

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 time to cast a ballot. **Election 2020** is upon us. That is right. The moment has come for us to select our **deacon leadership!** (And you thought I was talking about something else?) Seriously, the choosing of our deacons is one of the most significant practices of the church. We see the first "election" in Acts 6 when seven men were selected by the Jerusalem believers in order to wait the tables of Grecian widows and minister to their needs. The apostles could have chosen them, but they trusted the Holy Spirit to direct the congregation to choose the right men to fulfill the work. And so, He did! And so, He still does! The Spirit works within us, and we collectively **choose deacons who protect the unity of the church and further the ministry.**

I am especially grateful for those brothers I call deacons here at Temple Baptist Church. They understand that initial responsibility of the deacon—to keep the fellowship of the church through service and ministry. For the past few years, I have served with some of the most solid, selfless deacons I have ever encountered. Even during a pandemic, they have been faithful to check on people and encourage the work of the Lord. This Sunday, we have an opportunity to nominate ten more such individuals to the Deacons Council. I ask you to pray fervently this week for guidance and discernment as you approach this decision. Read Acts 6:1-7 and 1 Timothy 3:8-13 to help you in the process. And finally, seek the Holy Spirit's prompting in your selection. You can go ahead and write those names down on your ballot and bring it with you to our morning worship services. Or if you are still not comfortable returning to worship at this time, you may drive through and drop off your ballot to a deacon who will be standing under the east portico (by the Church Office) from 9 a.m.-11:30 a.m.

Luke reminded us about the powerful results of the first deacon election: "And the word of God kept on

spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith" (Acts 6:7 ESV). What an awesome statement! The choosing of deacons allowed the kingdom to continue its advancement. Let's pray that God will use this week's Deacon Nomination also to multiply ministry and expand the gospel's impact.

As I close, I recognize **the import of the local and national elections** that are going on around us as well. Early voting is about to begin, and we will cast our ballots as our conscience dictates. My friends, I encourage you to pray about the choices before you and vote your convictions. At the end of the day, we as believers must remember that we are not devoted to a political party but rather to the Lord over all, Jesus Christ Himself. We can have political differences; yet God's Kingdom priorities must draw us together. (I'm certain Matthew, the tax collector, and Simon the Zealot must have had some intense conversations around the campfire. Think of it. The traitor versus the treasonous! And yet, those two disciples kept the gospel at the center of their relationship!) And while I have never personally endorsed any candidate (and I will not start now!), I do want to affirm my support for the Love Life constitutional amendment (#1). Your support (Yes) for this amendment will explicitly declare that our state constitution does not affirm a right to abortion; therefore, a rogue judge can't "find" the unwritten right in the constitution. My friends, no matter what your politics, our culture must protect life . . . even the life of the most vulnerable. This amendment has bipartisan support in our state, and it is one step in our efforts to end the reprehensible practice of abortion. Again, ask the Lord to direct you in every vote you make, and follow His leadership as you make your choices. And may His will be done! See you Sunday!

Education & Administration News

Jason Walsworth

I can't ever recall being so concerned about hurricanes in Ruston, but it has been an active season. I am thankful that, in theory, it will end soon. I am grateful that we missed any widespread, major damage here; however, let's continue to pray for our friends in South Louisiana. One of our families who was hit hard by Laura also got hit hard again from Delta. This has kept our Chainsaw Crews busy. They have helped so many people in our area over the last couple of months. They have helped church members and strangers. They have helped friends and friends of friends. About a year and a half ago, just before the tornado, Rolling Hills put on a training that many of our men went through. Once again, the Lord provided the training, equipment, and the men. Our church has been faithful to serve in this area; and if you have served, we say "thank you!"

The fall is typically when we have our strongest attendance of the year. This year has been anything but typical, so I doubt that trend holds true this year. We are noticing more of you returning and are excited to see you. I hope we will continue to grow and reach new people even during this season. New people are beginning to show up, so I want to encourage you to keep inviting people to come to church. **Keep having those Gospel conversations**, and let us know about them so we can meet our goal. We don't plan to stop once our goal has been met though. Help us welcome our new friends and make them feel welcome by speaking to them and inviting them to join you in Sunday School or for lunch after church.

We have around 650 people coming on Sundays, so there is plenty of room for new people and plenty of room for you. I want to see us keep adding people to the family of God, to the church, and to minister even during a pandemic. We have been able to reach new people through our online worship, and some have come to Temple for the first time. Don't feel bad or guilty about asking someone to join you for Sunday School or for worship this Sunday. We have even started three new Sunday School groups during this season, and we are seeing new people get connected. The Lord is still working and so are we! Have a great week, and we will see you soon.

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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

UNDIVIDED

MORE THAN A HASHTAG

North American
Mission Board

#ourcommunityundivided

the
SPRINGS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 18 | 5 P.M.

at Lincoln Parish Park, Pavilion L4

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!



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Special Called Business Meeting Deacon Nomination

Sunday, October 18 | All Worship Services



the family of **Betty Roberson**, sister of Bonnie (George) Thomason; the family of **Ruth Helen Malone**, grandmother of Jacob (Amanda)

Ambrose; the family of **Donovan "Don" Henderson**, stepfather of Keith (Joy Carol) Rowe and grandfather of Jennifer King.

Temple's Newest Membership Candidates



Dominik, Haley,
and E.J. Holder

A Thank you card has been received from...

Sonja Walker and the Stanford family
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

The flowers in the Sanctuary

are in memory of Aubrey and Melba Jones,
given by Mike and Pam Jones.

The Journey Place Tiny Trekkers & Summit Kids Sally Hearn

I recently learned of the passing of a champion in Children's Ministry and in Education. Barb Newman was a remarkable woman. As her obituary said, "she spent 40 years working towards her goal of including people of all abilities in the body of Christ."

I only met Barb once in person; I attended a conference where she was speaking. Following the conference, I was able to visit with her one-on-one. It was as if we were long lost friends. She took time to listen to my questions and concerns. She offered wise counsel, encouragement, and inspiration. Several years later we communicated by email; and just as before, she provided the same friendship that I had felt the first time we met. As a colleague of hers said, "She was fully present."

In the fleeting moment, Barb had a tremendous impact on my life and ministry. For her, the day we met was just an ordinary day. But I am sure there were many people who left feeling the way I did because she was kind, compassionate, gracious, caring, connected, and fully present.

As we all face challenges in these difficult days, may we be all of those things to those around us. May we be reminded to share the love of Jesus every day with those we come in contact. May we be "fully present" in our relationships. May we be reminded that everyone has a place in the Kingdom and that God has a purpose for all of us no matter our abilities or our disabilities.

Operation Christmas Child is underway! You may participate in this ministry effort in several different ways.

1. Pick up a shoebox (Missions Hub, The Gathering foyer, *The Journey Place*), fill it, and return it to *The Journey Place* Office.
2. Use your own box to fill and return.
3. Go online to www.samaritanspurse.org and donate a box. Please let us know if you do a box (or boxes) online, so we can add it to our count.
4. Drop off items to fill shoeboxes in the tub outside *The Journey Place* entrance. We will put boxes together.

If you have not returned to church yet and would like to pick up a box, call *The Journey Place* Office, and we can place a box on the bench outside for you to pick up.

We will also host a **Drop Off Event** on Tuesday, October 27, from 4-6 p.m. if you would like to drop off your completed box outside *The Journey Place*. **Deadline to return boxes will be Sunday, November 15.**

Family Ornament Party On the Go!

This year's Ornament Party will be "On the Go!" Registration will be online at op.temple.life. Ornament supplies and instructions will be bagged for pick up to do at home. **Registration Deadline: Monday, November 30. Party Bag Pick Up: Thursday, December 3, 5-7 p.m., The Journey Place Parking Lot.**

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!

5:17 PRAYER
LUKE 5:17

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Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

Sunday, October 18

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Special Called Business Meeting | Deacon Nomination (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life (Blended Worship); *the gathering* Worship | Special Called Business Meeting | Deacon Nomination (GS); Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | Special Called Business Meeting | Deacon Nomination (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life (*the gathering* Worship); Sunday School for all ages
2 p.m. - Deacons Meeting (Chapel)
5 p.m. - The Springs *Undivided* Study | Special Called Business Meeting | Deacon Nomination (Lincoln Parish Park, Pavilion L4)

Tuesday, October 20

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

Wednesday, October 21

5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions) (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Women's Bible Study (Rm 261); Men's Bible Study (Rm 76)
6 p.m. - Business Meeting (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life; The Springs Bible Study (Springs Sanctuary); livestream at live.thesprings.life (The Springs Worship); Financial Peace University (Rm 275)
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 22

2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

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

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