

From



Dr. David Eldridge
Senior Pastor

Pastor David

Dear Church Family,

Not long ago, Danielle and I found ourselves diving into a "rabbit hole" of old family photographs and videos from about 15 years ago. It's amazing how much has changed in what feels like such a short span of time. There's a certain joy and nostalgia in looking back—a wonderful reminder of all the moments that have shaped and defined our family.

As spring approaches, our church family will gather to celebrate a remarkable milestone: 100 years of worship, ministry, and mission. Our history comprises a vast photo album full of reminders of God's unwavering leadership and the legacy of faithfulness that has defined our church family for this past century.

In the fourth chapter of Joshua, we find a powerful story of how looking back inspired God's people to move forward. After God miraculously parted the Jordan River, Joshua instructed the Israelites to take twelve stones from the riverbed and set them up as a memorial. These stones served as a tangible reminder (a photo of sorts) of God's faithfulness and power. Joshua proclaimed, "In the future, when your children ask you, 'What do these stones mean?' tell them that the flow of the Jordan was cut off before the ark of the covenant of the LORD. These stones are to be a memorial to the people of Israel forever" (Joshua 4:6-7).

For our church, this last century of ministry is marked by similar "stones of remembrance," milestones that testify to God's provision and providence. It is good to look back in the photo album of our church to see those reminders of where we've traveled through the decades. This issue of our *Together at Dawson Magazine* gives us a taste of those photos from the past that inspire us to move into His future. From our founding members to a short history of our musical heritage, each of these stories is a stone that God has graciously given us to remind us of His steadfast love.

But just as the Israelites did not stop at the Jordan, neither do we stop here. The stones of remembrance are not merely markers of where we've been; they are catalysts for where we are going. They remind us that the same God who parted the Jordan River is leading us into new opportunities for ministry and growth. As we celebrate our 100th anniversary, we honor the legacy of those who came before us by committing ourselves to continue to carry the Gospel into the next century of our church's future—a future where we are being called to be **Faithful Together** in the stewardship of our Sanctuary renovation.

So, as we approach these exciting days ahead as a church, let's take time to reflect on Dawson's rich history. Look back at the photographs, listen to the stories, and remember the faithfulness of God. But let these memories also inspire you to dream boldly about what's ahead. Let us build on the foundation of those who have gone before us, trusting that God's provision in the past assures us of His presence in the future.

Blessings,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "David Eldridge". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large, looping "D" at the beginning.

Pastor David