

THE BRIDGE

A Newsletter Connecting You to Temple Baptist Church

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Welcome Back DR. GREGG CURTIS



Dave Lawrence
Elder Board Chair

It is with great anticipation and excitement that we welcome Dr. Gregg Curtis back to Temple as our *Interim Preaching Pastor*. Dr. Curtis will be in the pulpit at Temple from

mid-September to mid-December, bringing us a wealth of spiritual insights and solid biblical teaching. We look forward to the Lord working through this gifted preacher, encouraging our congregation in their faith, during this special time.

Dr. Gregg and Marilyn Curtis have just completed an 11 year season of ministry at *Stithton Baptist Church* located in Radcliff, Kentucky .

Greg and Marilyn will be married 47 years in October. They have three grown children. One of their pleasures in life is visiting the six grandchildren. They also

love to travel together. While Dr. Curtis has enjoyed golf in days gone by, he admits he has not had the time to play in a while. Maybe some of us can coax him out this fall! Gregg's interests also include watching the *Denver Broncos* play football, woodworking projects, when he's able, and likely to no-one's surprise he admits he enjoys reading.

Marilyn is a retired music teacher from the *Department of Defense* at Fort Knox and is currently teaching private piano lessons to 23 students. She also is an adjunct English instructor at Campbellsville University. She will not be able to join Dr. Curtis during his time with us due to these commitments.

Gregg was born in Hartford, Kentucky. He was educated at the *University of Louisville* and graduated with a B.Sc. degree in Business. He earned the B.R.E. and M.R.E. degrees from *Temple Baptist Theological Seminary*, a Masters of Theology from *Campbellsville University* and a Doctor of Ministry

degree from *Luther Rice Seminary*. Dr. Curtis has served as a board member on various mission agencies and community related corporations. He is also an author and a conference/seminar speaker—both nationally and internationally. Dr. Curtis has also been a pastor in Indiana, Iowa, Colorado, Canada and Kentucky. He has traveled extensively overseas and has worked with missionaries in numerous countries.

Dr. Curtis is a former *Senior Pastor* of *Temple Baptist* (1998). It is our pleasure to welcome him back to minister to us as *Interim Preaching Pastor!*

IN THIS ISSUE:

Search Committee Update ...	pg. 2
Introducing Sonja Hotke	pg. 2
Youth and Family Ministries .	pg. 3
Reflections on Worship.....	pg. 3
Young @ Heart, JOY, CR.....	pg. 4
Temple's Treehouse.....	pg. 4
Small Groups.....	insert
Ross River	insert
Clothing Drive	insert

SEARCH COMMITTEE UPDATE

by Terry Babbey, Chair of the Search Committee

*"The Lord does not look at the things people look at. People look at the outward appearance, but the Lord looks at the heart."
1Samuel 16*

First, I want to thank everyone for your ongoing prayers for the *Search Committee*. The committee is working very hard to discern whom God has chosen to be the next *Lead Pastor* of *Temple Baptist Church*.

For those new to *Temple*, I wanted to provide you with a bit of background into the process of finding a new *Lead Pastor*. Unlike other denominations where there is a central overseeing organization of all the churches belonging to a denomination, the *Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches* have freedom to govern and direct themselves. As such, when the church needs to fill a vacancy in the pastoral staff it is necessary for the church to form a *Search Committee* to find that new pastor.

The search can take on many different forms -- all the way from accepting applications for the position to approaching potential candidates who are actively leading other congregations. Many times the time required to determine if God is calling a person to lead our church can take weeks or months. That is the reason why perhaps the work of the *Search Committee* is not always "front page news."

After the *Search Committee* identifies the person that we feel God is calling to *Temple*, we will eventually present that candidate to the Elders Board for confirmation of His calling before finally bringing the candidate to *Temple* to introduce them to our church family and take a final vote of the members of *Temple Baptist Church*.

In closing, as a church family we need to commit to seeking God's will for *Temple Baptist Church* and the *Search Committee* needs your prayers that we would be sensitive to God's leading.



Members of the Search Committee from left to right: Tom Looyenga, Lucas Roberts, Brian Lucas, Pastor James Bekkers, Carol Graham, Charles Hotke, David Lawrence, Sonya Daichendt and Terry Babbey (Chair)

INTRODUCING SONJA HOTKE



Sonja Hotke

We are thrilled to announce that Sonja Hotke will be joining us at *Temple* as our *Administrative Co-ordinator*.

Sonja and her family are very well known and actively involved in our *Temple* family. Over the last year, Sonja has been a cornerstone and huge help to our *Director of Children's Ministries*, Katherine Reyes, in the *Promiseland* program.

Sonja comes to us with a B.A. in Psychology from *Tyndale University* and an E.C.E. diploma from *Lambton College*. Along with her educational smarts, Sonja is a natural athlete and enjoys all types of sports. She is not quick to disclose this, but she is on the *Canadian National Women's Floorball Team*, as well as a coach for the junior team. She is quick witted, has a strong common sense and a natural fit in the front office.

Along with her love for learning and athletics, Sonja has a passion for world travel and has travelled extensively over the years. Some of Sonja's favourite travels include:

Slovakia Netherlands Sweden Czech Republic France, Paris

Welcome Sonja and we are so happy that you are joining us!

MAKING SMALL GROUPS ACCESSIBLE THIS FALL



Greg MacRobbie
Connections Pastor

Where has the summer gone? For many of us, we are already switching gears to fall mode – school, sports, seasonal activities are all starting up. Many of us find ourselves so busy at this time of year that the thought of investing deeply in a small group experience seems beyond our reach. Can anything be done to make groups more accessible?

The answer is, yes! We have been working hard to make it as easy as possible for you to get into a group this year. Here are three new things we are doing this fall to help you:



#1: Simple Schedule. *Small Groups* are following a simple three-season schedule this year. Each season will start with a *Groups Registration* in the lobby leading into a 10-week meeting schedule, followed by a 4-5 week break. The breaks take place over Christmas and Easter, and groups officially wind up in early June. While meeting weekly, many groups develop a monthly rhythm that includes study, social, and service nights, so that not every gathering will be primarily focused on the weekly lesson.



#2: Easy Transitions. One of the reasons people may pass on getting into a group is the feeling that once you sign up, it's hard to step out. The reality is that we need a flexible system that recognizes the complexities of life. That's why we've designed our group systems this year to allow for easy entry and easy exit after each season. When you sign up, you are only signing up for the 10-week season. At the next break, you are welcome to sign up for the following season, or, if you need to step back, or even if you want to try a different group, you are free to do so.



#3: Accessible Learning. While we are continuing to produce sermon-based lessons for our groups, we are going to start putting the lesson guide right into your bulletin. We believe this will help in a number of ways. It's an easy and accessible way for everyone to get a *Learning Guide*. It allows you to take notes during the sermon and reflect on questions you will be digging into more deeply when you gather as a group. It is also a great way for people thinking about joining a group to get a sense of what they would be learning together when they join.

ROSS RIVER UPDATE

by Jennifer Leonard, Ross River Team Member

On August 15, after embarking on 3 separate flights to arrive in Whitehorse, then a 5 hour drive, our team managed to reach our final destination of Ross River. Provided by the generous support of Temple Baptist church, our team of five, included myself, Jeff Hannan, Jameson Bates, Raf Calderone-Diaz, and Pat Bell were sent to complete our final year in Ross River, Yukon.

All of us were overwhelmed by the incredible landscape that surrounds this small community of approximately 350 residents. The name of the town was derived from the 2 connecting rivers called the Pelly River and Ross River. The *Kaska First Nation's People* have an extensive history of settlement in the area of Ross River. This section of land was an ideal location, providing sustainable resources for the *Kaska* people to hunt, fish, and trade. The *Kaska* people remain to make up the majority of the town's population.

Over the past 15 years, the Colwell family has diligently served the Lord as missionaries in Ross River. Tim and Gwendy and their 5 children Jocelyn (18), Jessica (16), Jamie (13), Jenna (10) and Joe (7) have committed to building relationships and demonstrating God's love with the people of Ross River. The prevalent abuse of alcohol and its adverse effects has been a long standing issue within the community. However, this only affirms the need and importance of sharing God's hope and truth to the people.

Our team focused on running a sports bible camp for the kids of Ross River. The ages of the kids that participated in the camp ranged from ages 5-17. The original plan was to play soccer and baseball. However, as we discovered the interests of the kids, we decided to concentrate on soccer rather than baseball. Our team had a great time interacting with the kids. Whether it was during soccer drills, playing a soccer game, or hanging out during snack time.

Throughout the evening, a number of kids would come into the *Hope Centre* which serves as a safe, drop in center for members of the community to gather. The *Hope Centre* is the fulcrum of the Colwell's ministry, allowing us to have further interactions with the kids. We had fun playing foosball, painting rockets, and doing crafts and puzzles together.

Many of the kids in Ross River grow up in broken homes and do not have the necessary support systems to assist them in fulfilling their amazing potential. This includes lacking the one support system that matters most which is Christ Jesus. I sincerely ask that we all take the time to pray for the Colwell family, Rachel Burkhart, and the people of Ross River, Yukon.

CLOTHING GIVE AWAY

by Pat Bell, Clothing Drive Co-Ordinator

“Wow I didn’t realize there was such a need in Sarnia!” These are words we often hear from people helping out at the clothing drive for the first time. Saturday, August 29th we saw about 450 people come through our doors to grab a great breakfast, some gently used clothes and household items and for 240 kids, a new backpack filled with school supplies they will need for school. The average backpack costs between \$60 and \$100 and for families on limited incomes this is hard to afford. Buying new clothes is also a struggle and so having a choice of good clothes to pick from, helps lessen the strain for many families.

Twice a year we put this clothing give away on. We send flyers to all subsidized housing in Sarnia and in the community we have now become known as a place that helps out. In April we provide the breakfast, clothing and household items and also provide packages of hygiene products for men, women and kids. In August we do the same event, but instead of hygiene packs, we hand out the school backpacks.

All year we are collecting new or used clothes in good condition. You can drop them in the bin located between the main front doors. The supplies we hand out such as the school supplies and hygiene products can be dropped off there also. We will have lists of items we are looking for prior to each event or you can donate funds for the clothing drive. We are always looking for people to help. We need people to:

- take the donations to the church house where they are sorted
- help deliver the flyers the week before each event
- shop for the school supplies and hygiene items
- work in the kitchen or act as greeters or helpers the day of the events
- clean it all up when it is done.

If you are interested in helping contact missions@templebaptist.com.

Hope to hear some more of you say.....”Wow I didn’t realize there was such a need in Sarnia!”



WHAT'S AHEAD FOR YOUTH AND FAMILY MINISTRIES?



Dave Lane

Pastor of Youth and Family Ministries

It is hard to believe that September is already here. It means back to school but it also means excitement. We are so looking forward to what the fall holds for our youth and family ministries. Let me take a few moments and share with you what you can expect this fall.

SONIC (Gr. 6-8)

Sonic kicks off Tuesday, September 15th @ 7 pm in the Youth Room. We are asking that all parents please register their children on that night or they can register before then by dropping by the church office. *Sonic* is every Tuesday night from 7-8:30 pm. There is no registration fee, but we do have the *Snack Shack*, where students can buy their own snack for the evening. Also there will be a cost for any special events. This fall our special events will be *Korny Korners* and the *YMCA*.

H2O (Gr. 9-12)

H2O begins Sunday, September 13th @ 7 pm in the Youth Room. This group runs every Sunday night from 7-9 pm unless otherwise stated. Some special events we have planned for this fall include: Whirlyball, Annual Fall Retreat, Airtime Trampoline, and CAS shopping/Christmas Party.

UNDERGROUND (College)

Underground resumes Monday, September 14th @ 6:30 pm in the Youth Room. It will be a time of worship, teaching and fellowship. The heart of this ministry is to provide a place where young adults can come to hear from God's word, to encourage one another and to grow in their desire and pursuit of Christ

FAMILY MINISTRY

Our next *Child Dedication* will be held on Sunday, September 27th during our morning worship service. If you are interested please register online at www.templebaptist.com or contact our *Pastor of Youth and Family Ministry* (Dave Lane) or our *Director of Children's Ministry* (Katherine Reyes).

Grace Based Parenting: Building Character will starting on Wednesday, September 30th (6 weeks). This is the second part of the *Grace Based Parenting* series. It will give parents the confidence and skills to raise kids who flourish in their culture by building character for life. Like a blueprint serves the builder of a beautiful home, this series will give you practical ways to use character to build happy, confident children who can stand strong and reach their true potential in the future. If you haven't taken the first part of *Grace Based Parenting* don't worry, each part stands on it's own.

We are excited to see what God has in store as you join us this fall.

REFLECTIONS ON WORSHIP



Andy Sherlock

Director of Worship Ministries

The reason I'm passionate about praise and worship is because I believe it permeates all that we do—not just on Sundays in the songs we sing or postures we practice—worship is living all of life to the glory of God! There's my passion: People living their lives to the glory of God. Eating, drinking, laughing, loving—when done to God's glory, that's worship.

Everything we do as Christians should be rooted in worship. We believe worship is giving back to God what He first gave to us. When we have eyes to see what the Father has given us, worship flows into everything we think and do. We begin to lavish God by singing the songs that He tucked inside of us. We move from a worship experience to a lifestyle and a desire to carry worship into the normal, everyday moments of our lives.

Praise and worship matter. It matters to us, and more importantly, it matters to God. And I believe this: God has created, redeemed, and called us to be a people of worship and praise. We are called to be worshipers. The Father is seeking worshipers, not just worship, but worshipers. We're all in this together, and we're all on the same journey of learning and growing into fuller understanding and expression of our worship to Jesus.

I would love to see our team grow into a community creative...encompassing all arts...art, poetry, music, sculpting, photo/videography etc. All people with different creative abilities be able to pursue Jesus with their gifts. This is my vision...and the only way it will work is if it's God's vision for us. Please pray that God reveals what He wants for this team.

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



Jim Train
Congregational Care

FOREVER YOUNG @ HEART

Once again we begin a new season of *Forever Young at Heart* ministry for those who are 55+ in age. The goals of this ministry are to enjoy fellowship with others, worship the Lord through music and speakers and to laugh, encourage and bless others. We will again plan a variety of events that are inexpensive, fun and great for bringing guests.

September 19: *Car Rally, Dinner, Drinks and Program*
Starts at 3 PM @ *Temple Chapel*
Cost \$ 4 per person
Tickets available at church office or after Sunday services

Oct. 23 or 24: *Gospel Sing Night*
Time: 7pm
Special Groups, soloists and *FY@H Band*
Coffee & desserts
Cost: \$ 2.00 per person

November 21: *Jews for Jesus Passover/Seder Meal*
Time: 6pm in *Temple Chapel*
Tickets available after Sunday Services/Church Office

J.O.Y. (formerly Super Seniors) - will be visiting the Gardens of Stan & Karen Allaby in Warwick on Friday, Sept. 25. A lunch will be supplied by the Allabys. The van(s) will leave to pick up those needing rides at 10:15am. The cost is \$ 6 per person.

In October and November we will be joining seniors at the *Evangelical Missionary Church* on East & Talfourd Streets. *Temple's* vans will provide rides for those needing one. Further details will be available at the Welcome Centre, the bulletin or Church Office.

TEMPLE'S TREEHOUSE HAS ARRIVED!

by Katherine Reyes, Director of Children's Ministry



TEMPLE'S
TREEHOUSE

We are excited to announce the new name of our children's ministry, *Temple's Treehouse*. The name *Promiseland* was created because it matched the name of our past curriculum. About a year ago, we updated the curriculum so our children's ministry needed a fresh name. The new curriculum has given us more resources for parents/teachers and is relevant to this generation. Our focus of teaching the children biblical truths and helping them become disciples of Jesus has not changed. We hope that children will become firmly rooted in Jesus during their time at *Temple's Treehouse*.



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