

GIVE THANKS TO THE LORD, FOR HE IS GOOD! HIS FAITHFUL LOVE
ENDURES FOREVER. HAS THE LORD REDEEMED YOU? THEN SPEAK
OUT! TELL OTHERS HE HAS SAVED YOU FROM YOUR ENEMIES.

SAY SO

This Week at Centerpoint Fellowship November 28th, 2010

Giving Thanks

Will be the theme of Senior Pastor John Schmidt's message this Sunday. In Luke's Gospel, Jesus tells how he healed ten lepers as he was traveling near Samaria [1]. Of the ten, only one - a Samaritan - stopped to thank and praise God [2].



The healed Samaritan gives thanks

The point is, most people find it hard to give thanks, even though doing so is central to overcoming our pride and achieving spiritual maturity. The last two weeks we studied pride and prayer, and those topics are closely related to thanksgiving. When our "worlds" break down and we are troubled, we find it easy to send up prayers of

REMINDERS:

*Services: 9:15 and 11 am
at the Legends
4th Sunday Volunteers*

Young People's Activities:

- KidCentral



-- Is our fun-filled worship experience for K-6th graders. We're running a new series of Christmas messages until after the start of the new year. Here's the schedule:

- Nov 28 –Christmas through the eyes of Elizabeth
- Dec 5 - Christmas through the eyes of Joseph
- Dec 12 - Christmas through the eyes of Shepherds
- Dec 19 – Christmas through the eyes of Simeon
- Dec 26 – Christmas through the eyes of Herod
- Jan 2 - Christmas through the eyes of the Wise Men

petition (there are, after all, "no atheists in foxholes"), but when God answers our prayers with blessings, we often forget the "thank you" portion - or even, in our hearts, take the credit ourselves. We also find it easy to be complacent about the many blessings we enjoy without thinking every day.

Jesus instructed us to always give thanks and provided us with several key examples, as when He first gave thanks before feeding the five thousand and before breaking the bread and drinking the wine at the last supper [3]. John (our John, not John son of Zebedee, although we're confident the latter would have agreed) says that the extent to which we give thanks to God is a good barometer of our level of Christian maturity and an excellent self-diagnostic assessment on pride.

John also says that Thanksgiving is, in many ways, the greatest holiday, in part because there are no gifts to buy, the family is together, there's a great meal, and there's football on TV [4]. But it's really great because it obliges us to focus on God and focus on others.

At Centerpoint, we certainly have a lot to be thankful for as a church family! For instance: How quickly we've come together in one accord; how fast we've grown; the fact that we have such a wonderful place to worship; how much talent God has brought together in one group (and we don't just mean those on stage - great as they are - but all the volunteers and workers, many of whom we don't even see); how blessed we've been financially; how many lives have been changed; and so much more!

So this Thursday, stop awhile to reflect on what you have to be thankful for - even if you are going through trying times. Remember: Even in trials, God is blessing us [5]. There's probably a great deal you don't even realize as a blessing until you take time to think about it. Then *take the time* to tell God how thankful you are. Be like that other "good Samaritan" and give the Lord the thanks He deserves!

All in the Family

We finally cornered him! (Kinda.) We chased Don ("Moby") Darling hither and yon for a month, trying to get him to submit to a story for the profile series our Intrepid Reporters are doing on people at CP that you should know, starting with our Board of Elders. Don, who is not one for self-promotion, apparently regarded a story on him like the Preacher of Old regarded the world [6]. (We finally caught a clue and contacted his darling [7] wife, Wendy, who immediately got us the info we needed. So Don: Bwhahahahaha!)

-- **K-6 graders meet downstairs** at the Legends at 11 am. If you have questions, please contact Tracey Maggard at tracey@centerinqlives.com.

- **7th - 12 Graders** normally gather at 11 am to "go deeper" into the 9:15 sermon. They meet upstairs, down the hall toward the restaurant in one of the rooms on the left. This is a great way to get into some practical applications of what they learned at 9:15.

- **Student Break-Away (7-12 grades)** is held on Wednesdays at [Camp Grandview](#), from 5:45 to 7:45 pm.



Scott and the Youth Ministry Team continue their message series: Big.

What does growing up mean to you? A driver's license? Graduating high school? In the next weeks, Break Away will explore what it means to grow up in our relationship with Jesus. (Note: There won't be youth activities this Weds., the day before Thanksgiving.)

- Dec 1: **Big Serve:** The connection between your faith and your service to others
- Dec 8: **Big Moments:** At pivotal moments, God is doing things *in* you, so He can do things *through* you

- **Tweenagers meet at [Camp Grandview](#)** from 5:45 to 6:45 pm. They will eat with the older youth first, then continue with their own activities.

Your Story

We want to hear how you came to have a relationship with Jesus and what He's done in your life. Go to the [main website page](#) and click on "My Story" to tell us.

Don is an Elder who was instrumental in helping create Centerpoint, well before that name was even conceived. He acted as a teaching pastor and sometime worship leader, before John and Shelley joined us, when we first started meeting at the Clements' home. He played a crucial role in setting up our Connect Group ministry and today acts as liaison to our Connect Group Team. Don's unofficial role on the Board is that of Old Testament Patriarch (which, as you can see from the picture below, he somewhat resembles). Don is also a candidate in CP's newly-started pastor training program.



Don grew up in New England ("somweeah up nauwth," as he would say) and is a carpenter by trade. In reality, though, he is very much a jack-of-all-building-trades. (He built the home they live in [partially pictured above] after restoring and selling their previous home, which was severely damaged in the 2008 tornado.)

Don married Wendy Calhoun Darling [8], originally from GA, in 1992. Wendy, who has a BS in Criminal Justice from Faulkner and an MPA from AUM, is a nationally-certified interpreter for the deaf. She works for the Alabama Dept. of Mental Health's Office of Deaf Services.

Don and Wendy have two children: Madison (16) and Dixon (13). Don also has an older daughter, Erika, by a previous marriage. She lives in Massachusetts with her husband, Lou, and Don's one-year-old granddaughter, Kyla [9].

Don says, "my family and I enjoy the opportunities Centerpoint has given us for serving others and growing in Christ."

"Easy Reading...

...Is dang hard writing" [10]. That's why we now have a writing staff of five, not just the one poor schlep who's been flubbing it alone for most of the last year. Our writing staff falls under supervision of the Communications Team, headed and represented on the Board of Elders by Tommy McKinnon. J.P. Hunerwadel is head of the



Missions!

Do you have a passion for missions? We are looking for leaders who have a heart for sharing God's love in our local community. If you are willing to help organize and equip teams to serve, contact the church office (356-3076) or Tony Brewer at tony.brewer@dab-llc.com.

We Want You!

We have an urgent need for volunteers in the following areas:

- **Tech Team** - videographers, video editors, sound techs, others (training provided)
- **Drama Set Designers**
- **Setup & Break-down Teams**
- **KidCentral** (we can use dedicated setup/break-down folks for this ministry as well)
- **Greeters & Ushers** for the 11 am service

Sign up at the information table.

The church offers several other ongoing opportunities for volunteer service (such as bulletin assembly and communion set up). Contact Cyndi at the [church office](mailto:church_office), (334) 356-3076 or at cyndi@centeringlives.com.



Prayer is a vital part of our ministry. 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.

Writing Team, which also includes Tammy Coates, Michelle Garris, Tonya Lee, and Debbie Singleton. Now that we have more writing talent "in the pool," we can manage many more writing and communication projects. For instance, Tammy is working on a dedicated KidCentral newsletter and Michelle is running our Facebook ministry. We have also started a blog specifically for longer written pieces and other artistic work. [Take a look here](#). Our first post, written under a pseudonym, is one that will challenge you. And we still have our dedicated "newsletter plus" blog ([here](#)), which contains news items too long for the NL itself (such as picture essays covering church events). Happy reading!

An Eclectic Christmas

Who: K - 6 graders and their families.

What: A trip to Eclectic, AL, to walk through a reconstruction of Bethlehem and see live actors perform the Christmas story, ending at the manger.

When: Friday, Dec 10, 5:00 - ~9:30 pm.

Where: Meet at [CiCi's Pizza in Prattville](#) to eat. Buses will then transport you to and from Eclectic.

Why: Christmas, y'know? Perhaps you've heard of it?

Also: The event is free, but Tracey Maggard, CEO of KidCentral and event organizer, wants us to remind you that space will be limited and sign-up is first-come, first-served: **sign up now!** Don't leave Tiny Tim sucking bus fumes as the revelers pull away, wondering why Dad is such a putz....

Also also: This is an outdoor event, so it will be cancelled in the event of rain. We'll make the call the day of.

Also also also: Find out more about [Eclectic's annual Christmas festivities here](#).

Membership Track

Reminder: **There will be no more Membership Track classes held until after the first of the year.** We will resume classes with a new schedule in January.

Our Faithfulness

Attendance: 9:15: 443, 11:00: 469, Total: 912. Giving amounted to \$18,699.50. May your Thanksgiving be joyous and blessed!

[1] [Luke 17:11-19 \(NLT\)](#); ([NIV](#))

[2] Samaritans were not exactly well thought of by the Jews: Samaritans were thought of as racially contaminated, theologically impure, and ceremonially unclean. The Samaritans returned the contempt in spades. Think, "Alabama and Auburn," only much worse [11]. [Here's a good account of the whys and wherefores](#). The nine other healed lepers (who did not praise Jesus) were Jews.

[3] E.g., [John 6:11](#) (NLT), [Luke 22:17-19](#) (NLT), and [1 Cor 11:23-24](#) (NLT).

[4] Of course, for most of us, the REAL football is on Friday.

[5] See, for example, [Rom 5:2-4](#) (NLT), [1 Pet 1:6-7](#) (NLT), and [1 Pet 4:13](#) (NLT).

Prayers for Our Deployed Military

If you have a family member who is deployed or you are deploying soon, please let us know. We would like to pray for you and your family. We need the name, relationship (son, daughter, husband, etc.), and estimated date of return. You can email the info to cyndi@centeringlives.com.

Name that Tune: Shelley and our web team have put [complete song lists on CP's website](#), including authors, album info, and many video links. Nice! And if you want to hear and purchase Shelley and Tommy's music now, you can always go to [their old band's site](#). (Although the site is no longer updated, their albums are still available for purchase.)

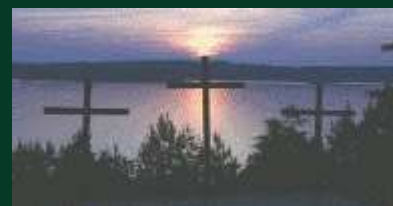
Nursery Volunteers: We always need dedicated folks to work in our nursery. Yes, dads, that includes you. If interested, contact Tricia Brewer at brewertt@aol.com or stop by the nursery during Sunday services.

Photography Team: Anyone interested in helping document Centerpoint's events in pictures please contact Anita Thebo at 365-8229 or nospam61@gmail.com.

Centerpoint Merch!

Our uber-cool stuff is on sale at the info table in the Legends lobby every Sunday. Here's a breakdown:

Bibles (NLT):	Free!
Short-sleeve Tees:	\$10
Long-sleeve Tees:	\$12
Polos:	\$25
(In eyeball-searing green or just plain white)	
Car decals:	\$ 1
Notebook Binders:	\$ 3
Journey Home CD:	\$ 8



Emmaus and Chrysalis: Are ministry retreats and unique times with God that help accomplish CP's primary goal: Centering lives on Jesus. This ministry has literally changed the 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.

[6] " 'Vanity of vanities,' saith the Preacher, 'vanity of vanities, all is vanity.' " [Eccl 1:2 \(KJV\)](#).

[7] And Darling...

[8] Absolutely no relation to Wendy Moira Angela Darling (think, "Peter Pan"), although every living human who has ever met her asks if she is. She *has* been known to wear a blue ribbon in her hair on occasion, however.

[9] So, you see, Don actually *is* a patriarch, or at least a *pater familias*.

[10] Nathaniel Hawthorn.

[11] We'll leave you to sort out whether Aubs or 'Bama fans equal Jews or Samaritans - we ain't gonna touch *that* one.

Emmaus needs volunteers to help fill support needs, including a meal. If interested in helping with a walk, contact the support team coordinators listed under the individual walks. 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 candtreyn@knology.net or Joy Priestler at jbp0922@att.net.

Finally, we will be publishing the Emmaus Walk 2011 schedule soon. Watch for it!

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

Keeping in Touch:

ONLINE:

[FACEBOOK](#)

centeringlives.com

[Newsletter Blog](#)

[Artist's & Writer's Blog](#)

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