

the  
**Pulse**  
 of Centerpoint Community Church

### A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR JIM:

**While we are all** in a hurry to get this year over with, let's not hurry through December. We have some significant experiences ahead that we hope will deeply touch people with God's love, presence, hope and light.

- **One of the more painful losses in the pandemic** is the fact that many people did not get the chance to attend memorial services for loved ones and friends. Our **SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE** gives those who have lost loved ones the opportunity not only to grieve but to remember them in a very special service. This service will be held on Saturday, December 5 at 3:00pm in the Worship Center (see page 4).
- **There is our NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM DRIVE-THRU NATIVITY.** Our Kids Ministry has come up with a great way to hold a traditional and much-loved event, while modifying it for COVID. The drive-thru will not only tell the story of Christ's birth, but will provide take-home crafts for kids to do with their family. This event will be held on Sunday, December 13 from 6:30-8:00pm (see page 4).
- **And while we can't have in-person Christmas concerts,** our Worship Arts staff and Media Team have come up with a creative and brilliant "work-around." They are bringing us **"A THRILL OF HOPE," an online Christmas concert.** It will include soloists, ensembles, readings, and even our 30-member choir! We know you will love it and we hope it will help make your Christmas more Christ-filled. We plan on posting the concert on the website and app on Friday, December 11 (see page 5).
- **Finally,** we will hold in-person **CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES.** Due to our seating restrictions we are expanding the nights and the number of services we normally have. We will have 3 services on December 23 and four services on December 24. The services will include singing, special music, a message, communion, and *"Silent Night"* by candlelight on the courtyard. Registration for seating at these services will begin December 15. A recording of the service will be available on our website and app on December 24 for people who cannot attend in-person.

**So,** whether in-person or online, take advantage of these opportunities to experience God's presence and love, and better prepare for and celebrate Christmas. I hope these great moments bring lasting joy and peace to you and help us all to end a difficult year on a very high and wonderful note!

Merry Christmas!  
 Pastor Jim



# MISSIONS *Update*

In spite of the COVID-19 pandemic, Centerpoint is faithfully continuing to support our global mission partners. Although Centerpoint is not currently sending teams out, our Global Missions Outreach Team (GMOT) continues to meet, supporting our global partners in prayer and financially helping them serve their communities and organizations.

Centerpoint's global mission partners also continue to serve their communities. GMOT recently received a request for funds from Aloys Ntamugabuwme, senior pastor of Masaka Baptist Church in Uganda, Africa. He asked for help to complete a two-room building that will serve as a vocational training center for area youth. The funding request came via Hope Alive!, our Uganda mission partner, which is helping Masaka Baptist Church arrange the needed funding. GMOT unanimously voted approval of \$1,900 to assist with completion of the vocational building at Masaka Baptist Church.

Centerpoint sent a short-term mission team to serve the Masaka community in January 2017. Our team served with Hope Alive! and Masaka Baptist Church, where Centerpoint's team did their workshops and worshipped with the community. Masaka Baptist Church was very hospitable, and it is an honor and pleasure to donate funds to complete a building that will be used by so many as a step for future careers glorifying God.

Centerpoint recently received the following thank you letter from Pastor Aloys:

***Warm greetings to you. On behalf of Masaka Baptist Church I gratefully send this appreciation message to the Centerpoint Community Church for standing with us in supporting our skills center construction. We have received on the church account an amount totaling 13,832,000 Ugandan shillings.***

***May the good Lord continue blessing you more and more. Our thanks again go to the team that visited us in 2017 at Masaka Baptist Church. It is a pleasure that they still stand with us in training the church people and hopefully we pray that they will come back. For the building, God willing, we hope to open it by early 2021. Once again thank you to Catherine Coon, Hope Alive! Executive Director, for the continued support and love you have for our church and the entire community through Masaka Baptist Church and Hope Alive! We humbly say thank you much and God always bless you more and more.***

***In Him we serve,  
Rev. Aloys Ntamugabuwme  
Pastor/Overseer***

Hope Alive! is currently providing significant assistance to 90% of their sponsored students' families with food and other vital supplies during this pandemic. They meet with them, encouraging and praying with them where pandemic restrictions are not as tight in Uganda. They also are providing tutoring and Bible studies for students.

God continues to lead donors to give generously so Hope Alive! can continue to supply their families. Recently, nine more caregivers committed their lives to Jesus! This was due, in large part, to the tangible care being shown to them in the name of Jesus Christ. If you would like to donate to Hope Alive!'s COVID-19 Fund, go to:

<https://hopealiveafrica.org/project/covid19-fund>.



**Pastor Jim pictured with Pastor Aloys in Masaka, Uganda in 2017**

# PRAY.

Please continue to pray for our Mission Partners as they minister during this challenging time:

## LOCAL

Acres of Hope

Campus Life

City Impact in SF

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

Al & Rosa Castro/  
Ensenada

Barry & Ronah  
Francolino/EPC  
Missions

Schmidt family/  
Wycliffe, Nigeria

YUGO Ministries  
Ensenada, Mexico



Bryan, Karyssa, and Phoenix Yeo

## A DIFFERENT KIND OF CHRISTMAS by Pastor Bryan Yeo

If you are like me and my wife, the Christmas season can be incredibly busy! It begins after Thanksgiving with parties: work, church, and friends; church events: Night in Bethlehem, Holiday Food Baskets, and the Christmas Concert; Christmas Eve services; and family celebrations: Christmas Eve, Christmas Day, and more! Every year it feels as though I need a vacation after celebrating Christmas.

This year is certainly going to be different. Parties, celebrations, and activities will be diminished or nonexistent. With a clear schedule, we can focus on the Lord Jesus Christ: His incarnation and perfect sacrifice for our redemption. It's a great opportunity – let's not miss it!

How are you going to focus on Jesus this Christmas season? There's a beautiful Christmas decoration on a lawn just down the street from the church. It's the word "Joy" with the manger scene in the "O." The reminder is clear: Jesus brings us joy! I encourage you to pick a verse to focus on this Christmas – may we remember and celebrate God's provision!

## MARRIAGE RETREAT CONTINUES IN ENSENADA

Each fall, for the past 8 years, Centerpoint's Global Missions Outreach Team (GMOT) has supported a Marriage Retreat at two of our partner churches in Ensenada, Baja, Mexico. Centerpoint sends a short-term mission team to serve the couples attending the Marriage Retreat. This year, due to COVID-19, Centerpoint was not able to send a mission team to Ensenada.

GMOT is excited to share that our friends, Pastors Javier and Alba Villalobos, held a Marriage Retreat at their church for their community. Pastor Javier and Pastora Alba used the same retreat format as our

teams have used in the past. Twenty couples attended the Marriage Retreat! Pastora Alba Villalobos shared the following with GMOT:

*"Beloved Centerpoint, Last night (November 7) we had our Marriage Retreat, "God's Design for Matrimonio (Marriage)". It was very nice. Despite the weather (it rained) came 20 couples. Blessings, we love and miss you."*

We thank and praise God for our Ensenada brothers and sisters in Christ. We draw strength and encouragement from our friends as they faithfully serve their church, neighborhood, and community. We miss them and look forward to the day when Centerpoint can again send short-term mission teams to serve them.





## SERVICE OF REMEMBRANCE

**Saturday, December 5 at 3:00pm**

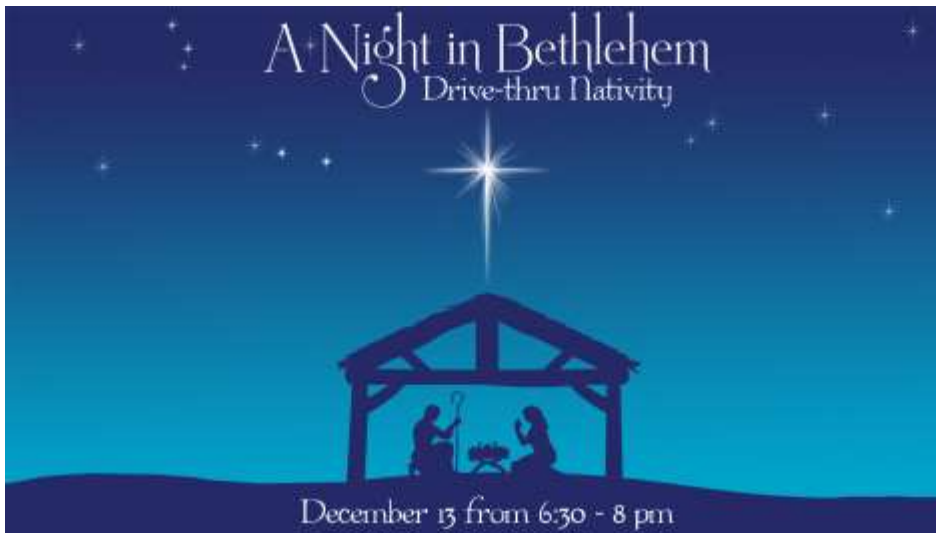
Have you lost a loved one? Would you like to take a moment to remember that person before Christmas? Join Larry Curtis, the facilitator of our Grief Support Group, for a special service in the Worship Center. **Register for a seat** on the Centerpoint website or app. For more information, contact Larry at 916-960-3193 or [lcurtis1310@yahoo.com](mailto:lcurtis1310@yahoo.com).



## CHRISTMAS FOOD BASKETS

**Saturday, December 12, 10:00-11:00am**

Sign up on the app or website to deliver groceries for a Christmas meal to 2-4 families in our community. Our process follows social distancing guidelines. On December 12, from 10:00-11:00am, you will drive into the parking lot. A deacon will come to your car, hand you a sheet with instructions and your preassigned addresses, and load prepacked bags of groceries in your trunk. You will then drive off to deliver to your assigned families! **Please sign up** no later than Friday, December 4. More details are on the app and website, or contact Carol Yeo at 916-300-1475 or [mcyeo1@gmail.com](mailto:mcyeo1@gmail.com).



## A NIGHT IN BETHLEHEM Drive-Thru Nativity, December 13, 6:30-8:00pm

Come and take a step back in time with us during your Jesus-filled holiday season! Stay in the warmth of your car and drive through our live nativity, as the shepherds and wise men follow the star and lead you to the stable where you will find Mary, Joseph, and baby Jesus. You will then continue on to receive a bag of treasured crafts to take home and make. There will be crafts available for younger and older children. No reservations needed.



**Many thanks to the Centerpoint community** which showed incredible support for Operation Christmas Child! **We collected 305 boxes** for needy children around the world. This is an incredible response, especially during these challenging COVID times! Our Kids Ministry thanks all those who picked up/dropped off boxes on Sundays and during the week, shopped for gifts, and filled these boxes with love. Our prayer is that these gifts will fill children's hearts with joy as they feel the love of Jesus.



**Top:** Quintet, featuring special guest artists, records a beautiful acapella version of *Joy to the World*.  
**Bottom:** Pianists Linda Luna and Suzi Barstow share a piano duet.

**Online Christmas Concert:  
 "A THRILL OF HOPE"**

*Available online beginning December 11*  
 This year, via our online concert, the music of Christmas will be presented by Centerpoint soloists, ensembles, musicians, guest artists, and a virtual Centerpoint choir! This will be an online concert you'll be able to enjoy over and over throughout the month and share with friends and family members! Many thanks to our Media Team which has put in countless hours recording and editing this exciting online experience. And thanks to all the choir members, musicians, and singers who made time to come to Centerpoint during the week to record, all while maintaining strict social distancing protocols.

*We look forward to sharing this concert with you and celebrating Jesus, God with us... and the thrill of hope He brings!*



**Top:** Emily & Daniel Lockett  
**Bottom:** Media Director, Lauren Blalock, and assistant Nathan Gibson, set up cameras, microphones and lighting for concert.



**Wednesday, December 23 at 6:30pm (Café) and 7:45 & 9:00pm (Worship Center)**

**Thursday, December 24 at 5:15, 6:30, 7:45, and 9:00pm (Worship Center)**

Share the joy of Christmas at one of our seven Christmas Eve services. Celebrate with communion, Christmas music, an inspirational message, and "Silent Night" on the courtyard. The Café service on December 23 will be recorded and available for online viewing by the afternoon of December 24 for those choosing to worship at home. Seat registration begins December 15.

## Kids Ministry Carries On Creatively During COVID



Katey Olsen takes temperatures on Sundays to insure kids' safety

Our Kids Ministry has had to think "outside the box" to keep ministry going during COVID. Fortunately, Nancy Van Diest and her team have risen to the task! Our Fall Festival was streamlined to a safe Trunk-or-Treat, which provided a great time for kids and their families to collect candy from 46 trunks! On Sunday mornings, temperatures are taken before kids and teachers make their way down the Kids Ministry hallways and social distancing

is encouraged. Every year, Centerpoint pastors present a new Bible to our first graders during a worship service. This year, with the COVID restrictions, our three pastors, along with Kids Ministry assistant, Ashley Kennard, drove to the homes of each of the first graders and



Scenes from our socially-distanced fun, family Trunk-or-Treat

presented them with their Bible. Dads, moms, grandparents, brothers and sisters, even some family dogs gathered on the doorstep to receive this treasured gift. Please pray for our Kids Ministry staff as they continue to find creative ways to bring Jesus to the children of our church. Check out our next event, Night in Bethlehem, on page 4!



Centerpoint first graders received their Bibles from our pastors at home



Adela Watkins, with dad Joe, drops their offering in the lobby box



If you have not already done so, please return your Faith Commitment Card to the church office as soon as possible. Thank you for all you have done financially to allow Centerpoint to continue to bring the love of Jesus to a world that needs it now more than ever. If you have any questions, contact Kelly Harder in the church office. And thank you for dropping your weekly offerings off in the black boxes provided in the lobbies.

### INTEREST GROUPS

**Men's Book Fellowship:** We meet monthly on the 1st Tuesday via Zoom to discuss books we have been reading. Contact Dave Shumway at [dave@dkshumway.com](mailto:dave@dkshumway.com).

**Trap and Skeet Shooting:** Saturday, December 5 from 10:00am-12:00pm at the Coon Creek Trap & Skeet Club. Contact Lance Mayhofer at [mayhofer@yahoo.com](mailto:mayhofer@yahoo.com) or 916-791-5423.

**Hands of the Lord Quilters:** Monday, December 14, 1:00-3:00pm in the Annex. The quilters meet once a month to make quilts for various organizations and join others in fellowship. Contact Sandy Nelson at [sandynelsn@gmail.com](mailto:sandynelsn@gmail.com) or 916-591-9036.

**Holy Riders (Motorcycles):** Our next ride will be Saturday, December 19. Contact Doug Jacobs at 916-541-8729 or [tdouglasjacobs@gmail.com](mailto:tdouglasjacobs@gmail.com).



Pastor Nancy Duff

**A MESSAGE FROM PASTOR NANCY:**

Recently I led a Zoom training session for our new deacons who will start serving in January. We looked together at Acts 6:1-7, which describes how the deacon ministry began in the early church. A particular group of widows – those who spoke a different language – had been falling through the cracks in their food distribution ministry, and people had started complaining. The twelve disciples responded to this crisis by inviting the church to choose seven godly people from among them to take over leadership of this care ministry. The result was surprising: there’s no mention of the widows being fed – that’s just assumed. Instead, Acts 6:7 says that through this, the word of God spread and the number of disciples increased rapidly. God used a ministry of compassion to draw others to himself.

Our deacons are amazing servant leaders, who have worked cheerfully and creatively to reshape ministries in ways that work in this time of pandemic.

—Pastor Nancy

At that time, the early church numbered more than 3,000. Seven servant leaders couldn’t possibly cover the care needs of that many people. But their leadership empowered the entire church to provide for needs in concrete ways. That’s what our Centerpoint deacons do. They lead the church in ministries of care and compassion towards those in our church family and community. Deacons do the planning and organizing that is needed to provide holiday food baskets, prayer partners and prayer teams, meals, cards, crisis care financial assistance, calls to homebound, handyman help – the list goes on and on. Our deacons are amazing servant leaders, who have worked cheerfully and creatively to reshape ministries in ways that work in this time of pandemic. But the deacons can’t do it all – nor do they have to! You, the members of our Centerpoint family, are amazing volunteers in all these ministries of compassion. And God is using your caring service to draw others to himself. It is a privilege for me to support the deacons as they lead you in these ministries. Thank you!



**NEW MEMBERS CLASS**

**Sundays, January 10 – February 14**

**1:00 – 2:00pm via Zoom**

If you are ready to explore what it means to make a commitment to the life, people, and purpose of our church, this 6-week class is for you. You will meet the pastors and learn about Centerpoint’s purpose, beliefs, and core values. Whether you have been

attending for just a few weeks or for years, you will find this class helpful. The class ends with the opportunity to become a member at Centerpoint if you so choose. This class requires 6 weeks of attendance. Sign up online or contact Karen Fales at [kfales@centerpointroseville.org](mailto:kfales@centerpointroseville.org) or 916-782-3186 x26.

**PRAYER & CARE**

**Military Prayer Group** meets the 2nd Sunday at 9:00am to pray for those in our church associated with the military. The next meeting is December 13. Please RSVP to Pam Misco at 916-872-3635 or [pkmisco@gmail.com](mailto:pkmisco@gmail.com).

**Divorce Care** is meeting through Zoom on Mondays from 6:30-8:00 pm. Register on the website or app, or contact Phil Kelly for more information at 408-203-4083 or [phil@windbow.com](mailto:phil@windbow.com).

**Meals Ministry** is available to help with meals if you have recently been ill, had surgery, had a baby, or lost a loved one. Contact Cassie Johnson in the church office: [cjohnson@centerpointroseville.org](mailto:cjohnson@centerpointroseville.org) or 782-3186 x38.

**Home Handyman Help** is available for widows, seniors, and others who cannot afford to hire a handyman for minor fix-it jobs. Contact Cassie Johnson in the church office: [cjohnson@centerpointroseville.org](mailto:cjohnson@centerpointroseville.org) or 782-3186 x38.



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

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**“What’s a favorite Christmas movie?”** Here are some recommendations from our Centerpoint staff:

**Julie Battenfield** - Every year while I wrap gifts, I watch *While you Were Sleeping* and *Love Actually*.

**Jim Barstow** - *The Muppet Christmas Carol*... hands down!

**Michael Chase** - My current favorite is *Elf*, followed closely by *A Christmas Story* and *It’s a Wonderful Life*.

**Bryan Yeo** - My favorite Christmas movie is *Home Alone*.

**Kelly Harder** - *White Christmas* and *Elf*.

**Dwight Martin** - Alastair Sim’s 1951 portrayal as Mr. Scrooge in *Scrooge*.

**Rachel Dorsey** - I love the movie *How the Grinch Stole Christmas* with Jim Carrey. The kids and I make cookies with a red heart in the middle to eat while we watch his heart grow 3 sizes that Christmas Day!

**Emily Lockett** - *The Nightmare Before Christmas*.

**Karen Fales** - That’s easy for me... *It’s a Wonderful Life*, *A Christmas Story*, and *Christmas Vacation* and all the predictable Hallmark movies each year.

**Shauna Rogers** - Definitely *White Christmas*. So many Christmas memories with my Omi watching this brilliant musical!

**Jonathan Shea** - *The Bishop’s Wife* (1940s version, not the newer one) or *Rudolph the Red-Nosed Reindeer*.

**Lauren Blalock** - *The Muppet Christmas Carol*! I also love *The Snowman* and the stop motion *Rudolph* is a classic.

**John Sprague** - *A Christmas Carol* with George C. Scott.

**June Evans** - *Miracle on 34th Street*.

**Zoë Gibson** - Our family favorite is *White Christmas*, but to be honest, we don’t watch it exclusively at Christmas time. It’s more of a year-round movie!

**Connie Baker** - *Home Alone*.

**Ashley Kennard** - *Miracle on 34th Street*.