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## Sketching a Plan for the Future

**Wade Allen**  
Lead Pastor

### LESSONS IN LEADERSHIP

When I graduated from Bible college and started working in ministry, I had the privilege of going with the rest of the church staff to a John Maxwell Leadership Conference. The conference was being held in the biggest church I had ever seen; and I was enamored by the bigger-than-life personality that I heard speak. One thing he said that stuck with me was this:

***“Everything rises and falls on leadership.”***  
John Maxwell

Ever since that day, I have been mindful of my responsibility in the realm of leadership. As time went by, I studied and listened to many great leaders. I read books about leadership. I focused on what the Bible had to say about leadership.

Another significant influence in my development as a leader was a man named Ken Blanchard. Like John Maxwell, he has had the unique opportunity to speak into both the corporate and the Christian realm of leadership. You might be familiar with his series of books based off his book, *The One Minute Manager*.

I was first introduced to Blanchard’s work by reading two of his books focused more in the

realm of Christian leadership—*Lead Like Jesus* and *The Servant Leader*. In these manuscripts, he lays out the basis for being a leader and being a Christ-follower. That foundational truth is centered around Jesus’ teaching in Matthew 23:11:

***“The greatest among you shall be your servant.”***  
Jesus Christ

That’s what Jesus really desires from us—a willingness to serve Him and serve others also. He wants this to be true in all of us, but especially in the lives of those who lead.

### LOOKING TO THE FUTURE

As your lead pastor, I am constantly seeking to develop new leaders—*equipping them for the work of the ministry and the building up of the body of Christ*. This is a lengthy process that must include discipleship training and opportunities for service in the ministry. If you are interested in this kind of training, please contact me to get started.

We have two primary positions of leadership in this church—the pastors and the deacons. The word deacon literally means servant in the original Greek. What a beautiful picture of what Jesus was teaching His disciples in Matthew 23—the *greatest among you will be your servant*.

Recently, one of our deacons (who shall remain nameless) came to me and said, “Bro. Wade, all of our deacons are getting old. Don’t you think it

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# According to HIS Design

**Ron Fields**

Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

It's Monday! At 9:40 a.m., I parked myself in the dentist chair. As the hygienist began probing for dirt I was suddenly hit with a sense of claustrophobia. I wanted to throw off the shackles and stride around the room. As I contemplated the Scripture: "Thou wilt keep him in perfect peace, whose mind is stayed on thee..." (Isaiah 26:3), I remembered a new word learned in Sunday evening's community group: Surrender!

Silently, I prayed "Lord, I surrender to you my desire to be in control and I rest in your peace." The next several minutes were spent in like fashion.

After paying the dentist for his next years' vacation, I went on my way. On to the cable company where I was told the person I needed to talk to was out to lunch, come back in thirty minutes. Thank you Lord for being in charge! Then I slipped out to the office supply store where I was told they did not carry the toner needed for my printer at home. While I again thanked God for His control of my life, they did search the back room and found some for me!

Back to the Cable company where the young lady looked up my account, found the discrepancy, and soon I was back on my way home.

**Surrender:** to relinquish, to let go, to release control. How did your Monday go?



# Drawing Attention to What?

**John O'Connor**

Pastor of Community Engagement

Hello dear friends, hope this newsletter finds you well. I hadn't been on social media lately, so I dove back in for a bit this past month. Some things have changed, most is still the same. Lots of cat videos, a lot of keyboard warriors on both sides, and certainly a huge push of the "look at me" culture. What caught me off guard, was the average age of the keyboard warrior was older, my age. Seems like my generation just got older not wiser.

Social media is designed to help you promote yourself, your family, or your causes. This is not to say your family, causes, or you are not important. It's just good to be reminded of what is the most important thing we should promote.

In 2 Corinthians 4:5-6 (ESV), the apostle Paul writes, "For what we proclaim is not ourselves, but Jesus Christ as Lord, with ourselves as your servants for Jesus' sake. For God, who said, 'Let light shine out of darkness,' has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ."

This is a powerful reminder that our mission is not to draw attention to ourselves but to exalt Jesus Christ as Lord. We are called to be servants, humbly sharing the good news of salvation through Jesus. Your every action and word is an opportunity to point the focus back to Christ and not on you or the world. Our lives can be the proof that Jesus is living and transformative, offering us true hope. I challenge you to be bold in sharing your faith and inviting people into our community. If social media has taught us anything, there are a lot of people who need Hope and are looking in the wrong places.

# The “Joy” of Painting?

**David McEuen**

Pastor of Family and Worship

Last month, Temple Student Ministry held this semester’s first Themed Night: “Bob Ross Night!” We grabbed some paint and set out to experience The Joy of Painting with Bob Ross! What could go wrong? Nothing! Or so I thought...

As I began gathering supplies, I realized there were some significant differences between what Bob uses and what we would have available to us that might complicate the painting process. It would be less than ideal but I thought we could work through it.

After all, there are no mistakes, only happy accidents.

Bob Ross Night came and after issuing a few disclaimers, we started the video. Never in my life has 25 minutes passed so quickly. We did our best to follow along but we could hardly keep up. I think I heard weeping when it was all over. Maybe even some gnashing of teeth. I learned a valuable lesson that night: The Joy of Painting is WAY more relaxing as a spectator than as a participant.

Thankfully, that’s not the only lesson we learned. Our event served as a small picture of a greater reality. Sometimes, there are circumstances in our



lives that move faster than our minds are able to process. It’s not fun but it’s true. In those moments, it’s essential to remind yourself of what the Bible affirms over and over. Namely, that though things may feel as though they are spinning out of control, they are under the perfect control of your Heavenly Father who loves you and is faithful to use every single moment of your life—yes, even the stressful, hectic moments—to sanctify you and help you to become more and more like Jesus. And that makes it all worth it.

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might be time for us to consider finding some more?” We addressed this issue in our annual business meeting in August. The pastors and the deacons are requesting that you spend some time prayerfully considering the qualifications of a deacon (**Acts 6:1-6** and **1 Timothy 3:8-13**), and submit the names of men in our church who you believe might fit these descriptions. These names may be submitted to any of our pastors/deacons.

Thank you for being a part of this democratic process! It is our goal to begin communicating with potential candidates next month, so we ask that you make your submissions soon. God bless!



