

# 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**

There are so many things that I love about serving at Temple Baptist Church, but one of the most personally satisfying ministries is leadership development. Shortly after I arrived in Ruston, I realized that God had strategically placed our congregation here in order to encourage and equip leaders to make a difference for the Kingdom. In truth, the Temple family had been doing that for years! God simply allowed me to come in and join the journey. And, wow, it has been great!

Take this past Sunday as an example. During *the gathering* at 10:30 a.m., we were able to formally recognize for four individuals who have surrendered their lives to vocational ministry: James Davison III, Stephen Kessler, Jonathan Parker, and Cassidy Simmons. Jonathan already holds a degree from Liberty University and has served in both the church context and in chaplaincy work. James and Stephen are currently taking courses at THE New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary (NOBTS) while Cassidy also plans to enroll at NOBTS next semester. You see, this is just one instance of how the leadership pipeline continues to demonstrate itself in our church.

As we move ahead, we look forward to building upon this effort as we develop more leaders locally while sending more individuals into the mission field. One specific way in which we hope to do that is through the creation of the Temple School of Ministry and Missions. This past Wednesday, you affirmed this new ministry that will allow students to receive theological and practical ministry training right here in Ruston. Through the school, men

and women will have opportunities to strengthen their effectiveness in evangelism, teaching, and discipleship. And thanks to a new partnership with NOBTS, those enrolled in the program can receive up to 21 graduate hours of transfer credit (roughly 25% of their desired degree) right here. This is not an extension center for NOBTS. Rather, we direct and maintain all operations of the school. Students will be able to get a head start on seminary if they are in college (almost like a dual enrollment) for a much reduced financial rate than the typical seminary costs. I'll be sharing more of the structure and organization of the school in the upcoming weeks; but let me say, I'm very excited that this has come to fruition. No doubt, the Lord is going to continue to develop leaders within our church family that He will use here and around the globe. And my friends, we get to do it together!

Even though we all have felt the pressures and difficulties of the past few months, I do sense the winds of renewal and expectation circling around us. Last week, we had the best attendance on campus since March (and we still had room for people to socially distance). We are seeing people return to the church; but even more, we have seen several visitors worship with us. Some of those visitors have been watching us online during the past few months, and they have been drawn to our fellowship. That is awesome! Absolutely it is because our God is working in the midst of challenging times to continue His plan and advance His purpose! I hope you are growing excited with me as we reengage together and with the Lord! See you Sunday!

# College Connection

## Casey Casady

Where are college students' minds in relation to ZOOM/online learning? In a recent article by Dr. Tim Elmore, he writes:

Conner isn't an unmotivated student. He wins awards and loves going to summer camp, but he's in anguish over the situation in which he finds herself. He isn't ready for it. Like millions of other members of Generation Z, he's stuck at home in front of a computer — in isolation and turmoil. His situation begs the question: *Why did virtual classrooms fail miserably this year?*

I believe at least one reason was that students weren't ready to manage their own learning. While I'm not sure if this was part of Conner's dilemma, it definitely was for his counterparts all over North America. It may not be their fault though. Despite the rapid growth of online learning, many college students say they still prefer the traditional classroom setting. According to the results of a national research study in USA Today, 78% of more than 1,000 students surveyed that they still prefer to learn in a classroom. Some of the reasons why include:

- **Technical Challenges.** Online learners are often hindered by glitches in technology.
- **Safety.** Virtual learners are frequently exposed to the flaws or dangers of the internet.
- **Lack of Interaction.** Online learners miss out on face-to-face interaction in a class.
- **Lack of Motivation.** Virtual learning lacks the natural incentives of in-person learning.
- **Unpreparedness.** Remote learners can become distracted since it feels impersonal.

It is clear students miss face to face interaction. I think on some level we all do. We know that God has created us to be people in community with one another. The challenge is clear, we as followers of Christ need to maximize the face-to-face opportunities God gives us. We can maintain our social distance, wear masks, and refrain from touching as we see fit. However, we can slow down our pace of life, stop and say hello to people we see, ask questions about life, and engage others in good ole fashion conversation. We can be a caring community of faith even socially distanced. Virtual life is a life, but it is a poor substitute for community.

*A Thank you card has been received from...*  
CSE faculty and staff  
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

### Operation Christmas Child

You may participate 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](http://www.samaritanspurse.org) and donate a box. Please let us know if you do a box (or boxes) online, to add 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.**

FREEDOM13 MINISTRIES

**FREEDOM13 MINISTRIES Equip.**

NEW VOLUNTEER TRAINING  
PURCHASED: NOT FOR SALE NELA  
COOK BAPTIST CHURCH  
OCT. 24TH 10AM-12PM

PURCHASED

**FREE EVENT**

Register at  
[eventbrite.com/  
e/freedom13-  
ministries-equip-  
tickets-122588261791](https://eventbrite.com/e/freedom13-ministries-equip-tickets-122588261791)

### Christian Community Action Food Distribution VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITY

**October 31 | Temple's Parking Lot (Outside Event)**

**Time Slots: 9-11:30 a.m. and/or 11 a.m.-1:30 p.m.**  
(You may select one or both time slots.)

CCA will distribute 1,000 boxes of food!

Contact: George in the Church Office or [george@temple.life](mailto:george@temple.life)

**The flowers in the Sanctuary** are in memory of  
H.P. "Sleepy" Roberts and Harold Bauman,  
given by church family.

## The Springs' Newest Membership Candidates



Donte and Capri  
Reddick

### Budget Proposal Discussion

Wednesday, November 4 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary

### Special Called (Annual) Business Meeting

Sunday, November 8, during all services

for the purpose of

2021 Budget Approval and Election of Deacons



### Family Ornament Party On the Go!

This year's Ornament Party will be "On the Go!"

Registration will be online at [op.temple.life](http://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**



the family of **Larry Malone**, grandfather of

Jacob (Amanda) Ambrose; the family of

**Wayne Harris**, husband of Nelda; the family of

**Steve Morton**, son of Alverne Morton.

### Senior Adult "Not-Summer" Bible Study

A study of the book of Jeremiah

Dr. Argile Smith

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

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



## Neighbors and Nations

*Ben Jernigan*

Paul wrote to the church at Philippi, ... "to live is Christ, and to die is gain." As followers of Jesus, these words challenge us to live fully for Jesus at all times until we receive the ultimate crown in heaven. Last week, our missionary force suddenly lost a faithful witness, David Patrick. David was a friend of ours who served the Lord faithfully through the IMB with his wife, Erica, and their three small kids for over 15 years. Please pray for the Patrick family as they mourn his loss and celebrate his life. Let us be inspired, like David, to live our days well for Jesus until He calls us home!

Celebrate! Thank you, church family, for supporting the work Louisiana Baptists are doing throughout our state! We met and exceeded our **Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering** goal with a grand total of **\$28,302!** Great job, TBC!

Hurricane Laura and Delta have wreaked havoc on our state, and many of you have already played a strong role in helping Louisianians recover through disaster relief work. Shady Grove Baptist Church (Pitkin, LA) needs a new roof, and they need a team to help put it on! If you would be interested in this weekend trip, please contact me in the Church Office to sign up. This trip will happen in the next few weeks; details will come soon.

**Upward Basketball and Cheerleading registration** is almost here! We are looking forward to another great Upward season this year! Upward is for kids in grades 1-6. Registration begins November 1, and you can sign up online or through the Recreation Office.

For more TBC mission stories, read our blog at [tbconmission.wordpress.com](http://tbconmission.wordpress.com) and follow us on Instagram at [temple.go](http://temple.go).

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: PR  
17 AY  
ER  
LUKE 5:17

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

## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, October 25

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  
5 p.m. - The Springs Fellowship (Home of Mark & Julie Russell,  
870 Pea Ridge Rd., Dubach)

### Monday, October 26

9:30 a.m. - Senior Adult "Not-Summer" Bible Study (Sanctuary)

### Tuesday, October 27

9:30 a.m. - Senior Adult "Not-Summer" Bible Study (Sanctuary)  
4 p.m. - Operation Christmas Child Drop-Off (Outside of JP)

### Wednesday, October 28

9:30 a.m. - Senior Adult "Not-Summer" Bible Study (Sanctuary)  
5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 76); Children's M<sup>3</sup> (Missions) (JP);  
Junior High Worship (Youth Rm);  
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary); livestream at  
*live.temple.life*; Women's Bible Study (Rm 261); 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 29

2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

### Saturday, October 31

9 a.m. - CCA Food Distribution (Temple's Parking Lot)

### 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*)