



EASTER REVEALED:

SEVEN THINGS YOU DID NOT KNOW ABOUT **EASTER**

Luke 24 : 25-27

This Week at Centerpoint Fellowship Easter Sunday, 2011

Worship

An Easter Appeal

From Senior Pastor John Schmidt [1]:

Dear Centerpoint family,
This Sunday we will be celebrating our second Easter together as a church. The music Shelley and her team have prepared for us is incredible, and I can't wait to deliver the message of hope and discovery that God has placed upon my heart. Hundreds of people visited Centerpoint for the first time last Easter, and we expect many more this year. As a result, Easter brings with it incredible opportunities for people to get to know Christ and to get to know us as a church. That's why I'd like to ask you to look over the following ideas and prayerfully consider how you can help make Easter at Centerpoint the best it can be:

- Ask God to show you someone you can invite to church. People are more open to your invitation at Easter than at any other time of year.
- Pray that people will commit their lives to Christ this Easter. I will do my best to offer a crystal-clear presentation of the gospel, and we will give everyone a chance to respond to the Lord. Please pray that God will help me boldly proclaim the gospel each time I open my mouth. (Ephesians 6:19) [2].
- Greet everyone around you. There will be many first-time visitors. Please help them feel welcome and assist them with directions.
- PLEASE park in the field and allow first-time visitors to park in the Marriott Legends parking lot. It's easy to drop off passengers and proceed to the field if you come a few minutes early.
- If possible, please attend our new 8 am worship service. We have plenty of room in worship and in the parking lot at 8 am.
- Sing out and join our worship team as they lead us in worship.

Thanks for your assistance and your prayers. I am grateful to be your pastor and I look forward to worshipping with you on Sunday. [3]

REMINDERS:

Services: 8, 9:15, and 11 am
at the [Marriott Legends](#)

4th Sunday Volunteers

Young People's Activities

KidCentral

- **Kid Central** Is our fun-filled worship experience for **K-4th graders**. We're running a series of messages using Disney / Pixar clips to illustrate well-known Bible stories, like Noah's ark and Jesus raising Lazarus from the dead. They meet **downstairs at the Legends at 9:15 and 11 am**. If you have questions, please contact Tracey Maggard at tracey@centeringlives.com.

- **Kid Central needs you!** We have volunteers now, but we can use more. If you're able to spend one hour a month helping children learn God's Word, contact Tracey Maggard at tracey@centeringlives.com. Remember, "Serve One, Attend One." You can serve in KidCentral at 9:15 and still attend one of the other services.

- **Tween Central** is our worship experience for **5th and 6th graders**. They meet **downstairs at the Legends at 11 am**. If you have questions, please contact Tracey Maggard at tracey@centeringlives.com.

- **Student Ministry (7th - 12th Graders)** normally gather at 11 am to go deeper into the 9:15 sermon. They meet downstairs at the Legends. This is a great way to get into some practical applications of what they learned at 9:15.

- **Student Break-Away (grades 7-12) meets Wednesdays at Camp Grandview** from 5:45 to 7:45.

- **Tweenagers** also meet on Wednesdays at Camp Grandview from 5:45 to 6:45. This ministry will start its summer break in May, so the last Weds. Camp Grandview tween meeting will be on May 11.

College and Career

Centerpoint's new dedicated College-Career Connect Group meets on **Sundays at Mellow Mushroom immediately following 11 am services**. Contact Butch Ruttan at butchruttan@dynamicsservices.org for more info.

Stations of the Cross

Frazer United Methodist Church is holding their traditional stations of the cross interactive prayer experience today (Friday) from 8 am - 7pm. This is a wonderful opportunity to pray and reflect on Christ's sacrifice. More details [here](#).

Our Faithfulness

Attendance: 8 am - 115, 9:15 - 503, 11 - 490, total - 1108, but this total does not include those in the nursery. Giving: \$31,158.23. Don't forget about giving and checking your giving online: Just go to [CP's website](#) and click "online giving."

Connection

Prattville CityFest

Centerpoint's biggest outreach event of the year is fast approaching [CityFest 2011](#) on May 7. This is a great service opportunity for connect groups and individual volunteers: CP will man the inflatables and kids games, and we would like each CP connect group to sign up for one three-hour shift. This will be an opportunity to meet other Centerpointers and to "show our colors" to fellow Prattvillians. Shifts are available on a first-come, first-served basis. They're filling up fast, so contact [Cyndi](#) (356-3076) to sign up ASAP.

Morning of Prayer

Centerpoint still has 20 tickets to the National Day of Prayer breakfast on May 5 at the [Doster Center](#). The tickets are \$5.00. Serving lines open at 6:45 am and the program concludes at 8. Please contact [Cyndi](#) at 356-3076 if you're interested - act quickly, before they're scarfed!

Service

Common Ground, Montgomery

(CGM), a ministry to the youth and families of West Montgomery, is one of the local causes that CP supports (see right column).

First, we have to boast just a bit. CGM's facility was in need of what its directors thought would be several weeks of work, inside and out. Instead, a number of construction-experienced CPers, some 25 helpers from the local Catholic High School, and 30 volunteers from a church in Griffin, GA, managed to finish everything required at CGM's main facility in just a day! We will try to find a suitable picture for next week's edition.



CGM is also hosting its quarterly Family Day on Saturday, April 30, from 11:30 am to 3:00 pm. They need thirty volunteers to help with crafts, activities, and snacks. In the past, most volunteers have been women, but Common Ground would like men to participate in order to provide good male role models for these children.

Centerpoint Help Wanted

Big praises this week: We had volunteers step up to teach Tween Central and run VBS! Thanks!

Nursery volunteers, to assist paid nursery workers, esp. at the 8 am service; work at least once/month. Contact [Tracey](#).

Kid Central volunteers, to assist in Kid Central one Sunday a month. Contact [Tracey](#).

Ushers, greeters, & parking team members, 8 am service, starting Apr 10. Sign up at the info table or by contact card.

Pre-marriage Mentors to give all couples getting married through CP a solid biblical understanding of the institution and its responsibilities. Looking for couples with long, stable marriages and strong people skills. Will arrange for training. Contact [Cyndi](#), 356-3076, or Don & Henrietta Bascom, 365-8430.

Setup and breakdown team members, 10 people for *each* team, weekend rotation negotiable, training provided. Sign up at the info table or by contact card.

Photography Team members: Anyone interested documenting CP's events in pictures. Weekly rotations negotiable. Contact Anita Thebo at 365-8229.

Info Table and Duplicating Team, several people to serve at the information table in the lobby and help duplicate CDs (it's easy!). Contact [Cyndi](#), 356-3076.

Other CP Ministries

Celebrate Recovery

Centerpoint's Celebrate Recovery (CR) ministry is going strong. CR is a place where we can admit and work through our hurts, hang-ups, and sinful habits in a safe and loving environment. CR meets every Friday at [Church of Living Water](#) in Prattville:

- 6:30 pm: Large Group
- 7:30 pm: Small Groups
- 8:30 pm: Cross-Talk Cafe

We offer a newcomer's group, and separate groups for Men's and Women's Life Struggles. In the next few months, we will be starting CR Step Studies that will go deeper into coping strategies for various problems that face us.

For more info, see our [CR info on the CP website](#) and on [Facebook](#). Also check out [CR's main website](#). Or just come on Friday - you will be welcomed and very thankful that you did!

Prayer

If you need prayer, you can find our Pastors and volunteers to pray with and for you every Sunday (in the corners of the Legend's Ballroom). You may also write prayer requests on your connection cards and/or contact our prayer team at prayer@centeringlives.com.

Please Pray for Our Deployed Military

If you have a family member who is deployed or is deploying soon, please let us know. You can email info to us at cyndi@centeringlives.com or call the church office at 356-3076.

The following people are currently deployed. Please pray for their safety and for the loved ones waiting for their return. **Brandy Brown, Jake Riddle, Josh Strickland, Nick Hensley, Webb Smith, and David Wright.**

Centerpoint's softball team is off and running (or at least hitting runs, we hope) as part of Prattville's Spring Church League. They play on Thursdays at [Mac Gray Park](#). Their first games were last night (as this goes to press on Friday) against First Baptist and FUMC Prattville (*that* one should have been interesting!)

Centerpoint will also be donating 90 new books to go with the day's theme, "Reading is Fun," and will need help handing out the books. If you would like to participate, please contact Leslie Cowell, at 201-2492 or lcowell@4pca.com, as soon as possible.

Autauga Interfaith Care Center

(AICC) is another local charity we strongly support that gives food and other basic items to families in dire need. Dave Everist, AICC's Executive Director and also a very active member of our flock, sends the following:

"Hey! As you all know many areas in Autauga County were hit severely by tornadoes [last] Friday. After hearing about the damage at Posey's Crossing, [I went] to check on an elderly friend [living in nearby] mobile home... [The sight was devastating. Our friend] Ms. Jessie Mitchell (Toonie), is in UAB in critical condition with many internal injuries [and doctors] have given her a 50/50 chance to live. We went to the property this afternoon to see if any family members were there [and] check on her condition. We met her cousin, Willie, who lives next door [and was] trying to clean up. The debris field is scattered throughout dense trees and brush, which makes access difficult. This man has one pickup truck and is responsible for the entire cleanup. We tried to help as much as possible while we were there, but ran out of daylight and didn't have the necessary equipment. At this point, one of the main concerns is finding her purse, which has all of her personal identification as well as [many] other valuables.



Willie is trying to get as many of her valuables put away as quickly as possible due to people pilfering the debris looking for things worth money. We plan to go up every afternoon this week as well as Saturday to help this elderly man. We would welcome any amount of help that you can offer with the cleanup. There is insulation everywhere, so if you plan to help, wear clothes and a mask that will protect you. Also, we need trailers, four-wheelers, and any heavy equipment such as tractors, Bobcats, etc. Any manual labor help would be greatly appreciated. However, if you are unable to assist in this way, this family and the victims, as well as many others in the area, could use your prayers. The property is located just north of Posey's Crossroads off of Hwy 57."

If you would like to help, please call Dave at 799-2758.

Holy (Week) Water

Finally, we want to pass on a word from one of the international ministries we strongly supported this year:

"Holy Week is upon us!

We've been delighted to be with you in prayer this Lenten season.

Our H2O sacrifice is but a small gesture to remember the sacrifice Jesus made for us. Or at least that's what we thought until we received multiple reports of near-death withdrawals from coffee, soft drinks, and (of all things) double half-caf white mocha frappuccinos. (Why get a double if it's half-caf?)

We hope you had fun in the midst of your fast. We know that God is smiling on your efforts because the Lord already knows and treasures the lives you'll touch with safe drinking water in Jesus' name.

Next games: Thur, Apr 28, 6:30, Field 1, against Robinson Springs & Christ Lutheran. Come support your team!

Remember Lunch at the Legends

You really need to try the [Legend's excellent buffet](#), available after service each Sunday.

Local Ministry Partners

Adullam House

[212 Adullam Rd., Wetumpka](#)
www.adullamhouse.org

Cares for the physical, emotional, and spiritual needs of children of incarcerated mothers. Children range from babies to 18 years old and they can care for up to 48 children.

Needs: Caregivers, supplies, construction work and donations - they specifically need electricians

Contact: (334) 514-3070 or hannah@adullamhouse.org

Autauga Interfaith Care Center (AICC)

[163 West 3rd Street, Prattville](#)
www.aicccares.org

Helps meet the needs of impoverished individuals and families of Autauga County facing urgent situations. AICC offers primarily food and clothing, but also limited financial assistance for utilities as their budget allows. Hours: Tuesday - Thursday, 9:30am - 2:30pm

Needs: Volunteers to help at the center and donations of food, clothing, blankets, towels, sheets and sleeping bags

Contact: Dave Everist at (334) 365-4080 or aicc@aicccares.org

Bridges of Faith (BoF)

[302 County Road 383, Verbena](#) (Bridgestone facility)
www.bridgesoffaith.com

A ministry to foreign orphans, primarily in Eastern Europe. Runs Bible camps, facilitates adoptions, and transitions orphans to live on their own. Also operates Bridgestone, a prayer and retreat center 30 miles north of Montgomery.

Needs: Volunteers to help at Bridgestone and sponsoring children.*

Contact: Tom Benz at (334) 221-0385 or

info@bridgesoffaith.com

* BoF needs general construction help on Apr 1 & 2 - as many bodies as possible; construction-related skills helpful, but not required. Contact Duane Burt at (334) 300-6941 if you can help.

Common Ground Montgomery

[1516 Mobile Rd, Montgomery](#)
commongroundmontgomery.org

Ministers to "at risk" youth of the Washington Park area of West Montgomery by providing a safe, educational, and fun place during crucial after-school hours. Projects include after-school programs, mentoring, "House 2 House" (renovations and cleaning of homes), summer camps, and summer internships.

Needs: Volunteers to help with all of the above mentioned projects.*

Contact: Jason McHenry at (334) 593-5803 or

commonground@cgm.org

* Hosting a banquet on May 6 to honor a number of young ladies who are completing a study on purity. Contact Tonya Lee at 239-7979 or we4lees@gmail.com for details.

Grace Place

[707 McQueen Smith Rd. South, Prattville](#)
www.graceplacecpc.com

Helps women facing an unexpected pregnancy. Offers pregnancy testing, options counseling, material aid, and referrals to community services - all confidential and free of charge.

Needs: Volunteers are needed to help in the office and with special events.

Contact: Cheryl McLain at 365-8266, or [go here for more contact info.](#)

From now until Easter, on our journey with Christ from here to Jerusalem, whatever rocky roads you may travel, know that we are with you in prayer.

The H2O Project for Lent Team
Living Water International

When you are ready to turn your fasting and prayer into a cup of water for the least of these, [you can do so anytime here.](#)"

PS: It looks like CP's "turn in" for the H2O project will be just under \$4000, but all the figures are not in.

We Want You...



...To get up off the pew (so to speak). Please see the "Centerpoint Help Wanted" ads in the right-hand column for the many service opportunities at CP. If you're available and wanting to serve, see someone at the info table, let us know by connect card, contact [Cyndi](#), and/or call the church office (356-3076). As the guy in the poster says, "church is not a spectator sport!"

Scold's Corner

John already covered it for this week in his letter above. If this year's Easter services are anything like last year's, we'll have as many cars as we can handle at the Marriott, plus a few. What we **don't** want is this:

We Care

[3493 Highway 21, Atmore](#)
[wecareprogram.org](#)

Steve Stoltzfus is a chaplain at Frank Lee Youth Detention Center in Deatsville, where, through We Care, he pastors and counsels inmates.

Contact: Steve Stoltzfus at (251) 368-8818 or stevencarols@yahoo.com.

Emmaus and Chrysalis:

Are ministry retreats and unique times with God lives of many involved in ministry at CP, so we encourage you to attend. Emmaus is an adult retreat. Check out their [website](#). Emmaus is for adults; Chrysalis is for 10-12 graders.

Emmaus needs volunteers to help fill support needs, including a meal. There are also continuous prayer vigils for each walk; signups are on the [website](#). For more info, to sign up for volunteer assistance, or to get answers to general questions, please contact Carol Reynolds at candirey@knology.net or Joy Priester at jbp0922@att.net.

Outback America

Outback America is a non-denominational ministry inspired to help build, restore, and strengthen relationships. This weekend experience is designed to give parents and teens, husbands and wives, or college students practical strategies for daily living, focusing on their relationship with God, their families, friends, churches, and communities.

Outback America weekends happen during the fall and spring of each year. Today these weekends take place across the country. For more info, [go to their website](#), or contact them at (205) 344-6578 or outback@outbackamerica.org

Keeping in Touch:

ONLINE:

[FACEBOOK](#)
[centeringlives.com](#)
[Newsletter Blog](#)
[Artist's & Writer's Blog](#)
[CP Photography Site](#)

CHURCH OFFICE:

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Tracey Maggard
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Teresa Easterling
teresa@centeringlives.com

FOR PRAYER:

prayer@centeringlives.com

FOR CELEBRATE RECOVERY:

Greg Tolar at 358-1851 (w), 361-3510 (h) or celebraterecovery@centeringlives.com



Kidding, of course, but there is a grain of truth here, so we ask two things of you:

- **Be careful!** There will be a lot of cars and a lot of people on foot in the parking lot. Please pay attention and be courteous. Easter Sunday at the Legends is *not* the time to demonstrate how much you learned from watching either Dale Earnhardt or Kathy Bates in *Fried Green Tomatoes*.
- If you can, **please park out in the field** and walk in, leaving room in the paved lot for visitors and those needing closer spaces, just as John requested

Follow these simple rules intended to put others first and Easter will be smoother and more joyous for everyone!

[1] Please note: There is nothing wrong with your newsletter. Do not attempt to adjust your screen resolution. John is controlling this article. If he wishes to make it stronger, he will intensify the tone. If he wishes to make it softer, he will lower the tone. *He* controls the horizontal. *He* controls the vertical. For the next few paragraphs, sit back, read quietly and he will control all that you absorb. You are about to experience the awe and mystery that reaches from John's inner mind to...**[4]**

[2] "*And pray for me, too. Ask God to give me the right words so I can boldly explain God's mysterious plan that the Good News is for Jews and Gentiles alike*" ([Eph 6:19, New Living Translation](#)).

[3] John now returns control of the newsletter to its "normal" staff (something of a misnomer, we realize).

[4] We hope we have not exceeded the outer limits of good taste in our introduction to John's letter. We have? Oh dear. Please do not report us to the World Council of Contemporary Interdenominational Church Bulletins (WCCICB). We fear being turned over to their Enforcement Division, which is notoriously cranky. We heard of one guy who the WCCICB/ED nabbed for kidding two churches in his area about having a heated dispute over use of a parking lot. The ED turned this poor schlep over to the US government and made him write doctrine manuals for the US Air Force. Ugh! The mere *thought* makes us shudder....