



temple TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

We exist to see every member growing in Christ, connecting in community, and engaging in mission. Simply stated, we believe that to be God's vision for His church as we journey through this life together. **The Lord wants us to be growing . . . constantly!** We must never assume that we have arrived where we need to be in our personal, spiritual growth. God is progressively working within us to help us to be conformed to the image of His Son, and that task will not be complete until we see His Son face to face. Therefore, we as a church will continue to strive to provide an environment where every member can keep growing in his/her walk with Christ.

I also know the importance of **connecting to community**. The church is made up of real, vibrant relationships which undergird our spiritual adventure. Over the past couple of weeks alone, I have seen you comfort families who were dealing with death, pray for specific individuals who are lost, provide financial assistance to an individual crushed under medical debt, encourage families who were struggling with sickness, and just be there for others. That is the demonstration of Christ's love, and it is most evident when believers live in community with one another. This year, I pray that we see a new sense of "connecting with community." I've spoken with so many who long to be with the body of Christ and enjoy true fellowship with the faith family again. It will have soon been twelve months since some sat in corporate worship, and I'm so grateful that a new day is dawning with hope that we can be truly together again. If nothing else, the pandemic should have demonstrated how much we need Him and His people. We are not perfect! (Thus, the reason to keep growing!) But how I love my faith family – even with both our weaknesses and our strengths!

Finally, we want to equip our members to continue **engaging in mission**. We need to be living the Gospel in Ruston. We must be exhibiting the Gospel in Lincoln Parish. We should provide an example of the Gospel to our nation. Indeed, we ought to be proclaiming the Gospel in the nations themselves. Just because these are difficult days does not negate our responsibility to engage in mission. If ever the church must be on mission, it is now! With a sense of urgency as we anticipate Jesus' return! We must not get distracted from that work!

I'm convinced that our staff, lay leadership, and even most of our spiritual family have bought into this vision, but we need to step up and see it realized through the power of the Holy Spirit! To be honest, I've already seen God doing some amazing things in our midst! Who would have believed that in the season of pandemic we could begin a training institution for future church leaders? This week, we have kicked off the inaugural semester of the **Temple School of Ministry and Missions** with fourteen students enrolled in two different courses. Again, thanks to the cooperation of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary, these students can earn up to 25% of their degree right here at Temple as we teach and mentor them in the local church context. How incredibly excited I am about the lay leadership development as well as the preparation of the next generation of ministers this endeavor will further!

Keep believing! Keep trusting! Keep loving! Keep growing! Keep connecting! Keep engaging! Don't let Satan discourage and distract you. We are still the people of Christ . . . bound and secured by His blood! And the gates of hell will not prevail against us! See you Sunday!

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jeremy Asher

"Do not be anxious about anything, but in every situation, by prayer and petition, with thanksgiving, present your requests to God. And the peace of God, which transcends all understanding, will guard your hearts and your minds in Christ Jesus."

(Philippians 4:6-7, NIV)

The snow is still falling in Ruston; and I must say, I'm as happy as a kid out of school to see it! There is something so peaceful and serene to see our neighborhood blanketed with freshly fallen snow. It serves as a great reminder that amidst the chaos in the world around us, God can give us a peace that is beyond understanding. I love the promise of the verse quoted above; as we present our requests to God, His peace will guard both our hearts and our minds. What a precious promise!

As I look ahead for this month, I am grateful for the opportunity to lead the mission trip to Puerto Rico. We will be involved with Send Relief from the North American Mission Board and will be helping with the rebuild process following Hurricane Maria and the earthquakes of 2020. Please pray for our team as we face challenges pertaining to Covid while we serve on the island. Our team of nine includes: Louie Miller, Alan and Pam Brown, Lindsey Reynolds, Ann German (from a church in Alabama), Dustin Alexander, Daniel Alexander, Kevin Beasley, and me. Also, pray that we will have opportunity to share the Gospel in both word and action. Thank you for faithfully praying as we continue to serve the Lord in practical ways during this season.

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The flowers in the Sanctuary on January 17
are in memory of Mimi Mabry, given by her family.



Chad McClurg

Emma Shelton

In Casey Casady'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. 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. Please be in prayer for Casey, Chad, and Emma in the coming days!

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITY DATES TO SAVE

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

WinShape Camp
July 12-16

Temple's Newest Membership Candidates



Seth & Tori Futrell

Sugar for CCA

Local Mission Opportunity

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



A Great *Multifold* + You
Rev 7:9

OUR CHURCH'S GOAL
\$160,000

imb | LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING[®] The Lottie Moon Christmas Offering[®] is a registered trademark of IMB.

We exceeded our goal! \$160,088.80

Congratulations to:

Joel and Katie Schoening on the birth of their son, **Charles (Charlie) Doyle Schoening**. Proud grandparents are Lee and Gina Holstead, and great-grandfather is Doyle Holstead. Francis and Carole Carson on the birth of their granddaughter, **Irelynn Rose Ingram**.

WE EXIST TO SEE EVERY MEMBER:

**GROWING IN CHRIST,
CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY,
AND ENGAGING IN MISSION.**



the family of **Sonya Bratton**, mother of Madison Bratton and Zach (Olivia) Garner, step-grandmother of Dawson Sills.



Youth Ministry

John Nugent

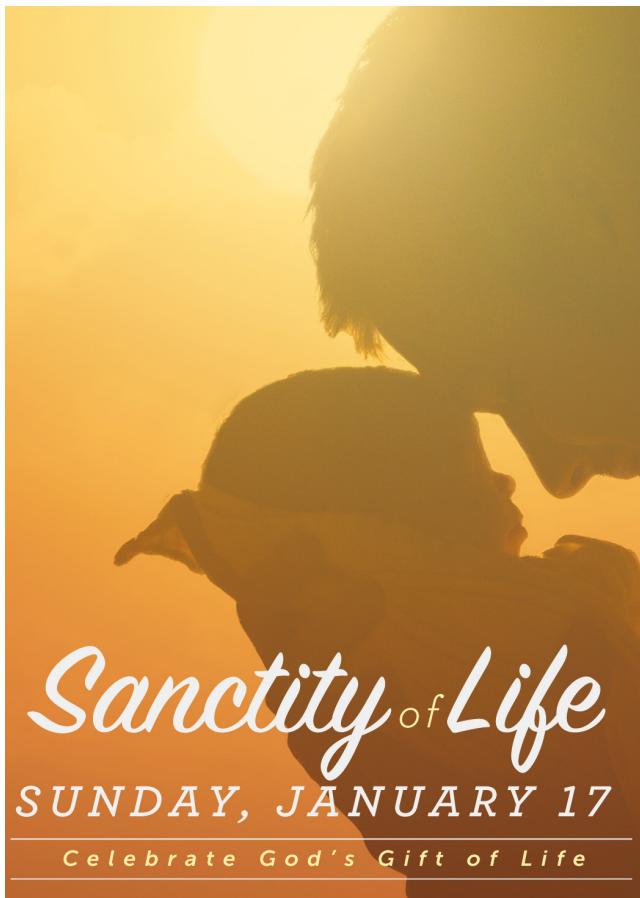
Princess & Warrior Weekend is January 15-17, and it looks a little different this year! We will be hosting this amazing event here at lovely and scenic Temple Baptist Church to help keep things as safe as possible. Students won't get to spend the night at the campground, but we're still planning for an absolutely amazing weekend. The circumstances around us may be uncertain; but we know, with certainty, that God works in any circumstance.

We'll have the same great Bible studies, games, competitions, and more that make this event so awesome. This year we will even have a session for parents of teenagers at 10:30 a.m. in the Youth Room on Sunday morning, January 17. The fun and fabulous Linda Weir will be with us to lead this time to share with parents about all that their teenagers are learning and hearing from God's Word during the weekend with a fun challenge to parents to continue the discipleship process in the sometimes difficult teenage years. If you're a parent of a teenager, you'll want to make this a priority!

There are 190 participants signed up for Princess & Warrior Weekend, and I know that God has something epic for each and every one of us. Join me in praying that teenagers will put their faith in Jesus, grow closer to Him, and make permanent changes as they follow Him more closely.

If you need more information about Princess & Warrior Weekend, you can visit www.templebcstudents.org

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Sanctity of Life

SUNDAY, JANUARY 17

Celebrate God's Gift of Life

Label here

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

Week-at-a-Glance

Puerto Rico Mission Trip ~ January 23-29

Sunday, January 17

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

Tuesday, January 19

- 10 a.m. - Senior Adult Bible Study (FH)

Wednesday, January 20

- 5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ Music (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study | Quarterly Business Meeting | Puerto Rico
Commissioning (Sanctuary)
- 6:30 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (GS)
- 6:45 p.m. - Puerto Rico Mission Trip Final Meeting (Rm 76)
- 7 p.m. - Senior High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 8 p.m. - Temple College MidWeek (Sanctuary)



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.