

THE BRIDGE

A Newsletter Connecting You to Temple Baptist Church

Issue 7 May 2015



*For everything there is a season,
a time for every activity under heaven.*

Ecclesiastes 3:1

Transitions... and the Spiritual Lessons They Teach Us



Lead Pastor
Dom Ruso

While we all know that it's never easy to move into seasons of change, we also know that there is something

about seasons of transition that help us revisit our desires and loyalties.

As our family prays and prepares for our upcoming transition to plant a church in Montreal, we wonder about the challenges that await us. As I write, my mind wanders to all the things we need to work on. Don't get me wrong, we trust God, but there are moments of nervousness that still linger.

I often go back to the moment where Jesus invites Peter to walk on water; while others watched in fear, Peter took that step and began to walk toward Jesus. We all know how that ends; a moment of victory and

then fear quickly overcame him. Wow, if it happened to Peter I'm sure a similar type of fear can still impact our own journey with Jesus.

A few days ago, another biblical passage came to my attention. Moses, to encourage God's people for a new season, that awaited them wrote, "It is the Lord who goes before you. He will be with you; he will not leave you or forsake you. Do not fear or be dismayed." Deuteronomy 31:8. Maybe you need to be reminded of this today. I think this is a wonderful reminder of what God offers us, including the leaders of *Temple* who prayerfully consider the next season and process of finding a new lead pastor. God promised to go before us, but we need to learn not to be afraid.

Transition provides the unique spiritual space to revisit how much we are willing to trust God. Part of the verse reminds us of how fear

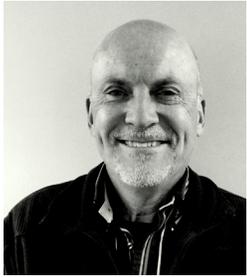
most often accompanies God's invitations to step out in faith. You might be sensing a prompting of God to trust him in new and exciting ways, but you are afraid. What would it take to step out in faith this time? Maybe it is time to share what God is saying with a trusted friend who can help put some God honoring next steps in place with you? It is my prayer that you too would embrace this season of transition, and discover what God might be trying to teach you and your family.

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FROM THE CHAIR OF THE ELDER BOARD

by Dave Lawrence, Elder Chair



We have all really appreciated Pastor Dom's ministry at *Temple* over these past several years. As he prepares to leave for Montreal later this summer, I know Pastor Dom and his family will be greatly missed!

Transitions are an important part of life. While we are sad to see Pastor Dom leave, we are excited to see what the Lord has in store for them. They will continue to be in our thoughts and prayers and we look forward to the impact they will have in Quebec.

We are also excited to see what the Lord has in store for *Temple*. It is in moments like these that we trust God and pray for His wisdom and guidance. In the next several weeks we will be forming a *Lead Pastor Search Committee*. This committee will begin to look for the next *Lead Pastor* at *Temple*.

As the search continues, we will stay focused on continuing to do the work God has called us to here at *Temple*. We have a strong team at *Temple* (pastors, support staff, elders, deacons, committee and team members and many volunteers), all are serving together to bring glory to God and make this church a warm, welcoming place for worship and growth.

The Elders Board will continue to keep you posted on our progress. Please continue to pray for our pastors and church leadership as we carefully and thoughtfully navigate the waters of this transition. Pray also for our pastoral search committee and their work seeking and searching for God's man to help lead us in the months and years ahead.

THANK YOU, JIM BAILEY

by James Bekkers, Executive Pastor

For the past 13 years *Temple* has benefited from the professional services of Jim Bailey as our *Treasurer*. Jim has been an enormous blessing to us in this role.

For many people in the congregation his work as *Treasurer* often goes unnoticed. That's partly the nature of the role and partly because of who Jim and his wife Bonnie are - quiet, humble, unassuming servants of God. They go about their work without any need for recognition or fanfare. Thank you for modeling humility and grace for us as you've served in your various roles Jim and Bonnie.



Jim Bailey

On behalf of the Elders and the church I want to specifically thank you for your years of faithful work, Jim. You have been a model of commitment and have always served out of a deep love for the church. It's been a joy to have you on staff. We look forward to many years ahead with you and Bonnie here at *Temple*.

WELCOME, DEAN ANDERSON

As Jim Bailey begins to wrap up his role here as *Treasurer* at *Temple*, we are pleased to announce that Dean Anderson has been hired to join our staff team in his place. Jim and Dean will work together for the month of May, co-ordinating a transition within the role.

Dean is well known to the *Temple* community. In the past he has served in various roles inside the church, including secretary of the *Deacon Board* (past and current), *Assistant Treasurer* and *Treasurer* for 15 years from 1985 to 2000. In addition to his time here at *Temple*, he has also been active here in Sarnia, serving for 14 years as *City Treasurer*.

Currently, Dean serves on the *Deacon Board* with the special role of connecting to the *City of Sarnia* around areas related to future planning and development. He comes with an extensive background in accounting with both municipal and non-profit settings.

Thank you for sharing your gifts with us, Dean! It's a joy to welcome you back in the role of *Treasurer* at *Temple Baptist Church*.

FAMILY CHEFS



Pastor of Youth and Family
Dave Lane

When Jesus was asked; “what is the Greatest Commandment?”, he responded with these words:

“Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ This is the first and greatest commandment. And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor

as yourself.’” (Matthew 22:37-39)

As Christians, we are called to live this out not only as individuals, but as families. Over this next week (May 4-10), we are challenging all of our families to “love their neighbor” in a very practical way. The challenge is this; to simply make a meal.

It is an easy three step process:

1. **Choose** a family in your neighborhood.
2. **Make** a meal for them together as a family.
3. **Take** it to them together as a family.

You can prepare and share a meal any day of the week from May 4-10.

One of the things we’ve been emphasizing over and over at *Temple* is the need for all of us to look for ways to step into our neighbourhoods and care for the people God has placed in our lives. This is a very concrete and tangible way for us to actually live this out.

Our prayer is that the families at *Temple* will rise up to the challenge and for God to use your simple acts of kindness to really impact your neighborhoods for Him.

Please share you *Family Chef* stories and experiences at **www.templebaptist.com**. Look for the *Family Chefs* banner on our homepage and click on it. It will take you to a place where you can share what it was like to love your neighbour in this way.

Love YOUR
neighbor
as yourself.
MATTHEW 22:39

A SIMPLE ACT OF LOVE



ONE DAY OF ONE WEEK

FamilyChefs

MAY 4 - MAY 10



CHOOSE

a family in your
neighbourhood



MAKE

a meal for them
together as a family



TAKE

it to them together
as a family

Encourage us by sharing your stories at www.templebaptist.com

4 BIG SHIFTS IN SMALL GROUPS AT TEMPLE

Greg MacRobbie, *Connections Pastor*

My daughter just got a new power adapter for her laptop. The old one had bit the dust, and I found a new one online. It's not the same as the one that broke. They don't make that model any longer, but that's okay, the new one still fits and is more powerful and (hopefully) durable than the one it replaced.

Most things grow and adapt over time. Ministries at *Temple* are no different. We constantly aim to provide better and more helpful environments where you and your family can grow; ministries that still fit, but are more helpful to your spiritual growth.

One ministry that has seen a lot of growth and adaptation this year is our *Small Groups* ministry. Here are four big shifts we've made in our *Small Groups* ministries, shifts that you can benefit from in your small group, or discover when you join one:



Shift #1: Groups are it! We've settled on *Small Groups* as our primary environment for spiritual growth at *Temple*. This means group participation is a top priority for everyone, and we are working hard at decluttering our schedules and even our ministry offerings to make room for groups to grow. We all need a place to belong and be accepted, and we all need a group of people we can share the ups and downs of life in Christ with while learning to follow Him more closely together.



Shift #2: We are stronger together! We have introduced a groups-wide sermon based DVD curriculum, which most of our groups have adopted. This allows us to pull in the same direction and take the same steps of faith and growth. Our studies are developed 'in house' which allows us to apply the lessons we learn on Sundays in deeper and more personal ways. The DVD also supplies enough content to allow people to fully engage in the study whether or not they had personally heard the sermon it is based on.



Shift #3: We're on a mission! We are working hard at planting a missional focus to our groups. Being part of a small group is more than just meeting the same people at the same time in the same place to do some study together. It's about building relationships with others who together share and pursue the mission of Jesus to make disciples. It's about getting intentional to identify a people or a place where we bring the light of Jesus. A group can have a mission to a neighbourhood, profession, activity group or felt need in the community.



Shift #4: We are in a community! Many of our groups are adopting an area, community or neighbourhood as the place where they are going to meet and live out the mission of Jesus. While some groups still orbit around life stage or other affinities, many are finding a tangible place where they can plant their flag in the ground and influence people consistently with the gospel through words and actions.

FOREVER YOUNG @ HEART - J.O.Y. (SUPER SENIORS) - CR



Jim Train
Congregational Care

FOREVER YOUNG @ HEART

This ministry, for all those 55 years of age and over continues to grow as we offer evenings filled with singing, testimonies, laughter and plus a variety of other activities, not to mention some great fellowship with some excellent food. We are seeing many people attending for the first time and returning the next month.

Join us for our next event, a *Progressive Dinner* with appetizers and fellowship on Saturday, May 30 (we will meet at 4:45pm in the Chapel). The main meal will be followed by dessert and an evening of surprises. Cost is \$10/person.

J.O.Y. (formerly Super Seniors)

J.O.Y. will be having their last meeting of the season with a presentation from the musical group Oasis followed by a dinner at the *Evangelical Missionary Church*, on Friday, May 26 at 10:30am. There is no charge but a free will offering will be taken. A van will be available for anyone needing a ride. Sign up at the church office or contact Pastor Jim Train (train@templebaptist.com).

Celebrate Recovery

This ministry of helping hurting people will have a dinner in the *Temple Chapel* before the *Celebrate Recovery* meeting on Monday, April 27 at 6pm. All are welcome, including first time visitors.

Regular meetings are held Monday nights at 7pm in the *Chapel*. For more information contact the church office (519.542.1427 or choffice@templebaptist.com).

DAY CAMP

by Sarah Hotke and Jessica MacRobbie



Hello, my name is Sarah Hotke and along with Jess MacRobbie, we will be co-directing *Day Camp* again this year. I am a third-year Intercultural Studies student at Prairie Bible College. The third year of our program involves a nine-month intensive internship spent entirely off the continent of North America. We started travelling in Europe last September, went through Asia, and are ending with Africa in May. I also spent just under seven months in Cambodia learning the culture, language, and working as an English teacher in a small community. This experience has been incredible for me but I am also so looking forward to being back in Canada and doing camp again this summer.

Hi everyone, my name is Jessica MacRobbie. This year, I again, have the pleasure of being the assistant director at Day Camp, working alongside the lovely Sarah Hotke. I have just finished up my first year in the *Bachelor of Science in Nursing* program at *Lambton College* through *Windsor University*. I have been learning about the important aspects of caring for people and providing care in a way that is comforting, as well as some of the more concrete skills and theory behind nursing. As much as I have enjoyed learning this past year, I cannot wait for *Day Camp*!

It brings me so much joy to see the way that this wonderful ministry brings glory to God through the smiles of the children attending, and all of the relationships formed. I cannot wait to see what God will be doing this year in the lives of each and every person that is involved in *Day Camp*; whether it is a child, a leader, or a volunteer to help with supervision or snack time.

Thank you for all of the help and support you have offered in previous years, and I can't wait to see what this summer will bring!



TEMPLE

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