

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

Exciting New OPPORTUNITY

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Lead Pastor

Twenty-Eight Months Later

Remember when you heard the reports that college and professional basketball was shut down? At that time, most people had heard of the Coronavirus (aka Covid-19), but we really didn't have a clue as to the sweeping impact that this virus would have in our lives.

In March 2020—as the world was shutting down all around us—our church leadership made a decision to vastly alter our weekly ministry schedule also. We cancelled public services and opted for virtual services only for a while. As we grew weary of our isolation, we figured out how to have “Drive-in Church” every week. Then we re-entered the building with multiple worship services so that we could socially distance from one another. I get exhausted just thinking back to this season in our church's history!

The Good and the Bad

The mental and emotional strain of this time caused many pastors around the country to simply walk away from the ministry. More than 850 days have passed by since we shut down for this pandemic. And as I look back, I am filled with mixed emotions—both gratitude and regret.

One of the things that I am most thankful for that was a result of the pandemic is the ministry

of home-based, sermon-focused, discussion-led Bible study groups. These groups provided us with an opportunity to interact with people face-to-face (something the pandemic had taken away from us). I have heard from many of you that your time in community group each week is one of your favorite times all week long!

Another thing that I am thankful for that was a result of the pandemic is our Kids Time ministry! When all of our other children's ministries were shut down, several of the leaders from these various ministries came together to organize and implement a top-notch ministry to children during the Sunday morning worship service. It was an awesome thing to see all these “ministry silos” collaborate to create something new!

There are other things that I am thankful for as a result of the pandemic, but one of my biggest regrets has been the loss of a mid-week ministry designed to reach elementary students. The effectiveness of Awana Clubs had already begun to wane; and just like the effect that this deadly virus had on those who were at greater risk because of other health issues, ministries that were struggling were at greater risk to fatal results.

The New Opportunity Before Us

I doubt that you remember this, but I was in the middle of a sermon series in Revelation 2-3 on the seven churches of Asia when Covid-19 shut down the world. On March 22, my sermon text

To New BEGINNINGS

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

Weddings are a big part of our Summer this year. One grandson was married in May (David Cothran) another is to be married in August (Jonathan Cothran), and a couple in our church (Eli and Hannah) are planning a September wedding.



Our congratulations to each couple. We are thankful for the emphasis on giving Christ His rightful place as they begin married life together. We are glad to encourage them to always strive for a Christ honoring family.

Weddings are joyous occasions and we are always happy to help the bride and groom celebrate a very special day. We also encourage them to grow in the Lord throughout their married life.

Someone has said that marriage is hard work! Communication and commitment are key words. In a world where both are lacking, a long and lasting marriage is a testimony of to their worth.

Our hats are off to those who have chosen to commit their lives to one another and who bring Christ into that commitment. We rejoice with the milestone of each passing year. May God bless your marriage as you live for Him.

Therefore a man shall leave his father and his mother and hold fast to his wife, and they shall become one flesh.

(Genesis 2:24)

A Different PERSPECTIVE

David McEuen

Pastor of Family and Worship

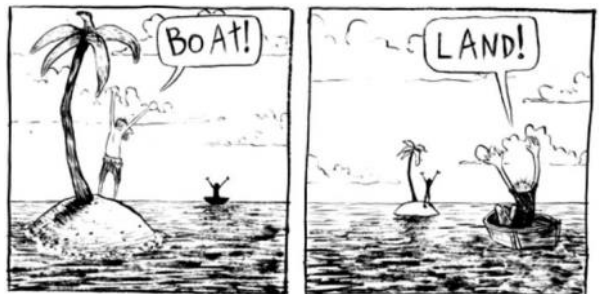
And just like that, summer is coming to a close and school is starting soon. (All teachers and students in NWA just let out a collective sigh. Did you hear it?) However you're feeling, let me share a passage with you that dramatically changed my perspective on school (and work) when I was in high school.

1 Corinthians 10:31 says, "So, whether you eat or drink, or whatever you do, do all to the glory of God."

When I first heard this, I knew I could glorify God by doing things in the church but this said I could glorify God in all things, even things OUTSIDE the church. This meant I could glorify God with things like basketball or playing my guitar. But it also meant that I could glorify God in other less exciting ways...like being a good student.

In Colossians 3:22-23, 24b, Paul wrote, "Bondservants, obey in everything those who are your earthly masters, not by way of eye-service, as people-pleasers, but with sincerity of heart, fearing the Lord. Whatever you do, work heartily, as for the Lord and not for men... You are serving the Lord Christ."

I may not have been a bondservant, but my teachers certainly felt like "earthly masters." And



IT'S ALL ABOUT PERSPECTIVE

A New ADVENTURE

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

Hello church family! Hope all your summer excursions have been awesome, and that you got some time to rest and recharge. I spent a week in the Minnesota wilds and came back home on a mission.

An essential part of Temple kids' ministry is missing—an outreach and discipleship ministry in the middle of the week. Laura and I have been praying about it and have volunteered to get this ministry back up and running. Since it was summer—with vacations, VBS, church camp, and insert whatever—we went ahead and selected some curriculum to get this year started.

We will begin on Wednesday, September 7th, and will meet each week from 6:00 – 7:30. We will be meeting at the church, both in the auditorium and the first floor of the education building. Watch for more info in the bulletin!



The curriculum that we chose is intended for students starting kindergarten through the fifth grade. It is designed to help kids navigate a changing culture, experience God's presence, and walk in the ways of Jesus. It is engaging for kids, easy to use, and fully customizable. And best of all, it is centered on the Gospel!

The curriculum includes digital content and printable content for the kids that will help us connect children with Scripture through Gospel-focused teaching. And it even has talking points to send home to the parents!

And now for the big ask, who wants to help? Kids' ministry has a long history here at Temple, and is a wonderful way to reach out community and provide an opportunity to train up our children in the Word of God. If you are interested in serving in this ministry, please let me or Laura know. We'd love to serve with you.

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the text was clear: God wanted me to work as if I was doing it for Him, not just for a grade or for my teachers. This changed things for me and with God's help, I began to try to keep this perspective while in school.

As teachers and students alike begin to return to the classroom, would you pray with me that God would give them this perspective?

Pray that God would help them to see that He wants to use them to bring glory to Himself in all things—even school.

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was Revelation 3:7-13 and the title of the sermon was "Accessing God's Open Door." Looking back at the past 28 months, I would say that we have been faithful to walk through the doors that God has opened for us. Let's continue this trend!

Please be in prayer for this new ministry to elementary students on Wednesday evenings! If you are interested in serving, please contact John and Laura to let them know. But most of all, we want to encourage you to reach out to your friends and neighbors and invite them to come. You can change the life of a child for eternity!

UPCOMING *Mark Your Calendars* **EVENTS**



- Aug 1-5** **OBE Church Camp**
 Siloam Springs, AR
- Aug 4** **Christian Seniors**
 12:00 PM
- Aug 10 & 11** **Block Party—Westside School**
 5:00-6:00 PM
- Aug 16** **Singing Men of Arkansas**
 Rehearsals Resume
- Aug 20** **Women’s Fellowship**
 2:00 PM
- Aug 21** **Annual Business Meeting**
 4:00 PM
- Sep 1** **Christian Seniors**
 12:00 PM
- Sep 3** **Martin/Fulfer Wedding**
- Sep 9** **BMA of the Ozarks**
 Annual Meeting
- Sep 15** **Tim Hawkins Concert**
- Sep 17** **Student Ministry Matters Leaders**
 Conference—CBC
- Sep 27-29** **Re:Charge Leaders’ Oasis**
- Oct 23** **Lifeword Sunday &**
 BMAO Lifeword Rally



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