise and affirmation are important to men and women in differing ways. Gee, you’d think this relationship stuff was important to God, or something. (Hmmm... perhaps we have “God in three persons” for a reason...) Sermon notes are attached, of course.



- We were delighted that Ryan John joined us as worship leader again this week. He showed his musical versatility, in the words of one Leadership Team member, by “giving us Dan Fogelberg instead of Bon Jovi.” (For those under sixty that translates into, “John Mayer instead of Hoobastank.”) He joins us again in a few weeks, when he plans to do a set exclusively of Gregorian Chant.



We are gratified that our congregation is becoming more comfortable with Centerpoint’s relaxed worship atmosphere. We see laughter, applause, raising hands in praise, and so on, more every week – all good! A few, however, have chosen to carry “comfortable” beyond the bounds of propriety. Seen here, Associate Pastor Scott (“The Hammer”) Schumpert, Minister Plenipotentiary for Discipline and Conformity of the Faithful, is forced

to make an example of one young lady and her children, who chose to show up for church in their pajamas. (Yes – we’re kidding; Scott and Stephanie Freeman were just announcing next week’s children’s PJ party [see below].)



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- Our faithfulness: We had 670 in worship, and giving totaled \$13,843.52. Thanks once again to all!

Upcoming and ongoing:

John and Scott will be formally ordained this Sunday, Feb 21st at 5:00 pm, at the Legends. Please join us for this important and moving ceremony.



This Sunday's sermon will be "PG-13," as John and Deb deal with... uh... "intimacy." **This message will be for those 13 and older only** (and the material may not be entirely suitable for all children 13 and older – we will let parents decide suitability.) No, we are not becoming "Centerfold Fellowship" (as John joked a few weeks ago on the Montiel & Morris radio show), but there are aspects of physical relationships between men and women that need to be dealt with Biblically, but in a frank manner. **During the message, we will split the**

congregation and John will speak to men in one section of the ballroom, while Deb addresses the women in another. As John stated, "there are just issues men deal with that cannot be dealt with frankly while their teenage daughters are present."

- While the adults-only stuff is going on upstairs, **there will be a complete program for 12-and-unders downstairs at the Legends.** It will be a **Centerpoint pajama party!** Come in your (demure, decorous, and conservative) PJs and enjoy great worship and fun! And yes, our lovely PJ model Stephanie Freeman, head of our Children's Ministry Team, will be there in her (demure, decorous, and conservative) PJs too.

- Youth meet on Wednesdays at [Camp Grandview](#) from 5:30 – 7:30pm. Bring your Bibles and \$3 for pizza.

- This week we add a new element to our young peoples' ministry: "Tweenagers!" 5th and 6th graders will also meet at Camp Grandview starting this week (Weds, Feb 17th) at 5:30pm for pizza, games, worship, and fun!



- Centerpoint Drama Team Casting Call! All actors, scriptwriters, producers, cinematographers, grips, best boys, Divas, drama queens and other interested parties are invited to this important ministry's meetings, which will be held every Tuesday, 6:00 pm, at the church office ([696-C Commerce Court, Prattville](#)). Contact Karen Hunerwadel, 358-8638 and jklandm@charter.net, for details.

- Video versions of John's messages are now available on our website at centeringlives.com, and more features are being added to the site every day.

Background, photos, and graphics courtesy of Anita Thebo, Karen Stoltzfus, and Billy Pope



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- On Feb 28th *all* children except those needing nursery care will be in the main service – we will not have access to the downstairs rooms. Nursery care will be available upstairs.
 - Inaugural membership classes will be held March 7th, 14th, and 21st from 11:00 to 12:00 at the Legends (that is, after the service, in place of the “going deeper” sessions). Anyone wishing to join Centerpoint Fellowship will need to attend one of these classes and sign a membership covenant with the church. The membership classes will cover what that covenant entails, including what it means to be a Christian and what our expectations are for our members.
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Membership 101
Are you ready to commit to Centerpoint Fellowship Church?

Membership classes will be held after worship

Sundays, March 7, 14, 21
11:00am - 12:00pm

Contact Cyndi at the church
356-3076 for information
- On March 28th, our normal facilities at the Legends will be unavailable, so we will hold our service at the beautiful [Marriot Renaissance Conference Center in downtown Montgomery](#). We will send reminders with more details as the date gets closer.
 - April 10th will be our inaugural Centerpoint Challenge 5K / 10K / 1 mile run. Proceeds will go to support the Peru mission trip and other mission activities. We need runners **and sponsors**. For details, click on “Centerpoint Challenge Run” at [centeringlives.com](#) (you can download race info and forms, as well as register online), pick up a flyer this Sunday, contact the church at 356-3076, or contact our event organizer, Karen Barnard, at 868-0920 and karen.barnard.hhrv@statefarm.com.
 - Sunday April 18th will be CPF’s first-ever Tent Revival! We will have a large tent set up in the field just north of the Legends. Come for singin’, preachin’, and eatin’! More to follow.
 - A vital new part of ministry is the answering of prayer needs. You may have seen the sign at the corner of the ballroom – if you need prayer, you can find volunteers there to pray with and for you every Sunday. You may also write prayer requests on your connection cards.
 - Remember the Legend’s excellent buffet is available for brunch after service each Sunday. Make your Easter reservations now!
 - Find us in cyberspace at:
 - o www.facebook.com/CenterpointFellowship
 - o **And on the web at www.centeringlives.com** (as well as .org and .net)
 - Contact us at 356-3076, or:
 - o john@centeringlives.com
 - o scott@centeringlives.com
 - o cyndi@centeringlives.com

Remember that Christ does address us in Solomon’s Song: *“You have ravished my heart, my treasure, my bride. I am overcome by the glance of your eyes...How sweet is your love!”* (Song 4:9-11) – let’s strive to live in remembrance of His love for us!