



CenterPoint
CHURCH

Profile



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OVERVIEW

CenterPoint Church is a congregation of the Presbyterian Church of America in Tallahassee Florida.

From the beginning, our mission has been "to live as authentic Christ followers, serving all of Tallahassee, in word and deed, as He commands". Though we have pursued this ideal with varying degrees of success, we have become more and more committed to a few distinctives that define us as a church:

- A gospel-centered congregation of the PCA;
- Investing in each others' lives through grace;
- In the center of the city, loving and serving our neighbors.

We are struggling in many ways. And our God is proving Himself faithful in more. Within the last year our congregation has seen and endured many changes; what remains is a core, dedicated group, a loving family, excited with a committed heart and faces set towards the future.

HISTORY

CenterPoint began in 2003 as a plant in the center of the city, led by Pastor Chuck Ryor. Attendance and membership grew rapidly despite changing meeting locations no less than 6 times in 7 years, to a peak of 200 members in 2008. Ministries of various types--in home renovations, tutoring, counseling and music; to children, college students, singles, men and women-- grew and flourished in their own seasons. We even spun off another church in 2007, when our Associate Pastor Joe Elliott started Door of Hope Church on the south side of the city. Behind all this work was a stated mission to be a multicultural, center-city, service-oriented church.

In 2008, Pastor Chuck left, and CenterPoint called Pastor Mo Leverett. His work at Desire Street Ministries in New Orleans seemed especially apt for a congregation that aspired to minister in the center of the city.

From 2008-2010, many left our congregation, for a host of reasons: Chuck's absence, budgets necessitating staff cuts, the need for specific family ministries, personality and style differences, or simple job relocations. When Pastor Mo resigned in July 2010, we considered closing our doors, but decided to continue.

LOCATION

As our name implies, we have deliberately placed ourselves in the center of Tallahassee, in order to better engage those who are not like us. We own office space a quarter mile from the state Capitol, and meet for worship in a building that we rent from another church a mile east of the Capitol. We drive a van through the lower-income south side of town to pick up a faithful group of youth. And while other congregations have and continue to move further and further out of town, we aspire to stay at the center.

LEADERSHIP

We are led by 2 elders:

- Mike Houghton: mikehoughton@comcast.net
- Tom Linley: tom@cptchurch.com

Over the last few years as church membership and make-up has changed so has the structure and composition of church leadership. Where we were once a congregation primarily led by a hired/paid staff, today in addition to the two elders our leadership team consists of a strong and dedicated volunteer base of members/regular attendees with a high commitment level and attitude.

STAFF

Over our history, CenterPoint's paid staff has ranged from 1 to 6, indicative of different budget and membership levels, and different approaches or philosophies to staffing over the course of our church's life. At present, CenterPoint employs 1 part-time staff member, Church Coordinator, Meagan Rubottom.

PASTOR SEARCH COMMITTEE

Our search committee is composed of church members who expressed an interest in being a part of this process, together numbering nearly a third of families, about 1/4 – 1/5 of our membership. This high ratio of search team members to all church members makes for a slightly less expedient, but much more representative team than the typical.

- Greg Gardner, Chair gregorymgardner@yahoo.com
- Mike Kooi capitolgator@gmail.com
- Chris Rubottom: chris@vistalandscapeolutions.com
- Lynn Peacock lpeacock@fsu.edu
- Dave Conrad dieselburban@gmail.com
- Karen Story story.karen@gmail.com
- David Osborne davidrosborne@gmail.com
- Cori Close cclose@fsu.edu
- Amanda Short amandachandler@hotmail.com
- Deanna Hamilton deannabhamilton@yahoo.com

MINISTRIES

CenterPoint's ministries are manifestations of its mission and members. While many (and we hope most) of our ministries are impromptu and interpersonal, a number are formally planned.

Community Groups

CenterPoint community groups are designed to encourage meaningful relationships in a small group setting. Currently, two different family groups meet in members' homes to share a weekly meal and pray together. While there is no formal study, a group leader facilitates an informal prayer time. In addition to group prayer concerns, community groups provide a venue for discussing and praying about topics affecting the church on the whole.

Women's Ministry

Our women's ministry is a volunteer-led program coordinated by Leigh Ann Conrad (CenterPoint member) with the support of a team of women that meets quarterly for vision casting and planning. CenterPoint offers women's Bible studies and an annual retreat.

Men's Ministries

Men's fellowship and ministry groups have been organized at various levels over the life of our church. In the last few years, our men's ministry has been one of fellowship and prayer, meeting weekly at the church property.

Nursery

Nursery is provided during Sunday worship for children ages birth to pre-K. A team of volunteers rotates weekly to care for infants and children. The nurseries are split into separate rooms by age.

Children's Ministry

CenterPoint's children's ministry is designed to reach out to children and families in our community, help kids understand the gospel and teach the Bible in a way that is encouraging and practical. During the service Children's Church provides a consistent time for engaging Bible teaching, games and crafts. Kids grades K-5 participate in corporate worship before being dismissed to their own program, just before the sermon.

CPS: CenterPoint Singles Ministry

CenterPoint Singles meet weekly for Bible study, prayer and fellowship. Throughout the year they organize a retreat, mission trips and other events and activities.

Youth Ministry

The Youth Ministry serves and encourages middle and high school students through games, Bible lessons and of course, food. Weekly meetings and various events draw about 15-20 students with 5 or so adult volunteers helping make it all happen. CenterPoint continually looks for ways to encourage our students towards service and helping them feel like a part of our church family.

Van Ministry

What began with the donation of a 15-passenger van in 2006 has quickly become a vital part of everything we do for children and youth at CenterPoint. Between 5 and 12 kids make their way to church each Sunday morning from neighborhoods on the south side of town, and just as many or more come for Wednesday night youth group. A team of about five adults rotates driving responsibilities.

FACILITIES

Worship Location

CenterPoint's worship location @ 1410 East Indianhead Drive is rented from Love & Faith Community Church which provides facilities for worship and fellowship every Sunday.

Office

CenterPoint owns property at 1200 South Monroe Street (purchased in 2003) and has converted the dilapidated facilities into offices. The building that fronts Monroe Street is historic and with the help of generous donors, giving from the congregation and a City grant, has been converted to office space. Because of its unsafe condition, the warehouse behind the front building has been torn down and is now an open field.

CenterPoint's property is a focal point for ministry as it enables us to keep our efforts trained on the south side of the city. It also symbolizes the rehabilitation of something run down by time, neglect and lack of resources – much like we see ourselves, a people run down by sin and in need of Christ's redeeming work.

In the fall of 2007, CenterPoint launched the Next Step campaign. It followed on the heels of CenterPoint's investigation (for potential purchase) a property adjacent to our 1200 address. That property would have given CenterPoint the opportunity to minister and meet in the same facility. While the investigation did not end in an offer to purchase, it did help jumpstart an effort to convert our current land into useable ministry space. The Next Step campaign challenged members to give generously to complete our office renovation and convert the warehouse footprint into a community-focused recreation area.

The Next Step campaign provided the funds needed to finish our offices, tear down the warehouse and eliminate the '07 budget deficit. While converting the former warehouse space to an outdoor recreational area is still an option, other ideas for the space are still within the scope of consideration.

Due to increasing financial strain, the 1200 Monroe Street property was placed on the market, May 15, 2009 by Francis Rentz of Sperry Van Ness SouthLand Commercial Real Estate Advisors for the asking price of \$450,000.00. Since 2009, the price has been reduced and while the property remains on the market at this time, its status is not permanent and is something that will be revisited as the budget and need for this facility increases.

FINANCES

Budget and Giving

The chart below summarizes the budget for 2010 and illustrates the approved budget for 2011.



CenterPoint
CHURCH

2010 YEAR END REPORT AND 2011 BUDGET APPROVED JANUARY 16, 2011

	2010 APPROVED Rev. BUDGET	2010 ACTUAL	+/- Favorable (Unfavorable)	2011 PROPOSED BUDGET
2010 ENDING CASH BALANCE	\$33,881			
2011 Reserves based on Income vs Expenses	\$6,208			
INCOME				
	\$191,460	\$190,398	-\$1,062	\$180,000
Monthly	\$15,955	\$15,867		\$15,000
TOTAL LABOR	\$136,527	\$124,830	\$11,697	\$76,927
TOTAL MINISTRY	\$17,714	\$22,000	-\$4,286	\$21,400
TOTAL PROPERTY	\$58,441	\$60,061	-\$1,620	\$62,392
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION	\$15,770	\$17,100	-\$1,330	\$13,073
TOTAL EXPENSES	\$228,452	\$223,991	\$4,461	\$173,792
LABOR				
Salaries & Contract Labor	\$112,102	\$100,648	\$11,454	\$66,495
Payroll Tax & Health Insurance	\$24,425	\$24,182	\$243	\$10,432
TOTAL LABOR	\$136,527	\$124,830	\$11,697	\$76,927
MINISTRY				
Adults (Men, Women, CPS)	-	-	-	
College	-	-	-	
Youth Ministry	\$4,390	\$3,705	\$685	\$3,600
Children's Ministry	\$2,000	\$1,017	\$983	\$1,000
Worship Ministry	\$387	\$237	\$150	\$600
Mercy Needs	\$125	\$5,796	-\$5,671	\$3,000
A Women's Pregnancy Center	\$600	\$600	\$0	\$600
Young Life	\$600	\$600	\$0	
InterVarsity	\$600	\$600	\$0	
RUF - FSU	\$3,000	\$3,000	\$0	\$4,200
MNA Repayment - Door of Hope	\$2,400	\$2,400	\$0	\$2,400
General Discretionary (Pastor Search Expenses)	\$1,695	\$4,045	-\$2,350	\$5,000
Staff Ministry Discretionary	\$1,917	\$0	\$1,917	\$1,000
TOTAL MINISTRY EXPENSE	\$17,714	\$22,000	(\$4,286)	\$21,400
PROPERTY				
Office & Worship Facilities Repairs & Maint	\$787	\$878	-\$91	\$3,000
Utilities (elect, water, sewer, garbage, security)	\$8,197	\$8,930	-\$733	\$9,000
Van (fuel, repairs & maint, insurance, tags)	\$5,274	\$4,861	\$413	\$5,000
Worship Facility Rental	\$21,750	\$21,750	\$0	\$21,750
Monroe St Mortgage	\$22,433	\$23,642	-\$1,209	\$23,642
TOTAL PROPERTY EXPENSE	\$58,441	\$60,061	-\$1,620	\$62,392
ADMINISTRATION				
Advertising, Signs, Printing	(\$25)	(\$105)	\$80	\$250
Bank Charges, Credit Card Charges & Late Fees	\$49	\$166	-\$117	\$100
Communications (Phone, Internet)	\$2,162	\$2,069	\$93	\$2,000
Insurance (Workers Comp, Liability, Property)	\$5,934	\$6,896	-\$962	\$6,800
Corporate Annual Registration	\$122	\$123	-\$1	\$123
Miscellaneous	\$4,228	\$3,970	\$258	\$1,000
Office Supplies	\$2,241	\$1,968	\$273	\$1,500
Leverett CPA & Payroll Accounting Service Fees	\$485	\$450	\$35	\$100
Postage (stamps) & P.O. Box	\$176	\$201	-\$25	\$200
Staff Retreats & Seminars	\$398	\$1,362	-\$964	\$1,000
TOTAL ADMINISTRATION EXPENSE	\$15,770	\$17,100	-\$1,330	\$13,073

APPENDIX

The full contents of this detailed history and much more can be found in the 2008 CenterPoint Church Profile, located at www.cptchurch.com/pastor-search/.

DETAILED HISTORY

CenterPoint Church was born out of a vision of the Reverend Chuck Ryor. In early 2002, Pastor Chuck took a proposal for a downtown, service-oriented PCA church plant to the Session of Wildwood Church in Tallahassee, where he had been the youth minister for the past 6 years. With the unanimous blessing and support of the Wildwood Session, Chuck began assembling a team to prepare for the plant. In the fall of 2002, a group of less than a dozen people began meeting for prayer and, in the spring of 2003, this small group met for a simple Sunday night service downtown.

That simple Sunday night service set the template for corporate worship that has remained a constant since. A simple service consisting of worship led by a praise band, a few announcements and greetings and a gospel-oriented sermon compose most of the elements in the worship service. Offerings were taken in a small box in the lobby; no plates were passed.

CenterPoint was officially launched as a mission of the Gulf Coast Presbytery in 2003, with Pastor Chuck Ryor designated as Evangelist. By the middle of 2003, CenterPoint had added a large following of college students to its small group of mostly young adults and moved to a larger facility downtown. Sunday worship services moved to the morning, and CenterPoint added a part-time worship minister (Ryan Brasington) and full-time ministry coordinator (Vita Bakker).

Early in the planning, CenterPoint approached the City of Tallahassee for an idea of the services a church like ours could provide to help alleviate needs in the surrounding neighborhood. The City recommended two: home revitalization and youth mentoring. In late 2003, CenterPoint took the first steps toward the former with the establishment of a non-denominational service organization named CPR, or CenterPoint Revitalization (now The Tallahassee Fuller Center for Housing). By mid-2004, CPR service days had become a regular event for many in the CenterPoint congregation, and Ken Pye became the first CPR director in October of that year.

CenterPoint took an unusual step for a young church plant by acquiring a dilapidated parcel of property downtown, 4 blocks from the state capitol building. The congregation invested itself in the effort to clean up and revitalize the property, donning (literal) hard hats and beginning the process of transforming a set of long-abandoned buildings into a useful space. Though the effort is a continuing endeavor, the property today is radically different than it was at that time.

Early 2004 saw the addition of another minister, the Reverend Joe Elliott. Joe came to CenterPoint from Raleigh, NC as our first Assistant Pastor. He had a vision to learn the church planting process by serving CenterPoint so that he might eventually lead an effort to plant an African American PCA church. That vision became a reality with the church plant of Door of Hope in June 2007.

As most church plants will, CenterPoint has continually juggled its options for space in which to minister to a growing membership, including children, and its desire to reach out to those in the

center and south side of the city, all on a limited budget. By 2004 the number of babies and kids at CenterPoint had begun to grow rapidly, and the church leadership recognized that for young families, a safe and controlled environment for child care was of paramount importance. These growing needs and opportunities led to a series of moves. After launching in a downtown office building in 2003 and moving to a movie theater in early 2004, fall of 2004 saw CenterPoint renting a church adjacent to the Florida State University campus. In early 2005 we moved again, this time to the Tallahassee Little Theater, a community performing arts theater. CenterPoint met on Sunday mornings for most of 2005 and 2006 at the Little Theater. A lack of adequate nursery facilities led to yet another move. In late 2006, the Tallahassee 1st 7th Day Adventist Church (SDA) opened its doors to CenterPoint, providing us with the luxury of nursery space, meeting rooms, parking, outdoor play areas and the ability to meet both mornings and evenings. In April 2009, CenterPoint moved to its current location, the former Parkway Baptist Church in Indianhead Acres with the purpose of moving to a larger facility while also moving closer to the center of the city.

As a small, dynamic church plant, CenterPoint's staff has changed with even greater frequency than its meeting location. As expected and with the support and blessing of CenterPoint, Pastor Joe left to plant an African American PCA church. Door of Hope was launched as a mission church of the Gulf Coast Presbytery in the summer of 2007, and CenterPoint has had the privilege of providing financial support for Joe's ministry through Door of Hope. (Door of Hope Church continues to minister as a mission church.)

In 2006 CenterPoint brought on Rev. Steven Brooks as full-time Student Minister. At the end of 2006, CenterPoint added a full-time worship minister. Vance Watt came to CenterPoint by way of St. Louis, Missouri, where he founded the ministry Parking Lot Praiz' Beats. Vance's addition to the CenterPoint staff brought not only a full-time worship minister but a ministry opportunity for CenterPoint. Through Vance's ministry to youth through Christian hip hop, CenterPoint is able to participate in ministering the gospel outside Tallahassee.

In February 2008, Pastor Chuck Ryor resigned to serve another church in California as Senior Pastor and in September of 2008 CenterPoint called Rev. Mo Leverett to the position of Senior Pastor. His experience in urban ministry helped shape CenterPoint's vision to a center-city ministry that reaches out to all areas of Tallahassee which includes the urban poor, artists, the universities, government sectors and business men and women.

In early 2009, due to a decline in financial giving, an effect of the poor economy, CenterPoint had to make the hard decision of terminating two full time staff positions (Student Minister and Executive Minister) and decreasing remaining salaries. This was a traumatic event for the entire church, and was a significant factor for a number of our members who decided to leave at the time. Others left the church for various reasons over the next 18 months, so that by mid-2010, we had around 70 regular attendees.

In July 2010, pastor Mo resigned, citing the end of his marriage and his own assessment that his service had not been as successful as he would have liked. Recognizing that the church finances could not support both a full time pastor and a full time worship minister, Vance Watt, Worship Minister resigned in November 2010, leaving us with only one part-time staff.

Particularization

After 4 years as a church plant, CenterPoint elected its first 4 elders and particularized as a part of the Gulf Coast Presbytery in June, 2007.

City Demographics

Tallahassee hosts a young and racially diverse population that is typified by a disparity in economics. While family median income (\$49,359) is slightly higher than the state average (\$21,557), 25% of individual residents have a median income below the poverty line, double state (12.5 %) and national (12.4%) averages.

Our Immediate Neighborhood

While the state capitol and offices are less than 4 blocks north of our church property, some of the city's poorest neighborhoods are a few blocks south. According to the Tallahassee-Leon County Planning Department in 2007, most of our neighbors are African American (74%) who live in an area of the city characterized by a loss of population, decrease in home ownership and increasing poverty. In fact, unemployment and poverty rates are almost twice those of the city and county as a whole.

Our City

Tallahassee hosts a young and diverse population. State government, 2 universities and 1 community college provide a relatively stable base of income for many of our residents; and while much of our diversity can be seen in our ethnic makeup, a disparity in median income levels presents significant economic diversity.

Students attending Florida State University, Florida A&M University, and Tallahassee Community College together account for approximately 67,000 of Leon County's 360, 013 residents. Our largest age group is comprised of 18- to 24-year-olds, 25- to 44-year-olds making up the second largest group. Households are largely families; however, as many as 35% of our residents report that they live alone (that number in part attributable to a large student population). We are racially diverse, African Americans making up 34% of our residents, Caucasians 60% and other ethnicities 6%.¹

Per capita median income is slightly lower than the state average, but the family median income is slightly higher. In spite of the seeming financial stability of Tallahassee's families, close to 25% of our residents produce a median income below the poverty line, double both state and national averages.²

¹ City of Tallahassee. Demographics. 2010. January 7, 2011.

<http://www.talgov.com/gov/facts/demos.cfm>

² Ibid.