

# 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**

"I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord.' Our feet have been standing within your gates, O Jerusalem!" (Psalm 122:1-2 NKJV). It was the cry of God's people as they made their way to worship before the Lord in that blessed city. There was a joy in joining with the "tribes of the Lord" to worship. Now, that does not mean that the trip up to Jerusalem was easy. Many of the worshippers would travel long distances over rugged, even dangerous, terrain in order to meet the Lord together. And yet, there was a gladness to know that the journey ended in His powerful presence.

During my recent quarantine, I was reminded how essential corporate worship is. It is the place where we collectively meet God. Now before you decide to school me in theology, I recognize that the Spirit dwells in each one of us; and thus, His presence is not contained in a specific place like a temple. I also know we can (and even should!) worship individually and in our families. Yet, early believers understood how important it was to worship as a community of faith. We must be connected as a body. Indeed, I contend that gathering with God's people is paramount to our spiritual, mental, and even physical well-being. I'm thankful I could worship with you the past couple of weeks through the technological means God has afforded us. Such a medium allowed me to taste the crumbs when I could not feast; it provided elements of survival. I was truly reminded that worship on the sofa is not the same as worship in the Sanctuary. So, this week I

echo the words of the worship pilgrim: "I was glad when they said to me, 'Let us go into the house of the Lord'" because I plan to be back in person this Sunday!

And like those earlier worshippers, I am preparing myself to "give thanks to the name of the Lord" (Psalm 122:4d NKJV). Our Lord is so good even in the midst of troublesome days! He provides for us when we don't deserve it! He is faithful even when we are not! How we should give thanks . . . together! My friends, we should not lose hope because of a virus, because of social unrest, because of destructive storms, or even by the political turmoil around us. Instead, we must praise Him in the midst of the difficulties; we must give thanks and worship Him even in this painful season.

I do not know when our Lord will return, but I believe it is imminent. Each day that passes means that we are closer to that moment; and with that realization, there is a renewed sense of urgency. We must be winning people to Christ. We must be seeking to reconcile our brothers and sisters in their relationships. We must be standing on our convictions. We must be growing to look more like Him. We must be worshipping Him alone. We must be faithful. Now, perhaps more than ever, we need each other to accomplish His work. Thank you for who you are and how you have already served. May He use this upcoming Sunday to rekindle the love we have for our Lord as we study the Revelation, and may He spur us to greater devotion to Him! See you Sunday!

# YOUNG ADULT News

## Jacob Ambrose

**Discipleship Groups (D-Groups)** are gender-specific groups of 4-6 people who meet weekly for one year, read through the Word together, journal, memorize Scripture, and keep each other accountable. The main objective of the D-Group is to provide much needed accountability in the life of the believer. Whether we like it or not, we all need some trusted friends who are regularly asking us the hard questions about our relationship with the Lord, Scripture reading, and moral/ethical decisions. Having experienced personal growth and bearing fruit from participating in and leading D-Groups in the past, I knew that this was a great need for the Young Adults of Temple.

In August/September 2019, we launched our first year of D-Groups within the Young Adult Ministry. There were a total of 6 groups with 26 members. These groups met faithfully for one calendar year, and even continued to meet virtually through the season of quarantine that we all experienced this Spring! All who participated in a group this past year benefited greatly from the accountability in their lives during this uncertain time. Those groups came to an end this past month, and new groups have been formed. There are now 10 groups with a total of 47 members, who will meet together until September 2021. How exciting that the number of group members nearly doubled!

Please be in prayer for the D-Groups and the group leaders this year, as they will certainly experience many seasons of life together. Pray for the Lord to use the accountability in these groups to break whatever strongholds the enemy has on them. And as we read God's Word and hide it in our hearts, pray that the Spirit would continue His work in making us more like Christ.

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**UNDIVIDED**  
MORE THAN A HASHTAG

 North American  
Mission Board

#ourcommunityundivided

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SPRINGS

**SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4 | 5 P.M.**

**at Mayfield Park**

**1701 Martin Luther King Drive, Ruston**

A study focused on candid conversations regarding racial reconciliation and how the church can lead and must lead this charge.

Everyone is invited to attend!

### **Special Called Business Meeting** **Deacon Nomination**

Sunday, October 18 | All Worship Services



Thank you for your generosity during our Blood Drive. We had an all-time high number of **12 units** of blood. You are the best!

**GRIEF SHARE<sup>®</sup>**  
SUPPORT GROUP

Thursdays through January 7 | 2 p.m. | Room 76  
Facilitator: Linda Echols

Contact: Jason Walsworth, [jason@temple.life](mailto:jason@temple.life), 255-3745



## Temple's Newest Membership Candidate



Parker Burroughs



the family of **Jane Sherrard.**

### Senior Adult Bible Study

Dr. Argile Smith

**Monday-Wednesday, October 26-28**

**9:30-11:30 a.m. | Sanctuary**

A study of the book of Jeremiah

### The flowers in the Sanctuary

are in memory of Pattye Brasher and Ruth Carter,  
given by the church family.

## From the Associate Minister of Music

*Zach Husser*

*"Oh, magnify the LORD with me, and let us exalt his name together!" - Psalm 34:3*

When we gather together on a Sunday morning, our first priority is to magnify the Lord. So, as a worship leader, I want to point people's attention to the fact that God is bigger than their problems and joys. I want them to know that He is greater than their sorrows and successes and more significant than their tests and triumphs. This is the goal; however, we often lose perspective so easily.

One of my favorite authors says it this way: "It's like looking up at the stars. To the naked eye they appear like tiny pinpoints of light, barely visible against the black backdrop. Twinkling dots suspended in vast darkness. We can walk outside and barely notice them. But when we look through a high-powered telescope, we're awestruck by what they really are: massive spheres of raging fire, millions of times larger than the earth, brighter than our human eyes can bear. The stars haven't changed. Our vision has."

So when we gather on Sunday morning, my great privilege is to help our people see through the eyes of faith. Through Biblical praise, we corporately see how great He is and how small everything else is. He doesn't change. We do.

Focus on magnifying the Lord as you prepare your heart for corporate worship this week!

How can we help? Our staff is here to serve. You can contact them by calling the Church Office (255-3745)!

We are navigating unprecedented times, but we believe our God is still in control and can use us to share the Gospel in creative and powerful ways!

Church family, we LOVE you and are here to serve you!

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LUKE 5:17

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Website: temple.life

## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, October 11

- 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. - Young Professionals Pumpkin Painting Party (Cook Park)  
5 p.m. - The Springs *Undivided* Study (Mayfield Park, 1701 Martin Luther King Dr., Ruston)

### Tuesday, October 13

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

### Wednesday, October 14

- 5:45 p.m. - Children's M<sup>3</sup> (Missions) (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Financial Peace University (Rm 275); Women's Bible Study (Rm 261); Men's Bible Study (Rm 76);  
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary); livestream at *live.temple.life*; The Springs Bible Study (Springs Sanctuary); livestream at *live.thesprings.life* (The Springs Worship)  
6:30 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (GS)  
7 p.m. - Senior High Worship (Youth Rm)  
8 p.m. - Temple College MidWeek (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, October 15

- 2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

**Broadcast Hours:** Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (*live.temple.life*)

### 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