

THE BRIDGE

A Newsletter Connecting You to Temple Baptist Church

Issue 5 November 2014



Passing on a legacy

Every November we celebrate the anniversary of Temple Baptist Church.

This is an exciting chance to remember that God continues to give us the privilege of being a light in this community. This privilege comes with an incredible responsibility to engage a changing world with the timeless message of Jesus.

I am so grateful for our staff, elders, deacons and the huge number of volunteers who believe in this great mission. We are part of a wonderful legacy of people who sacrificed time, money and other resources to continue to see God's love expressed in our community.

While we can remember the past, we don't want to live there. Actually, God's vision is always something that draws us toward



Lead Pastor
Dom Ruso

a new emerging future. As a new generation of young people find their place, they will be looking for role models of mature Christians that they can imitate. I am here today because of the wonderful Christian role models who helped me learn how to follow Jesus.

While this can be scary and sometimes intimidating, the Bible reminds us that people learn by following our example. In 1 Corinthians 11:1 Paul writes, "Follow my example, as I follow the example of Christ." Paul knew real, live, spiritual examples are essential for people.

On another occasion he adds, "Therefore I urge you to imitate me" (1 Corinthians 4:16).

Because we believe in the authority of the Scriptures, we should all be striving to learn what it means to invite others to follow alongside us as we follow Jesus. Are you ready for the challenge? What will it take? Who would you invite to follow you?

People in a healthy, growing church understand that a legacy is not just something we leave behind when we die, but it's something we pass on while we are still alive.

If you love our church and if you've been blessed by its great history, it's time to pass on the legacy of inviting new believers and young and emerging leaders to move toward an exciting new future that will add to the great legacy we've inherited.

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IMPACTING OUR COMMUNITY FOR CHRIST

by Don Dafoe – Strategic Planning Committee

Jeremiah 29:11-13, 1 Thessalonians 5:16-18

At the beginning of this year we were introduced to the Three M's; *Maturity, Multiplication and Missional.*

This emphasis is what our strategic plan will be built around for the future of Temple Baptist Church.

Pastor Dom, as led by the Lord, has been challenging all of us to realize the wonderful opportunity we must grasp to impact our community for Christ in this season of Temple's history.

Through many discussions, meetings, research and mostly prayerful consideration,

there is a real sense that the Lord is bringing clarity to what he would have us do moving forward.

This is where we need your prayerful consideration and response to what you believe the Lord is saying to you about the future of Temple.

Over the past number of weeks we have been showcasing a survey card with a few simple questions: **1) What has drawn you to the Temple family? What excites you about being part of the Temple family? and 2) What do you believe Temple could do to**

have a major impact on the Sarnia/Lambton community?

We need you to prayerfully think about these questions and give us what you believe the Lord has guided you to say.

We want to ensure we do not run ahead of what God wants for us, nor do we want to just be satisfied to do the "same old" if the Lord is calling us to reach out in other ways.

The old, old story of Jesus and His love always remains the same but how we model that love as a community of believers must touch a generation

in a world that constantly changes.

Over the next few months we will be putting some "Feet to the Vision" and trust that you will have had time to give us your input by handing in a survey card, emailing planning@templebaptist.com, or going to our website www.templebaptist.com to complete the online survey.

We believe God is calling us to even more exciting times ahead. We need your prayers especially in these days as we envision the future for the Temple community.

MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN SARNIA - SUNDAY, NOV. 30TH

by James Bekkers,
Executive Pastor

Churches of the Sarnia Evangelical Fellowship (SEF) have designated Sunday, November 30 as mental health awareness Sunday in Sarnia.

Churches from around the city and surrounding areas will be dedicating time on November 30 to help their congregations learn about this important topic. A video containing the voices



of many of our local pastors will also play in churches that day.

Please keep the

people of Sarnia-Lambton in your prayers as we continue to try to be prayerful

and thoughtful in the way we care for our neighbours.

Vision meeting: God, where are you leading us?



Lead Pastor
Dom Ruso

Years ago, I read a quote that said, “If you don’t know where you’re going, any road will get you there.” There is much wisdom to be learned from this short quote. As a pastor, some of the most important times in my week are when I’m praying to God about where He is taking us and how to be faithful as we move forward. These

are exciting times for us as a church and I am always so encouraged by what God is teaching me and where I think He is leading us.

As part of this exciting season, we have carved out a special time to meet on a Sunday evening to talk about where we are going. This Annual Business Meeting helps us take a look at the past year with thankful hearts. The stories of life transformation, relational connection and commitment are part of this night together.

Also, we hear from some Elders and Deacons as it relates to

important matters on the horizon. Sometimes it’s building related issues and other times it’s really about leadership concerns. Let me tell you how grateful I am for our Elders and Deacons who are leading by protecting our community and preparing us for the future by their work.

Lastly, as part of our meeting we affirm our Annual Budget. This is such an important part of our Christian community. Being responsible for God’s resources and also committing to seeing his kingdom expand is such an important part of what God has called

us to do. In the book of Acts we are told, “And all the believers met together in one place and shared everything they had. They sold their property and possessions and shared the money with those in need” (Acts 2:44,45). Their sharing with one another caused a generosity revolution that led to the growing expansion of God’s kingdom that we continue to embody today.

I hope you can make the time to join us on Sunday, November 30 at 6:30pm as we talk about the future and celebrate God’s faithfulness as new opportunities await us.

CHILDREN’S MUSICAL - THE NIGHT SHIFT BEFORE CHRISTMAS



Kathrine Reyes
Director of
Children’s Ministry

On December 14, our kids from JK-Gr.8 will be performing *The Night Shift Before Christmas*. They are working hard now on getting everything ready for a memorable morning. This musical features an unforgettable story that takes place in a diner in Bethlehem.

In the musical *Mo*, the diner owner, has announced that the overnight business is just too slow, even with the recent census crowds, to justify staying open all night anymore. But head waitress Flo has a heart for those night-shift shepherds, the local innkeeper and the other regulars who frequent the eatery in the wee hours for their signature falafels and MLTs (mutton, lettuce and tomato sandwich).

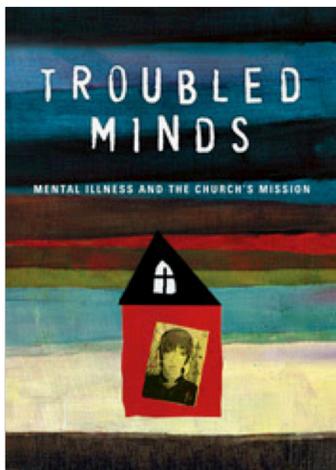
Mo’s complaint that “nothing ever happens at night in this sleepy little town” goes down the drain with the dirty dishwater when a brilliant light splits the darkness over the fields outside of town, and surprised shepherds burst through the doors with a stunning tale of angels and an amazing birth announcement. Soon, the late-night crowd is bristling with excitement to join the shepherds to see and worship the long-awaited Savior, born during the night shift — right there in Bethlehem!

Featuring all the menu items you expect from Little Big Stuff – ultra-cool songs, solid Biblical message, fun characters and story that kids love and adults appreciate – you can dish up an unforgettable Christmas for your kids this year with *The Night Shift Before Christmas*.

Our kids, actors, and leaders are looking forward to presenting their musical during our 10:30am service. Come out and support them! It’s going to be great.



TROUBLED MINDS - MENTAL HEALTH CONFERENCE: NOV. 14 & 15



Mental illness is the sort of thing we don't like to talk about. It doesn't reduce nicely to simple solutions and happy outcomes.

So instead, too often we reduce people who are mentally ill to caricatures and ghosts and simply

pretend they don't exist. However, they do exist — statistics suggest that one in four people suffer from some kind of mental illness.

And then there's their friends and family members who bear their own scars and anxious thoughts and see no safe place to talk about the impact of mental illness on their lives and their loved ones.

Many of these people are sitting in churches week after week, suffering in stigmatized silence (from the InterVarsity Press website for *Troubled Minds* www.ivpress.com).

The topic of mental health has been a

pressing issue in Sarnia and around our country. As a church, we want to learn more about the complex and important topic of mental health and the role we can play in being a helping and healing presence in our community.

On Nov. 14 and 15 Temple Baptist has the very special privilege of hosting Amy Simpson as our keynote speaker for our Mental Health Conference.

The cost for the entire conference is \$10 per person and will be broken into two parts:

Friday, Nov. 14
(7-9pm) - *Mental Illness: Becoming a Community of Care*

Saturday, Nov. 15
(9am-12pm) - *Practical Ways of Helping Those Around Us*

You can register for the conference online or by calling the church office at 519.542.1427. For more about Amy's writing, work, and personal story you can check out her website at www.amysimpsononline.com.

Come and join us so we can learn more about what it means to care for others among us and in our communities.

- James Bekkers
Executive Pastor

WELCOME SHELLEY MATSSON!

by Lelanya Milley, Office Co-Ordinator

Hello Temple Family! Please join me in welcoming Shelley Matsson as our newest team member.

Many of you have already met Shelley over the past month or so. Shelley works Wednesday to Friday as our part-time Administrative Assistant in the church office.

Shelley is a *North American Baptist College* alumnus and brings 15 years of valuable administration experience to Temple. She has worked with a technology firm and an academic institution where she served beside the Vice

President and the Dean of Admissions.

Shelley provides clerical and administrative support to me and members of *Temple Baptist Church*. She is also responsible for assisting and implementing office procedures, as well as a variety of important duties to support our pastors, boards, committees and ministries of the church.

In addition to working here on a part-time basis, both Shelley and her husband Rolf are quite active in our ministry programs. You have likely seen Shelley volunteering

Sunday mornings teaching in *Promiseland*, helping to keep track of her *Girls Alive* group on Wednesday evenings, and volunteering at *Sonic* (Jr. High) with her husband Rolf on Tuesday nights.

Shelley enjoys spending as much time as possible with Rolf and their two children, Evan and Sofi.

Once again, welcome to our team Shelley! We are thankful that you have joined our office staff.



5 FUN FACTS ABOUT SHELLEY!

Has two children; Evan (11 yrs. old) & Sofi (7 yrs. old)
Favorite food: Thai
Favorite TV show: *Downton Abbey* or *Coronation Street*
Favorite place she has travelled to: Hawaii
Has been married for: 12 years

REASONS YOUR CHURCH NEEDS SMALL GROUPS

They go by different names in different churches and different settings—small groups, missional groups, life groups, discipleship groups - but whatever they are called, the basic idea is the same: a small gathering of people interested in spiritual growth. Here are some reasons that small groups are important for your spiritual growth:

Small groups foster close relationships and integral community. The small group atmosphere is ready-made for building friendships. People are quick to recognize needs, and help to meet them and small groups form a strong fabric within a church.

Small groups encourage better learning. Listening to a sermon is a great way to learn, but it is easy to become detached or daydream during a sermon. We become passive listeners. Not so in a small group. When a few people are together, every individual is expected to be

involved and to participate. This active involvement is an effective way to learn better.

Small groups participate in focused prayer for one another. Prayer cannot be overrated, but it is often underpracticed. Small groups can better participate in prayer for one another. In one of my small group meetings, each of the people that were present took a few minutes to tell others about their particular challenges or concerns. Then, as soon as he was finished, the person right next to him took a minute or so to pray for him. Small groups make for great prayer meetings.

Small groups provide a comfortable atmosphere for openness. One thing I like about small groups is that we meet in homes. Homes are usually comfortable places—places devoid of pews, PA systems, and stages. They are places where people can open up, listen, learn, and grow.

Small groups provide a source of encouragement and accountability. It's easy to slip in and out of church unnoticed. It's not just big churches where this happens. Even in smaller churches some people may be coming each Sunday service, but not getting involved. These people may need the help of others in their lives, encouragement in their walk with God, or help in some way.

Small groups provide a way to better meet these needs.

Small groups help to cultivate leadership within the church. Someone has to lead a small group meeting, or at least facilitate the discussion. Unless your entire church is the small group (unlikely), there will need to be leaders other than the pastor. Thus, small groups give opportunities for leadership development within the church.

- from *ShareFaith Magazine online* (September 10, 2011)

REMEMBRANCE DAY AT TEMPLE

On November 11, Remembrance Day, a pause is taken in many places around the world to reflect on the sacrifices of those who lost their lives in service to their country. This November it seems particularly important, given the recent events in Ottawa, to take time to give thanks to those who serve and have served for our country.

We remember these brave men and women for their courage, devotion to ideals and legacies they left behind. So on November 11, wear a poppy, attend a Remembrance Day ceremony, or observe a moment of silence. However you choose to remember, keep in mind it is our duty to pass on our gratitude and keep their legacy and memories alive.

Lelanya Milley
Office Co-Ordinator

FELLOWSHIP NATIONAL DAY OF PRAYER

by Greg Macrobbie
Connections Pastor

For those who might not know, Temple is part of the *Fellowship of Evangelical Baptist Churches in Canada*. On November 9, it is Fellowship National Day of Prayer.

This is a special opportunity to pray together for our Fellowship churches, pastors, leaders and chaplains serving in various locations throughout Canada.

As well as for Fellowship missionaries serving around the world.

November 9, is also the *International Day of Prayer for the Persecuted Church*.

Believers from around the world will be praying for our brothers and sisters in Christ who face daily persecution for their faith.

Special focus this year is on those persecuted in Nigeria and Cuba.



For more information, we encourage you to check out the *Fellowship National* website at

www.fellowship.ca/dayofprayer.

Think Orange

If you have kids in our family ministries, you have probably heard the term “Orange” being used a lot lately. But did you know that “Orange” is more than just a curriculum? It is actually a philosophy for family ministry. One of our core values as parents is to help our children develop and nurture solid spiritual relationships in their lives. Here are three things for us to keep in mind as we do this.

No one has more potential to influence your child than you. For good or bad, we will influence our children. Teachers, pastors, or coaches will never have as much potential to influence a child’s character, self-esteem, perspectives, or faith as a parent does. The influence of a teacher, coach or pastor is

temporary and will come and go during the stages of a child’s life. But the influence of a parent will be permanent.

You are not the only influence your children need. As parents, we need to tap into other influences that also have the potential to impact our children’s future. One day our children will seek approval and affirmation from adults other than us. So we need to be intentional about enlisting other trusted adults to influence and help shape the character and faith of our children.

Now, this third principle ties the other two together. Two combined influences will make a greater impact than just two influences. This is called the “Orange Factor.” The colour Orange is used to

symbolize what it means when parents partner with others to influence their children. If we trust someone else to help our daughter with her math, we are thinking Orange. If we depend on a coach to help our son throw a football, we are thinking Orange.

The same principle applies the moral and spiritual development of our children. What if we assigned the colour Red to represent the unconditional love of the family, and what if Yellow represented the light that comes from a larger community of faith? When those two influences combine efforts to influence a child, the result is transformation.

So when we think Orange, this colour reminds us of the importance of a

partnership between parents and the church.

Just recently I heard a statistic that blew my mind. Within our family ministries, a volunteer has 40 hours a year to influence our child. But as parents, we have 3000 hours a year to influence our child. This factor has become the driving force behind our family ministries.

Our mission is to partner with you as parents to lead your children into a growing relationship with Jesus.



by Dave Lane,
Pastor of Youth
and Family Ministry

CARE, COMPASSION AND FOREVER YOUNG @ HEART

The Forever Young @ Heart (55+ yrs. old) group will be enjoying a *Popcorn Movie Night* showing the film, *God’s Not Dead* on Nov. 21.

The group will also be participating at the J.O.Y. (formerly Super Seniors) group’s Dec. 12 *Annual Christmas Event* and turkey dinner. We will be leading the singing with our choir, doing a “skit,” and bringing in a special surprise person. Love to have you join us!

Temple’s *Benevolence Ministry* is very active with people from our own

church as well as our community, experiencing a variety of great needs.

We are working with *Neighbourlink*, a charitable organization in Sarnia, to pick up beds along with other city churches, for those who don’t have one.

Our *Christmas Hamper Ministry* is already in full swing preparing for the week of Dec. 15-19. There will be some changes this year, which will give entire



Jim Train
Congregational Care

families an opportunity to participate.

Celebrate Recovery: A Christ-Centred 12 Step Recovery Program for anyone with Hurts, Habits or Hang-ups, meets on Monday evenings at 7pm at Temple. It’s an evening with worship music, helpful lesson or testimony, open share time in a small group plus a cafe afterwards.

This is open to anyone from the church or community. There is also a Thursday night spiritual Step Study.

Our *Van Ministry* is in need of people willing

to serve as drivers who are scheduled on a six week rotation to pick up those wanting to come to church on Sunday, but are lacking transportation. For more info, contact the Church Office or email me at train@templebaptist.com.



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