



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

Through the Years... Reminiscing

Wade Allen
Lead Pastor

As I contemplate what I hope to communicate to you through this article this month, I am reminded that it was nine years ago when I stepped off a plane at XNA to begin a new season of ministry. I was excited about the future, but mourning the loss of our mission effort in Asia Pacific as if a close friend had died. I'm sure that you got tired of hearing my "stories from the mission field." But who's kidding, the frequency may have slowed, but I still share my stories on a regular basis.

When I became your pastor nine years ago, I made a conscious decision to not change things too quickly—I wanted to take time to get to know you and the ministries of the church before attempting to make sweeping changes. What I didn't realize at the time was that my personality was such a drastic change from your previous two decades that many of you felt as if you had whiplash! Thank you for your patience with me!

However, it wasn't long before there were some changes made. What started with a facelift of the offices spread to other parts of the building. What was once a library is now the Gathering Room. We no longer need to be afraid that the stage might

collapse on the south side. We have bathroom stalls with actual doors... doors that lock. If someone hadn't been here in the past decade, they would certainly say that the face of the church has changed.

For us who are always here, the faces in the church have also changed. There are some that have chosen to move on or move away, while others have received their final promotion to glory! Still others have returned after many years away, and we are so thankful for those new faces and new lives that are such a blessing to this body of Christ!



"This could be the beginning of a very unusual time for #templerogers..." Dan Carson (June 29, 2014)

The face of our ministry has also changed drastically, especially in the wake of the worldwide pandemic. We transitioned from being a traditional, program-driven church to become a sermon-based small-groups church. I admit that there are aspects of ministry that I miss from how things "used to be," but I am so thankful for the group leaders that are doing ministry every week without me needing to be there! What an amazing example they are of Ephesians 4 type ministry!

In *Sticky Church*, Larry Osborne wrote, "The ultimate goal of a sermon-based small group is simply to Velcro people to the two things they will need most when faced with a need-to-know or need-to-grow situation: the Bible and other Christians."

(Continued in "REMINISCING" on page 4)

This Is It... Make No Mistake

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

Hello Church Family! Hopefully, your summer has kicked off well and you are finding some time to relax and recharge.

Some of my favorite places to relax are where there is little to no cell service. I am old enough to remember the time before cell phones and the internet. A time when you had to call your parents when you arrived at a place and you had to call before you left!

Now a days, our phones have become our greatest source of addiction, distraction, and quite frankly anxiety. There is plenty to unpack here, but I just want to focus on the beginning of your day.

How do you start your day? Do you start it with your phone or with God? Psalm 5:3 "O Lord, In the morning you hear my voice; in the morning I prepare a sacrifice for you and watch."

The very first thing that David does is pray to God—prioritizing time with God and for God over his things. What do you reach for first? I can hear my wife in my head going "My devotion is on my phone." Then let's alter the question: Do you spend time with God first? Or are you checking email/Facebook/Instagram/TikTok? What comes first, God or the world?



What a Day That Will Be

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

I love reunions—especially my family reunion on Labor Day. Several years ago I attended a reunion of my Great-Grandparents' family. In a room of about 40-50 people I went from one to another saying, "I'm Ron and we are probably related!" It was fun!

Last Labor Day, a niece and her husband came for the first time since she was a little girl. Also, a nephew who had never been there came with his family and promised to return in 2023. Cousins not seen in years have attended. We have also had neighbors show up whom we had played and gone to school with as children.

Some have passed into eternity including my parents, two sisters, three brothers in law and a sister in law. Age and health prevent my one remaining aunt, now 96, and my brother and his wife from attending, but we who attend are thrilled to see each other and reminiscence. We catch up on each other's lives and review special memories. We pray and eat and make plans.

I am anticipating another reunion still to come. That reunion will be in heaven. Thoughts of seeing Jesus face to face and meeting again those who have gone before us encourage that anticipation. But until that day I will love and serve my Savior. Perhaps in the time left for me there will be others come to know Christ and then they will be included in that reunion!

But our citizenship is in heaven, and from it we await a Savior, the Lord Jesus Christ, who will transform our lowly body to be like his glorious body, by the power that enables him even to subject all things to himself.

(Philippians 3:20-21)

Hopefully Devoted to You

David McEuen

Pastor of Family and Worship

SOAR 2023

It's that time of year again! SOAR 2023 is upon us! After our morning worship service on Sunday, July 2nd, Temple Student Ministry is headed to Dallas, Texas, to take part in the BMA of America's National Youth Conference. This year's theme is **Devoted**.



Merriam-Webster says to devote yourself to someone or something is “to commit by solemn act” or “to give over or direct (time, money, effort, etc.) to a cause, enterprise, or activity.” By this definition, there are many good things that we can devote ourselves to—family, friends, work, education—but the Bible tells us that our highest devotion should be to none other than Jesus Christ. (In fact, our devotion to all of the things mentioned above should stem from and be filtered through our devotion to Christ.)

Over the course of this conference, hundreds of students from the churches of the BMAA will be gathered together to explore what it means to be devoted to Christ, His Word, His Church, and His Mission. Students will be challenged to place Christ first in their lives and devote themselves

completely to Him. What greater cause is there than the cause of Christ?

I'm excited for what lies ahead at SOAR 2023 and how God will work in our students lives. While we are away, will you devote yourself to praying for them? Pray that God would draw our students to Himself—some for the very first time and some to a greater devotion to Him

A quick word about Church Camp...

OBE Church Camp is July 31-August 4! If you've never been a part of camp before let me encourage you to consider going with us this year—and bring your whole family! It's always a great opportunity to take some time away from the hustle and bustle and focus all your attention on your relationship with Christ.

Students of all ages are welcome but anyone who is seven years old or younger is required to be accompanied by a parent. Please do not hesitate to contact me if you'd like to know more and make sure to sign up!



Church camp is a financial priority here at Temple! Funds are available for anyone who wants to attend camp. From our perspective, the most important thing is that everyone is given the opportunity to get away from the chaos of life to focus on their relationship with God! Don't forget to sign up at the Information Wall in the foyer!

Mark Your Calendars
UPCOMING EVENTS 

- July 2-5** **SOAR—National Student Conference**
 Gaylord Texan—Grapevine, Texas
- July TBD** **TSM—Chef's Auction**
 One Sunday Evening in July at 6:00 PM
- July 30** **5th Sunday Fellowship Lunch**
- July 31—** **Ozarks Baptist Encampment**
August 4 Camp Siloam—Siloam Springs, Arkansas

(Continued from "REMINISCING" on p. 1)

It's amazing to see how relationships have deepened as a result of community groups! People who were once marginalized are now engaged in the life of the church. Praise the Lord!

I am convinced that if we want people to stick here when they are searching for a church home, we need to expand the ministry of our community groups. In order to do that, we need to be in the process of continually training new leaders to serve as facilitators of these groups.



This summer, you will have an opportunity to learn more about what it takes to be a community group leader and see if that's something you would be interested in. Would you think about joining us?

In this same training, we are going to explore some tips about what makes a great discussion-based, Bible study—and how you can be a part of the process of creating our weekly studies!

If you love the Lord, love His Word, and want to make an impact on the growth and development of our church, let me know that you are interested in joining us for this small-group training in July!



Nonprofit Org.
 U.S. Postage
 Paid
 Rogers, AR
 Permit No. 25

**Return Service
 Requested**