

THE TIDINGS

GOD'S MISSION FOR TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH IS TO LOVE HIM FULLY AND FOLLOW HIM FAITHFULLY.

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

It is commonly called the "Book of Comfort." In Isaiah 40-66, the prophet turns from a message of judgment against God's people (as well as other ungodly nations) and offers a promise of hope. Indeed, that specific section of Isaiah's prophecy begins, "'Comfort, yes, comfort My people!' says your God" (40:1 NKJV). The Lord Himself declared His intent to bring strength and peace after a time of intense challenge. Of course, the fulfillment of this prophecy was ultimately realized in the advent of the "Consolation of Israel," Jesus Christ. Jesus came to bring help, encouragement, and salvation to His people and to the peoples of the world. God described His work: "Do not remember the former things, nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing. Now it shall spring forth; shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness and rivers in the desert" (Isaiah 43:18-19 NKJV). A new thing? Streams in the desert? What a wonderful hope for those who were oppressed and barren! What comfort to those who were afflicted! And to know that the new work of the kingdom was accomplished in His Messiah!

As we have entered a new year, let's not forget that the Lord has truly done a new thing. He has granted us forgiveness; He has given us life. Consequently, we have refreshment in the midst of the difficult, dry terrain around us. We have encouragement and strength to press on.

I'm grateful that I can do life and ministry with you in 2021. These first few days of the year have proven tough for us, and yet, I sense His renewing spirit moving among us. And I know He has a plan and vision for us! This Sunday, I'll begin a new sermon series entitled, "Lord, Give Us Vision," from 1 Thessalonians. As I said, God already has a vision for us, and He has plainly revealed it to us in His Word. We simply need to look at it through the eyes of the Lord and embrace it in our daily practice. Hope you can join us on campus or online as we begin this journey together!

Also, I'm thankful that the Lord continues to raise up leadership within the body of Christ. On Sunday, January 10, I invite all ordained men to join me in an ordination council as we examine and encourage Richard Hood, Brad Waller, and Brandon Williams in the Deacon Ministry. We will meet at 2 p.m. in the Chapel. The actual ordination service will take place on Wednesday, January 13, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary. What a great way to start off the new year as we celebrate with these men and their families! Praying you can be there as well!

Finally, we need to be in prayer for our National Guardsmen as many will soon be deploying overseas for the remainder of the year. Our college minister, Casey Casady, will be numbered in that group. Many of you may know that Casey has served as a chaplain in the National Guard over the past three years. We will have a specific time to intercede and bless them before they depart, but I am asking you to begin lifting up each service member and his/her family to the Father in the meantime. In Casey's absence, we have hired an Interim Associate Minister to College Students, Chad McClurg, to lead our ministry and speak each week. Chad is the BCM Director at ULM. (Please no ULM jokes! At least not yet!) Alongside Chad, Emma Shelton, who currently serves as a ministry assistant in the area, will assume more responsibilities and duties. Emma will lead in the logistics, programming, and more day-to-day operations. We will miss Casey! And we will pray for his and his family until he returns back to us! The Lord can use Casey mightily during this season, and I believe He can bless us here as well through Chad and Emma.

"Behold, I will do a new thing," the Lord proclaimed. And wow, didn't He do just that by sending Jesus for us! That "new thing" still resonates in 2021 and empowers us to make a difference! Let's do just that! Let's make our lives count for His glory! See you Sunday!

College Connection

Casey Casady

You may not be able to believe it, but it is 2021! I know, right? it seems impossible or, at the minimum, improbable. I hope that 2021 is better for you and that you haven't become bitter from 2020. Let me share with you some things we in the College Ministry have learned from 2020:

1. Solitude gave us time to think and be creative.
2. We finally had days to find purpose in what interested us.
3. We learned to have margin, and we tried new and different things because we had time.

We pray, in moving into 2021, that we won't waste it. A pandemic is a terrible thing to waste. I am praying that we all have learned something about our God and about ourselves. God is still on the throne! Praise Him for being sovereign.



*Denise Cox for 35 years
of service at Temple.*



Myrtle King Lunch Bunch

Thursday, January 14 | 12 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Jeremy Asher (Puerto Rico Trip)

Project: Money for LA Baptist Children's Home

The flowers in the Sanctuary on January 3 were in memory of Louise Alexander, Linda Echols, June Young, and Mary Prewitt Bowen-Miller, given by the church family.

The flowers in the Sanctuary on January 10 are in memory of Betty Robbins, given by the Jackie Robbins family.

rightnow MEDIA

A digital Bible Study Library is now available...and Gigantic!

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Create your profile and explore away!

Sugar for CCA

Local Mission Opportunity

*We are responsible for 75 bags
of sugar each month.*



YOUNG ADULT WORSHIP

Every other Tuesday
Next one is January 12
7 p.m., Chapel

For ANY young adult
in their 20s-30s
Childcare Reservation
at events.temple.life





the family of **John C. Bowen**, stepfather of Geoff (Rachel) Deason, step-grandfather of Alyssa;
the family of **Leonard Faulkner**, husband of Joy;
the family of **Bruce Thompson**, father of Shawn (Craig) Moss, grandmother of Blake; the family of **Gantt Graham**, son of Randy and Sally, grandson of Linda;
the family of **David Lynton Ginn**, brother of Larry.

DEACON ORDINATION COUNCIL

Sunday, January 10 | 2 p.m. | Chapel
All ordained men are invited to attend.

DEACON ORDINATION

Wednesday, January 13 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary
Richard Hood, Brad Waller, and Brandon Williams

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY DATES TO SAVE

Vacation Bible School ~ *Destination Dig*
June 7-11

WinShape Camp
July 12-16

WAYS TO GIVE
IN PERSON ONLINE AND TEXT

CHURCH OFFICE: Mail or Dropoff
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TEXTING: Text any amount to 84321 to give

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at volunteer.temple.life

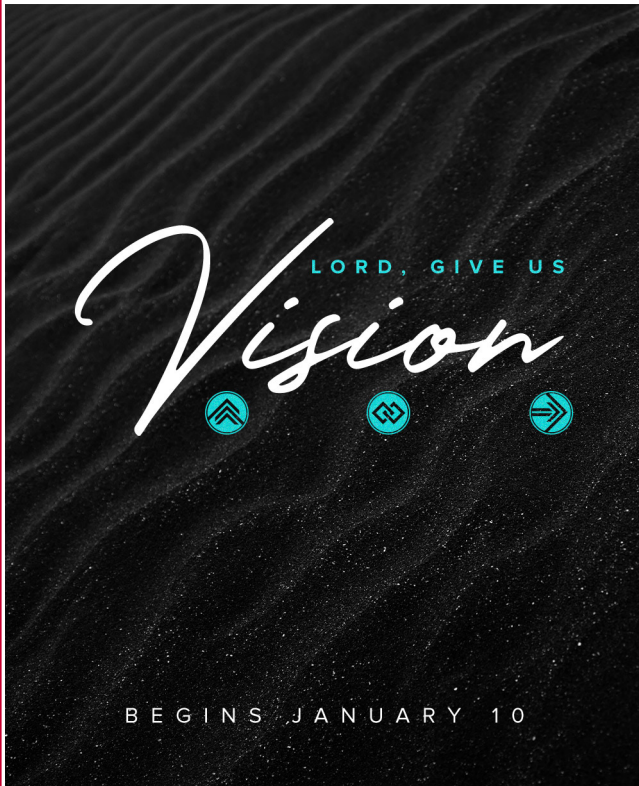
Minister of Community Engagement

George Lee, IV

In January 2020, our church committed to pursue several goals for the year. Some of our goals focused on having gospel conversations, more engagement on short-term and long-term missions trips, increasing missional giving, and scripture reading as a church family. Another one of our goals was to baptize 100 people. In conjunction with this goal, we launched an effort called 100 People Praying. The idea was to assign numbers to individuals to pray for those who would make decisions for Christ and come to be baptized. I can't express how appreciative I am of those who participated in this effort...so thankful for team leaders and team members who committed to praying!

Unfortunately, we did not reach 100 baptisms in 2020. However, it is important that we all celebrate those who asked Jesus Christ into their hearts and lives and decided to follow through in believer's baptism! Every individual who was baptized has a story, and our church had an opportunity to be a part of those precious stories in 2020. Despite a challenging year, we continued to show and share the love of Christ, and many lives were transformed by the power of the Gospel! We will continue our journey toward 100 baptisms as a church. Please continue to pray for those who will make decisions for Christ this year!

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Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134
Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

Sunday, January 10

9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life
(Blended Worship); *the gathering* Worship (GS); Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life
(*the gathering* Worship); Sunday School for all ages
2 p.m. - Deacon Ordination Council Meeting (Chapel)
4 p.m. - Bible Drill (JP Multipurpose Rm)
5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs Sanctuary)

Tuesday, January 12

10 a.m. - Senior Adult Bible Study (FH)
7 p.m. - Young Adult Worship (Chapel)

Wednesday, January 13

5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ Music (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study | Deacon Ordination Service (Sanctuary);
The Springs Bible Study (Springs Sanctuary)
6:30 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (GS)
7 p.m. - Senior High Worship (Youth Rm)

Thursday, January 14

12 p.m. - Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (FH)

Friday, January 15-Monday, January 18

Youth Princess & Warrior Weekend

Broadcast Hours: Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (live.temple.life)
Family Life Center Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Friday: 8 a.m.-1 p.m.

Vision:

To become authentic, loving followers of Jesus,
who are experiencing life transformation through God's Word,
For the purpose of impacting our world.



TEMPLE
BAPTIST CHURCH

COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

Core Values:

Authoritative Truth • Strengthening Worship
Authentic Community • Intentional Transformation
Hands-On Missions • Relational Evangelism
Compassionate Servanthood