



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

COMMUNITY Becoming a Verb

Wade Allen

Lead Pastor

It's been two-and-a-half years since we transitioned to meeting together in homes as community groups. In that time, we have grown in both the number and percentage of individuals who are participating in these groups each week. We have maintained at least a 70% ratio of Sunday morning worship attendance from the beginning, but lately we have been averaging 75-80%!

More important than the numbers are the lives that are being changed as a result of this time together each week. Friendships are being forged. Connections are growing deeper. People are maturing in their personal walks with the Lord! I've heard from several that they feel a bond with their fellow group members that goes beyond what they had experienced previously!

If this is going so well, then why are we taking a break? In case you hadn't heard, community groups will not be meeting starting **March 19** (to coincide with Spring Break) through the week of Easter (**April 9**). The spring session of groups will begin the week of **April 16**.

So again, why are we taking a break? There are several reasons for periodic pauses in our community group schedules. Here are just a few:

- It gives the host a break from meeting. Opening your home to a group every week can become difficult without these breaks.
- Every time we start a new session, it gives us a natural opportunity to invite new people to join our group.
- Sometimes, a particular group is not a great fit for an individual. Starting a new session allows them a natural opportunity to try out a different group.
- And one more thing, sometimes we need to step away from something in order to really understand just how much it means to us!

So, enjoy your break from community groups for the next several weeks. Maybe reach out to some of your group members just to see how they are doing! Again, we will start back the week of April 16, focusing in on the Gospel of Luke.



Between now and then, we have several events scheduled for our church family to all come together! Be sure to mark your calendars with these changes and make plans to attend each of these special meetings.

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Emptiness or INTIMACY

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

Hello church family!

Hope that you are doing well!

In our last community group meeting, before the break, I brought up a recent study that I had heard about. The study was comparing the level of intimacy people have with their phones as compared to the intimacy they had with their spouse. The people were asked to rate, on a scale of 1-10, what level of intimacy they had with their spouse and then their phone.

Unfortunately, the phone won out more often than the spouse.

Phones are essential for everyday life now, in the same vein as pants or deodorant (teens you can never get enough deodorant). When we elevate that phone to a high level of intimacy, we have allowed ourselves to be sold a relationship that can only offer more emptiness.

In Matthew 26:24, Jesus told his disciples, "If anyone would come after me, let him deny himself and take up his cross and follow me..." Our human nature wants to indulge in things; phones enable us to indulge in any fleshly desire we may have (lust, anger, avarice, etc). Jesus calls us to not live for our desires, but to live for others and surrender to Christ.

My advice for you this Spring... put down the phone, serve others, and most of all surrender your life to Jesus.

On the FRONT Lines?

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

King David and his men were chasing the enemy. They had overrun his home city and led away captives. Some remained at a camp while the rest of the army went on and rescued those captives.

Upon the successful return of the army there were those who would refuse spoils of war to those who had not gone with them. David's decision was definite. Those who stayed with the stuff (baggage) were equally involved in the battle.

While in the military I did not fly a plane, drive a tank, pilot a boat, and rarely carried a rifle.

My task was working in the background, supporting those who were on the front lines of action. My job was vital to the overall success of military operations.

You may not be called to serve on what we call the front lines of action, preaching, teaching, ministering service. You may be called to serve behind the scenes, unknown by others. Your duty may be in the prayer closet, on your knees, interceding for those out front.

Your task is vital to success. In the spiritual battle where we are in 'the Lord's army', every task is important.

"And whatever you do in word or deed, do all in the name of the Lord Jesus...

(Colossians 3:17)



Applying God's Word Is Essential

David McEven

Pastor of Family and Worship

Last month I had the pleasure of ministering to the poor and displaced people of Kampala and Arua, Uganda with International Missionaries for Christ (IMFC). To say this trip changed my life would be an understatement. I gained a new perspective on the world beyond Rogers, and God's heart for every tribe, tongue, and nation.

In Philippians 1:6, Paul wrote, "For I am confident of this very thing, that He who began a good work in you will perfect it until the day of Christ Jesus." (NASB) God began a work in me in Uganda and I believe He wants to take the things He taught me and utilize them right here at Temple Baptist Church.

One of these is the SOT Bible study method. We're already familiar with the SOAP Bible study method—SOT just takes it a step further with more direct questions for personal application. SOT asks:

'What does the Bible **say**?'

'What is there to **obey**?' and

'What is in this passage that God wants me to **tell** another person?'

I've already begun using this method with our students and I'm excited to see how God will use it in their lives.



Parents, I want to challenge you to utilize these questions as well. You could incorporate them into your personal Bible study or use them to follow up with what your kids are learning on Wednesday nights or even utilize them in your family devotional time. However you choose to use this method, I know you will be blessed in doing so as you and your kids both learn and live out the Bible together.

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On Sunday evening, **March 26**, at 6:00 PM, we will be having a special time of worship where we will observe the **Lord's Supper**. The following Sunday, **April 2**, at 6:00, we will have our **Quarterly Business Meeting**. We hope that all church members will be able to attend these special, Sunday evening services!

On **April 9**, we will be celebrating the resurrection of our Savior, Jesus Christ. Our choir will be presenting some special music and we want to encourage you to invite your family and friends for this special time of worship. As is our custom, we will dismiss all evening events that day to give you the opportunity to spend that time with your family!

UPCOMING EVENTS *Mark Your Calendars* 

- Mar 19-25** **Spring Break**
Community Groups Dismissed
- Mar 20** **Ladies Bible Study**
6:30 PM
- Mar 22** **Club 267/TSM Dismissed for**
Spring Break
- Mar 26** **Gideon Service—Morning Worship**
Lord's Supper
6:00 PM
- Apr 2** **Quarterly Business Meeting**
6:00 PM
- Apr 3** **Ladies Bible Study**
6:30 PM
- Apr 6** **Christian Seniors**
- Apr 14-15** **Musical—"Beauty & the Beast"**
Central Baptist College—Conway, AR
- Apr 17** **Ladies Bible Study**
6:30 PM
- Apr 25-27** **BMA of America—National Meeting**
Antioch Baptist Church—Conway, AR
- April 30** **CBC Singers—Morning Worship**
Fifth Sunday Fellowship
12:00 PM
- May 1** **Ladies Bible Study**
6:30 PM
- May 4** **Christian Seniors**



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