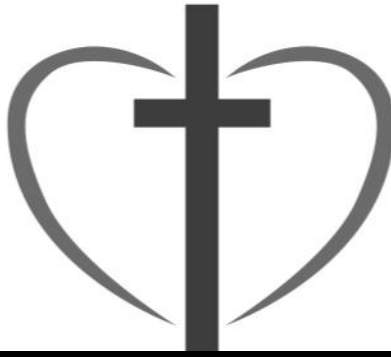


Temple Baptist Church



March/April 2019

Wade Allen

Lead Pastor

John O'Connor

Pastor of Community Engagement

Ron Fields

Pastor of Senior Adults & Care Ministries

Derrick Bremer

Student Ministry Intern

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

with Pastor John O'Connor

Welcome to 2019. I pray that the first couple of weeks have been filled with Joy and our Father's Love. What a wonderful year it is! What a wonderful day it is, that you can be reading this right now.

Galatians 4:4-7 says:

"...God sent forth his Son, born of woman, born under the law,⁵ to redeem those who were under the law, so that we might receive adoption as sons. ⁶ And because you are sons, God has sent the Spirit of his Son into our hearts, crying, "Abba! Father!" ⁷ So you are no longer a slave, but a son, and if a son, then an heir through God."

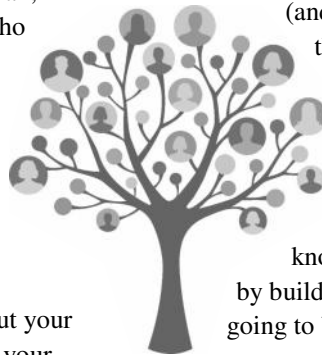
We are no longer slaves, but what about your neighbors? What about your co-workers, your friends, or your family? Do they know the freedom from sin through Christ's salvation? Or is your faith—"The Answer"—still a mystery. At my secular workplace, part of my job is to meet with customers and talk to them about opportunities to help solve their issues. The worst thing for me to hear is that they have just been living in their dysfunction when I already had the answer to their problem.

The mystery of life has already been solved, and we as Christians have "The Answer." Our Great Commission is to spread that Answer all over the

world, and then train up others to spread the Answer; and yet, we allow our neighbors, co-workers, friends, or family live a life of dysfunction or live believing the wrong answer.

It is for this reason that I feel God has called me to the position of Pastor of Community Engagement. There is no prerequisite to show someone love. God loved me and you—how can we turn our backs on people out there who suffer from all the things we do (and more in some cases)? The difference is that they do it without the hope of an all-powerful, all-knowing, all-present Father! My goal this year is to help encourage our church family to increase in Him and to help encourage engagement with ideas and opportunities to reach those who don't know Him. If you can't love across the aisle, by building community, there is no way you are going to build a community with the outside world.

Our first community engagement this year is Super Bowl Sunday! This is the most viewed event every year all over the world. People are making plans right now to go to parties. This is a perfect opportunity for you, your small group, your Sunday school class, or a group of Christian friends to invite those who don't know him to watch with you. I will have a video of current NFL players' testimonies available for you to show at the party instead of the halftime show. If you are interested sign up, call, text, email, or stop me in the hallway. We are called to Love and spread the Answer! Start today.





Ron Fields, Pastor of Senior Adults and Care Ministries

The downside of a good work ethic. All my life I have tried to be what others may call a hard worker. To lie abed was unheard of. To arrive late or to leave early was the same. Tired was only allowed when the day was done and only then could you take a break.

A person with a good work ethic was someone who could be depended upon to get the job done. It was someone who required very little assistance, able to accomplish without calling for help.

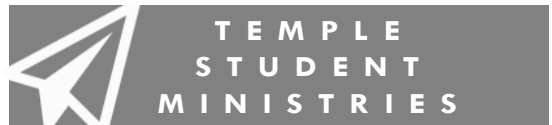
So when my neighbor had a professional cut down a tree I gladly drug out my trusted chain saws and tackled the task of working them into firewood. However, the tree was a full 36 inches in diameter for the first 24 feet. My saw blades were only 18 inches.

Did I hire help? Did I ask for help? No, I just put the saw in place and began cutting! First one side and then the other. If the block of wood did not come off I just went to the next length. Eventually, the saw would cut through completely and then it required rolling over so that I could cut from the other side.

I knew that if I had help, the task would have been easier for me. But to ask would seem like weakness.

God has called me to an impossible task. He asks me to lay aside my pride and acknowledge that I need Him. I cannot fulfill my responsibilities as a pastor nor even as a follower of Jesus without His constant abiding presence and power.

I need His love in order to love others. I need His wisdom to make wise choices. I need His enlightening to understand His Word. I need His enabling to accomplish His calling upon my life. I must recognize that without Him I am nothing.



Derrick Bremer, Student Ministry Intern

The second semester for this school year is in full swing. I'm thankful that we are starting this year with an impressive amount of momentum. Students whom we have been missing have reconnected with us. Our focus on being *intentional* in our **personal discipleship** is kindling more fervent discussions behind the scenes; and there's an overall sense of excitement towards what is happening in our Student Ministry.

Beyond focusing on our curriculum, I am paying special attention to the **ownership** that students feel toward the ministries of our church. We are making decisions together by presenting, discussing, and deciding our direction regularly. I'm excited about the future of the church in seeing the students we have that will be our leaders tomorrow.

One of the decisions that we have made is to be a part of the community outreach event that John is driving by using the Super Bowl as an opportunity to further share the good news. The youth group will be hosting our own **Super Bowl Party** in the Fellowship Hall. Boys are bringing food dishes and snacks and girls are bringing drinks. Please continue to pray for the success of this outreach ministry on **February 3rd**.

Another decision the students made is to launch a student run, leader supervised, Temple Student Ministries **Instagram** account. Our students realize the potential of an effective digital presence in their friends and their own lives. I'm glad to be able to support them in this. As we continue to consider the way in which we can use this communication medium, there is zeal all the way across the board.

I'm praying for you parents. I'm praying for your students. 2019 has the potential to be a great year and I'm thankful we are a part of it together.

FROM THE PASTOR'S DESK



Wade Allen, Lead Pastor

The beginning of the year always brings with it the opportunity and motivation to make changes in your day-to-day life. How about you? Have you made some New Year Resolutions? What are some of your goals for 2019?

- To get healthy and lose weight?
- To become debt free?
- To advance at work?
- To exercise more and eat better?



What about your spiritual health and well-being? Are you feeding yourself from the Word of God? Is your life typified by the sin that has enslaved you or by the God who has saved you? Is your spiritual growth trending upward or down?

Discipleship—A Way of Life

Every follower of Jesus Christ is in the process of being transformed into the image of God's Son (Romans 8:29). That process is called **discipleship**, or spiritual formation. In every aspect of life—whether in your job, at home, or at school—we are all continually being molded by those around us; and whether we realize it or not, we are molding people around us. But unless we are *intentionally focusing on the Word of God* with those around us, we are not discipling them—at best, we are being a mentor for them.

If you are interested in becoming a disciple or disciple-maker, **please contact me**. We have easy-to-use tools that will enable you to grow spiritually and bring change to the life of another.

Alpha Ministry Is Multiplying

Many of you are familiar with our ministry to young adults—the late night Bible Study on

Wednesday evenings. God has blessed this group and they have come to a place where it would be best to multiply into two groups that will meet at different times during the week. Please notice that we are **multiplying** this group, not **dividing**! The reason for this decision is to provide an alternative to the late night study on Wednesdays, thereby accommodating the schedules of our young adults.

We will also be transforming one of the rooms in our education building to be more of a

“home environment”—the feeling of being in someone's living room. This room will be used at various

times during the week to host the Alpha Bible Study Groups, as well as other Bible studies.

If you have an old couch that is still in good condition that you would like to donate for this room, please see me and we will make arrangements to transport it to the church. Thank you for your help and generosity in this endeavor!

World Missions Day

February 24th, we will be celebrating the 2019 BMAA World Missions Day. This year's theme is “*A Legacy of Hope*”—focusing on all that God has done through the BMA over the years. Bro. **George Reddin** will be speaking that Sunday morning. He has a long and rich history in the BMA. Be sure to be here that Sunday to hear his first-hand accounts of the work of missions all over the world!



2019 World Missions Day
February 24, 2019

Opportunities for Worship & Service

SUNDAY

- Sunday School 9:45 AM
- Worship Service 10:45 AM
- Children’s Church 10:45 AM
- Student Life Groups 6:00 PM
- Kidz Choir/Preschool Praise. 6:00 PM
- Evening Worship Service. 6:00 PM

MONDAY

- Ladies Bible Study (1st & 3rd Mon). 6:30 PM

TUESDAY

- Ladies Bible Study (2nd & 4th Tues). 10:00 AM

WEDNESDAY

- Awana 6:00 PM
- TSM (Temple Student Ministry) 6:00 PM
- Men’s Bible Study. 6:00 PM
- Adult Bible Study. 6:30 PM
- Alpha Bible Study. 8:30 PM

THURSDAY

- Christian Seniors (1st Thursday). NOON



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