April/May 2022

Wade Allen Lead Pastor **David McEuen** Pastor of Family & Worship John O'Connor Pastor of Community Engagement **Ron Fields** Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

SINGING MEN of Arkansas

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Wade Allen Lead Pastor

POST-PANDEMIC NEW NORMAL

Temple Baptist

By the middle of 2021, there were some things beginning to reopen as the effects of the pandemic began to wane. With continued concern for the health and well-being of its members, the Singing Men of Arkansas began searching for a larger rehearsal facility-one that would allow for adequate social distancing. We offered our facility for their use every Tuesday evening, and they gratefully accepted.

Jerry Newman, Director of Singing Men said, "Temple Baptist Church is the most accommodating venue in the history of the Singing Men of Arkansas. What a wonderful congregation to allow us the privilege of using their facility to sing praises to our Lord on a weekly basis!"

CHRISTIAN HERITAGE OF THE SINGING MEN

The Singing Men of Arkansas do not consider themselves a Christian organization, but the vast majority of members are followers of Christ. Much of the music that is performed by the group is sacred, and one of the highlights every year is the free Heritage of Hymns Concert in the fall.

I have enjoyed getting to know men from other Evangelical churches throughout NWA by being a part of this group. Each week is a joyful time of fellowship with brothers in Christ.

I am also pleased that some fellow musicians from some of our sister churches have also gotten involved with the Singing Men. At this time, we have members from five BMA of the Ozarks churches that are currently singing with us-Calvary in Fayetteville, First in Cave Springs, Maysville Baptist, Prairie Oaks in Prairie Grove, and Temple in Rogers.

A GIFT OF APPRECIATION

As a way to show appreciation to our church for our hospitality and generosity in allowing them to utilize our facilities, the Singing Men of Arkansas

> would like to honor us by presenting a free concert for our church! Director Newman stated, "We want to dedicate the upcoming concert to their extreme generosity."This concert will be Sunday, May 1st at 3:00 PM, and will feature both sacred and patriotic selections.

Three members of our BMA of

the Ozarks family will be featured during this concert. Sam Reddin will be featured on the cello for "O Love," Jason Burns will be the featured soloist for "An American Soldier." And I am privileged to have the solo on "Bring Him Home."

The concert will be open to the public. I know that friends from our sister churches will be coming. I would encourage you to arrive early for best seating. Doors will open at 2:30 PM.



SINGING MEN of ARKANSAS

Importance of CONNECTING

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

Some new people recently moved into our neighborhood. Although we have been able to meet them we want to get better acquainted, and discover how we might serve them. Covid restrictions, schedule complications, and even weather have prohibited much interaction. We are now looking forward to warmer weather when we can walk the neighborhood and have more interaction with all our neighbors.

Most lives revolve around a fairly stable set of events of family, work, and church. We seek to maintain good relationships wherever we are. Sometimes we spend more time on the phone than in face to face meetings with family. Work relationships often become quite close.

While at church, in addition to the Bible study and the preaching of God's Word, we love meeting our friends and especially the opportunities to meet new friends. Community Groups and Christian Senior meetings give us more time to be with each other. We interact at work, school, and at leisure time.

There are times, however, that we need to be more intentional and direct with others. Phone or text someone this week and let them know you are praying for them.

Because we are the public face of our Lord we want to be good ambassadors for Christ, always be looking for opportunities to be a blessing to others. (2 Corinthians 5:20)

Next SESSION Coming Soon

John O'Connor Pastor of Community Engagement

Hello Church Family! I pray that your Easter was awesome! With that said, you may or may not have noticed that we are taking a break for the next two weeks from community groups (April 17th and April 24th). Take this time to relax, spend time with your family and build some margin into your life. We will be starting community groups back up the first week of May and will go through the first week of July. **This would be a great time to invite someone** to your community group.

> The new sermon series and community group lessons will focus on the skills we need to build healthy relationships at home, at school and at work. The lessons will look a bit different this time around. We get to use RightNowMedia to help us with our community

groups. Each lesson will have a quick video and then a discussion portion. If you are not familiar with RightNowMedia, it is a Christian Streaming service that our church subscribes to for our members, free of charge. If you don't have access to it and would like to, please reach out to me or Wade so that we can get you access.

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Intentional Like

Building Healthy Relationships is vitally important for our mental and spiritual health, as well as key for our ability to spread the Gospel. Who are you going to invite?

STRESS—It's Epidemic

David McEuen

Pastor of Family and Worship

Once a week, our staff gathers together to pray for specific prayer requests that are written on the weekly sign in forms. This week, I was struck by the number of requests from students or parents asking for prayers in dealing with school related stress. I was reminded

of just how stressed, worried, and anxious our world has become. And it's not just adults, but kids and teens as well. Everyone deals with anxiety in some form or fashion at some point in their life. So what are we to do when the stresses and difficulties of life become so overwhelming?

Philippians 4:6 says, "Do not be anxious about

anything, but in everything by prayer and supplication with thanksgiving let your requests be made known to God." Simple, right? Just pray about it and all your cares will be taken away! Well...not quite.

What Paul is referring to here is the active choice to turn your gaze from the things that overwhelm you to the One who reigns over your circumstances. It's a call to come before the throne of God and acknowledge your need for help and God's ability and willingness to do something about your need.

When you do this, notice what God promises to supply to you: "⁷ And the peace of God, which surpasses all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus." (Philippians 4:7, emphasis added) Amazing...the peace of mind and heart that you long for is given to you freely as you trust in Him.

> Students, Teachers, I know it's a stressful time

but take heart. God loves you and cares for you and He invites you to experience His peace as you cast all your anxieties upon Him, because He cares for you. (1 Peter 5:7)

LIGHTING UPGRADE in the Auditorium – by Wade Allen

With the recent purchase of our digital sound system, we became painfully aware of the need for new lights for our stage and congregational seating. A significant donation was given by a church member to be used for this purpose.

As many of you have told me, it is sometimes difficult to read with the current lighting scheme we have in the auditorium. Many of the Singing Men of Arkansas have voiced a similar concern for reading their music. Each time someone asked me about our plans for upgrading, I always told them (somewhat sarcastically) that we would gladly accept donations for the project.

This past Tuesday evening, I announced to the men present that we would be moving forward with this project... if they wanted to help! As of the writing of this article, members of Singing Men of Arkansas have donated over \$1600 to help with the expenses of this upgrade! Thank you Singing Men for your generosity! SINGING MEN OF ARKANSAS





- Apr 18-20 **BMA of America Meeting** Springfield, MO
- May 1 Singing Men of Arkansas Concert 3:00 PM
- May 5 **Christian Seniors** 12:00 PM

OF ROGERS, ARKANSAS

- May 8 Mother's Day
- **5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch** May 29



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