

the

Pulse

of Centerpoint Community Church

NOVEMBER/DECEMBER 2021

Psalm 89:5

The heavens praise your wonders,
O LORD, your faithfulness too, in the
assembly of the holy ones.



Photo credit: Will Tonn



A message from Pastor Jim:

As we close in on the end of the year, there is much we celebrate here at Centerpoint in the months of November and December. There are holiday food baskets, mission trips, the Christmas brunch, the Service of Remembrance, A Night in Bethlehem, concerts, Christmas Eve services, and more! Check out page 7 for a list of events. Our website and app will keep you current on all the coming activities.

What a great two months await Centerpoint's people!

Revamped Mission Event Raises \$10,000 for Missions!



Above clockwise: Drawing prizes created by Chris Gold; Ticket-seller Lizzy Battenfield & Mission Event Chairperson Cyndi Parks; Pastor Bryan & Karyssa Yeo

Centerpoint's annual mission fundraiser was a little different this year. We had a dessert/movie night and it proved to be a great success! Attendees enjoyed delicious desserts and watched the movie "Soul Surfer," an uplifting movie about a courageous young woman who took a personal tragedy and made it something meaningful and positive.

Over \$10,000 was raised through very generous donations plus great drawing and door prizes created by Chris Gold. Thank you Centerpoint! The monies will be used for local and global missions here in Roseville and around the globe.

Mark your calendars for the annual Mission

Fundraiser Dinner on Friday, March 4, 2022. If you would like to be on the Fundraiser Committee or donate a new item and/or gift cards, please contact Chris Gold at 916-580-5339 or magwag0720@gmail.com.

Weekend Mission Team Has Impact in San Francisco

Centerpoint recently sent a mission team to serve with our mission partner, *City Impact*, in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood. With sadness we saw the effects COVID has had on the Tenderloin. We saw the effect brokenness has on God's people living in poverty. But we also saw the hope in the community through laughter of the kids at Super Saturday, a morning gathering serving the neighborhood children with games,



art projects, worship, a message, and lunch.

Our team spent

several hours going on a prayer walk through the neighborhood passing out snacks, engaging with people on the streets, and

praying for them. God moved some of us outside our comfort zones, opened the eyes of our hearts and souls to the needs of the poor and downtrodden, and called us to serve more intentionally in Jesus' name in our own families, neighborhoods, church, and communities.



A group from Centerpoint recently toured one of our local mission partners, *Acres of Hope*, a two-year residency program that helps women and their children break the cycle of homelessness. They were able to tour the entire facility: common areas, a learning center, children's play areas, prayer garden, and even visit a resident's home.

Acres of Hope is currently in the process of fundraising to add more modular homes and increase their residential capacity. Centerpoint supports *Acres of Hope* in a number of ways: regular monthly giving, a September donation drive, occasional work projects, and by donating to and shopping at their thrift store on Douglas Boulevard, *The ReNew Boutique*. For more information about this ministry, you can visit their website at www.acresofhopeonline.org.

PRAY.

Please continue to pray for our Centerpoint Mission Partners:

LOCAL

Acres of Hope

Campus Life

City Impact in SF

Crestmont Elementary School

Folsom Prison Ministry

The Gathering Inn

Gleanings for the Hungry

Samaritan's Purse

Sierra Pregnancy & Health

William Jessup University

GLOBAL

Catharine Coon/
Hope Alive! In
Uganda

Barry & Ronah
Francolino/EPC
Missions

Schmidt family/
Wycliffe, Nigeria

YUGO Ministries
Ensenada, Mexico

HOPE ALIVE! in Uganda Finds a Way to Thrive During COVID by Dee Dee Gunther

Schools haven't been open in Uganda since the beginning of COVID, and they will remain closed until at least January 2022. This could have been a fatal blow for a school-focused organization like *Hope Alive!*, but their staff turned a challenge into an opportunity.

Before COVID, *Hope Alive!*'s model was to enable the poorest of the poor in Uganda to go to school, and to provide Christ-centered discipleship to students in their programs. There is no such thing as a free public education in Uganda—all students from kindergarten up must pay tuition, and many families can't afford it. Seeing education as the best way to lift children out of generational poverty, *Hope Alive!* comes alongside deserving students and pays their school fees, and other educational necessities. Each student is assigned a mentor who provides Christ-centered guidance, liaisons with their family, and keeps track of their progress in school. It's a model that worked well for over 18 years—students graduated, went on to college or trade school, and became strong leaders in their churches and communities.

Then COVID hit, and Uganda's leaders enforced a stay-at-home order on the country. Schools, businesses, and churches closed, and poor families like the ones that *Hope Alive!* supports lost their jobs and their ability to get food. Poor households don't have internet, or even electricity, so online schooling was not an option.



What do you do when your whole business model is sidelined indefinitely? *Hope Alive!* staff prayed, strategized and stripped their mission down to the basics—first, keeping their neediest families alive, and then helping their students continue their education. With the help of generous donors in the U.S., *Hope Alive!* sites got basic survival supplies, like rice, beans, soap, and charcoal for fuel, and distributed them to their families. Families who had enough shared with their neighbors. This tangible evidence of the love of Jesus was so powerful that at least 28 family members and neighbors accepted Christ during the COVID shutdown.

With basic life needs met, the staff tackled the next problem—how to help their students retain what they had learned and even progress in their education while schools were closed. As soon as COVID restrictions relaxed enough to allow small group gatherings, *Hope Alive!* began offering small group Bible studies and tutoring sessions in outside settings close to their students' homes.

And guess what—they liked it, and it worked! Small neighborhood-based Bible studies became so popular that the students vowed to keep them going even after COVID. When schools reopened briefly this summer—just long enough to let certain grade levels take their advancement exams—*Hope Alive!* students who had participated in small group tutoring excelled.

As Caleb Smagacz, *Hope Alive!*'s new executive director put it in a recent newsletter, "For the past 18 months *Hope Alive!* has been hiring out-of-work teachers, gathering educational supplies, and finding a way to provide safe, quality, and creative educational opportunities. Students who were in a classroom with 50 others are now getting small group instruction. Students who were falling behind are now getting individual help in areas of need. What could have been an obstacle has been received as an opportunity. We are trusting that what could have hurt our students will turn out for their good for the glory of God!"
For more information, or to sponsor a student, visit www.hopealiveafrica.org.

"For the past 18 months *Hope Alive!* has been... finding a way to provide safe, quality, and creative educational opportunities. Students who were in a classroom with 50 others are now getting small group instruction. Students who were falling behind are now getting individual help in areas of need. What could have been an obstacle has been received as an opportunity. We are trusting that what could have hurt our students will turn out for their good for the glory of God!"

--Caleb Smagacz
Executive Director,
Hope Alive!





Daniel Lockett (left) and Michael Chase (right) pictured at a recent Journey event

In every ministry there are heroes. Usually they're unsung. Almost always, they're wearing more hats than they can fit on their head.

Enter Daniel Lockett. After high school, Daniel jumped right into Journey's Middle School ministry with a servant's heart and a quiet strength. He truly is a Swiss Army knife of volunteers: over nearly a decade, he's been a bass player, small group leader, elder, mentor, music teacher, gamemaster, friend, and currently, our only adult musician and the brave leader of a band of about a dozen rotating middle and high school musicians.

And beyond that...he's a good friend. Someone I look to for advice. Someone I text or call when something just doesn't feel quite right, or I need some moral support. And he's quietly leaving a legacy here in Journey Middle School Ministry. Thank you Daniel, for consistently saying "yes" to Jesus by saying "yes" to His children. We love you, brother.

--Michael Chase, Middle School Ministry Director



Centerpoint Women showed off their skills and enjoyed fellowship at their recent axe-throwing event!



"God puts us where we need to be. It's up to us to realize our purpose, for His Glory, why we're on this path of life's journey." These are the words of Centerpoint's beloved crossing guard, Murial Moore. Since moving to Placer County over twenty years ago with her late husband, Murial has served, volunteered and worked within the community. As Murial says, "My passion was/is children as a CASA (Court Appointed Special Advocate) for children, a Volunteer Rocklin Police Officer who performed fingerprint ID and taught Child Safety in K-5 schools, and working as Campus Monitor with Detention duties at Lincoln High School. Children and I click," says Murial. "And, when you have the children, you've got the parent."

I've been blessed with a great memory of people and the ability to connect with them no matter where I hold a STOP sign, as long as it's pointed UP!"

—Murial Moore



Moving to Roseville in 2015 after her husband's passing, Murial said she looked to God for fulfillment of her days. "I became a City of Roseville school crossing guard in early 2017 and by mid-year was serving as church crossing guard at Centerpoint. The final stage of my life's journey... joy... had arrived! I've been blessed with a great memory of people and the ability to connect with them no matter where I hold a STOP sign, as long as it's pointed UP!" Murial was recently honored with a gold plated medallion by the City of Roseville which reads "The Pride of Roseville."



Centerpoint's crossing guard, Murial Moore (left), was recently honored by the City of Roseville and pictured on the City's Facebook page (above) to promote National Walk & Bike to School Day

A message from Pastor Bryan:

One of the Bible chapters I “happened” (rather, a divine appointment) to read while in Yosemite was Psalm 42. The Psalmist writes this, “As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God.” In Yosemite, this metaphor came to life!

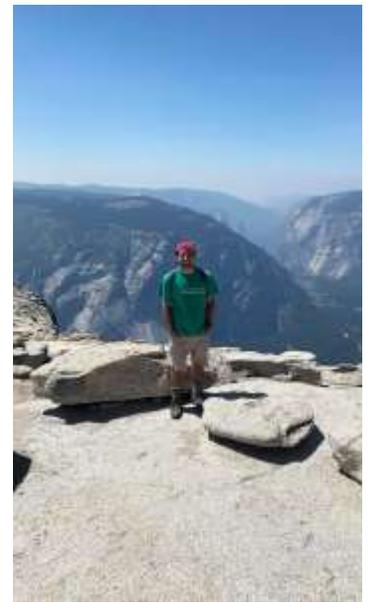
—Bryan Yeo

This past August, I went solo backpacking once again in Yosemite. While there were no bears this year, my biggest challenge was that there wasn’t a ton of water available for those of us in the backcountry to filter and drink. The constant trail conversation sounded something like this: “You know there’s no water at Merced River?” “There’s a good creek about 2.5 miles down the trail.”

One of the Bible chapters I “happened” (rather, a divine appointment) to read while in Yosemite was Psalm 42. The Psalmist writes this, “As a deer pants for flowing streams, so pants my soul for you, O God. My soul thirsts for God, the living God.”

In Yosemite, this metaphor came to life! Because water was scarce, I had to redirect and strategize parts of my hikes to ensure I never ran out of water. Similarly, each day, moment, and activity of my life ought to be oriented around the question, “How can I stay hydrated with God? Where is he at work and when and where can I be filled up?”

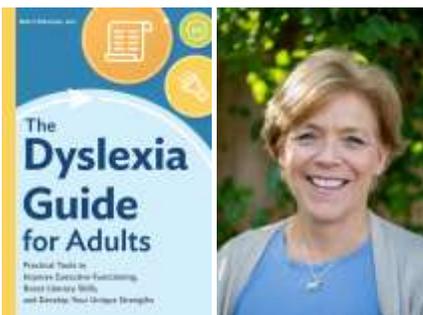
As it did so for me, I hope this metaphor encourages and challenges you. As I thirsted for water in a dry Merced River Valley, so too may my soul thirst for the living God!



Centerpoint Member Releases New Book on Dyslexia

In Marci Peterson’s own words: “As an educational therapist specializing in dyslexia, I am fortunate to have worked with adults in the greater Sacramento area over the past nine years, and I am dyslexic. In January of this year, I began a journey to write a book on adult dyslexia. *The Dyslexia Guide for Adults*, released last month on Amazon, is a book written for adults with dyslexia and those who want to know more about dyslexia in adulthood.”

“Dyslexia affects approximately 20% of the population. Many adults are living with untreated and undiagnosed dyslexia. The pandemic brought questions to many adults with dyslexia who had been fine using their talents in a personally connected workspace. When adults with dyslexia were forced to work in isolation at home, reading and writing took their toll. Some adults with dyslexia were forced to have career changes and found themselves questioning their worth.”



Marci Peterson is an active member of Centerpoint Church and has served on the Blue Apron Crew; she currently serves on the Congregational Life Committee with her husband, Brian. Marci has a private consulting and tutoring practice in Roseville. She began her work almost 20 years ago as a homeschool mom and is now considered an expert in her field of dyslexia.

Dyslexia affects approximately 20% of the population. Many adults are living with untreated and undiagnosed dyslexia.

—Marci Peterson



A note from John Sprague, Men’s Ministry Director:

Centerpoint’s 2021 Men’s Retreat was held at Zephyr Point Conference Center on October 1-3. A group of 23 men spent the weekend together at Lake Tahoe renewing and refreshing ourselves through worshipping the Lord, prayer, learning from our speaker, Fritz Moga, and having fun in a beautiful part of God’s incredible creation!

God blessed our first Men’s Retreat since 2019, gathering us together, introducing some of us to each other for the first time, giving us the opportunity to rest in His word, and growing as disciples of Jesus. Our theme was *“Off the Bench; Into the Game,”* challenging us to live as Jesus’ disciples in our families, communities, and at our places of work. We thank God for His love and provision.



Left: Nancy Van Diest & April Hayward at a glow party;
Right: April dressed up for a Father/Daughter 50’s dance

Thank you April - we will miss you!

In early September we celebrated April Hayward for her 19 years of ministry here at Centerpoint. This summer, April resigned from her position as Kids Ministry Event Coordinator. During her many years in this position, she coordinated Fall Festivals, Father-Daughter events, the Kids Easter Party, A Night in Bethlehem, Mother-Son events, movie nights, and much, much more. For years she used her incredible artistic skill and painted all of the backdrops for HIGH FIVE. She has been an integral part of this ministry. She has worn many hats (and many costumes!) and we will miss her on our team. Thank you April for your dedication to the families of this church and our community!



Welcome to our newest Centerpoint members, who recently completed a four-week class and were received into membership on Sunday, October 17.

Pictured above are (left to right): Elizabeth & Kevin Donnelly, Pam & Walt Eggert, Sarah & Dale Price, Randy Schermerhorn, Tricia Wallen, Karen & Paul Edwards, Mike & Mary Pexa, and Cathy & Dave Van Gent.



What a joy it was to have the Senior Adult Luncheon back again on October 14! After a COVID hiatus, the Dining Room was filled as the seniors enjoyed a

delicious lunch and a wonderful presentation by Bruce Quick, who shared photos and stories of his international hiking adventures!

COMING EVENTS *For more information check out the website/app or contact the church office*

Women's Ministry Favorite Things Friday, November 5 at 7:00pm in the Dining Room. Invite a friend to this fun event!

Mexico Marriage Conference November 11-15. Please pray for our Mission Team in Ensenada.

Thanksgiving Food Baskets Saturday, November 13, 9:00am-12:00pm. Pack and deliver food to families in the community.

Thanksgiving Cards for Care Homes Send a card to wish someone a Happy Thanksgiving (due November 16).

Meet Centerpoint Sunday, November 21 at 9:00am. Get to know more about Centerpoint!

Campus Closed November 25-26 -- Happy Thanksgiving!

Family Breakfast & Recycling Saturday, November 27, 8:00-10:00am in the Dining Room. Enjoy breakfast and fellowship!

Women's Christmas Brunch Saturday, December 4 at 9:30am. Beautiful tables, Christmas music, and an inspiring speaker.

Service of Remembrance Saturday, December 4 at 3:00pm. Remember loved ones we have lost.

Night In Bethlehem Sunday, December 12 at 6:30pm. Drive-through Nativity for all ages!

Christmas Cards for Care Homes Send a card to wish someone a Merry Christmas (due December 16).

Christmas Food Baskets Saturday, December 18, 9:00am-12:00pm. Pack and deliver food to families in the community.

Family Breakfast & Recycling Saturday, December 18, 8:00-10:00am in the Dining Room. Enjoy breakfast and fellowship!

Campus Closed December 27 -- Merry Christmas!

Campus Closed January 3 -- Happy New Year!

House-Build for Adults and Families January 3-7. Join the team in building a house in Ensenada, Mexico.

Christmas at Centerpoint

Friday, December 17 at 7:00pm & Saturday, December 18 at 3:00pm

Be our guest at a **MUSICAL CELEBRATION** in the Worship Center featuring soloists, ensembles, the Centerpoint choir, and an orchestra. The music of the holiday season will bless and inspire you and your family.

Friday, December 24 at 6:00, 7:30, and 9:00pm in the Worship Center

Celebrate **CHRISTMAS EVE** with us with candlelight, communion, and the message "*Silent Night, Holy Night.*"

Childcare is available for these events. For more information, see our website.



On October 10 our sanctuary was filled as we were blessed by a concert by the amazing William Jessup University Choir & Orchestra. In only their 2nd concert of their season, the WJU musicians filled our hearts with joy with their uplifting presentation. For several of the songs the 70+ singers lined the aisles of the Worship Center and surrounded the audience with praise. They ended with a rousing rendition of "*I'll Fly Away*" which brought the entire crowd to their feet. Thanks, WJU!





Centerpoint Community Church
515 Sunrise Avenue
Roseville, CA 95661
www.centerpointroseville.org

Please Note: If you do not wish to receive this newsletter, please contact the church office at info@centerpointroseville.org or 916-782-3186. Thank you.

NONPROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE PAID
ROSEVILLE CA
PERMIT NO. 96

ADDRESS SERVICE REQUESTED.
Time Dated Material.

Centerpoint's "New" Parking Lot is 20 years old!



Centerpoint's auxiliary parking lot today with fencing and mature trees and landscaping



Above & below: "Before" pictures of the auxiliary parking lot on Coloma Way in September 2001



It is hard to believe that it has been 20 years since we acquired our auxiliary parking lot across Coloma Way! In September of 2001, Drs. Tim Herman and Richard Almassy of A+ Dental realized the land was in an unbuildable flood plain and generously donated the almost 2 acres to Centerpoint. The ground was leveled and asphalt was poured and we were blessed with 130 new parking spaces. The City of Roseville required landscaping so, under the direction of Facility Manager, Jadz Miller, we added pistache trees, elm trees, and manzanita bushes... all drought-tolerant species.

Over the years, this beautiful parking lot along Cirby Creek has been well-used, especially during large church events such as the Fall Festival. Prior to COVID, the lot was filled with cars on Sunday mornings. We still encourage Centerpointers to use the lot on Sunday mornings and leave the spaces in the main parking lot for visitors and those with physical limitations.