

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

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). This is the gospel. This is the message of Christmas. This season, as all seasons, focuses upon Jesus Christ and His mission for us. It is not about gifts. It is not about family gatherings. It is not about poinsettias. It is not about holiday music. It is not about time off from work/school. It is not about extra hunting opportunities. It is not about Saint Nick. It is all about Jesus, the God-Man, who came to save His people from their sins! **Christmas exists because Christ exists!** And the good news of His birth and work should prompt us to exalt Him accordingly! Kind of like we did this past Sunday! What a day it was as our Music Ministry led us in worship of the King! There were moments when I thought I would leave my front pew to join the worshippers on the platform. As Mary expressed her deeply personal praise in Luke 1:46-55, my soul magnified the Lord! Thank you Jeremy, Zach, ensemble, orchestra, Gathering Band, and technical support personnel for your faithfulness in leading us. You all reminded us of the center of our worship—Jesus Himself!

Of course, the Christmas season is not complete, and I hope you will take time to join us this coming Sunday as we again worship the King. We will continue our “**Sounds of Christmas**” series with “Zacharias’ Spiritual Song” in

Luke 1:67-79 (NKJV). Moreover, make plans to be at one of my favorite worship services of the year – our **Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!** Remember, this year we will have opportunities to at both **4 p.m. and 6 p.m.** to worship together on Christmas Eve. I encourage you to RSVP for one of those services so we can plan accordingly.

Finally, I am reminded that our worship response entails more than simply gathering together. Oh, that is so important! To assemble as a body of Christ is essential to our existence! But we must also **go** with the “good news” of Christmas as well. We have a responsibility to tell others the salvation story. As we close the year, intentionally share the gospel with a friend, family member, neighbor, or even stranger. And let us know the person’s initials so that we can pray for that individual. In addition, let’s **give** sacrificially to advance His mission here and around the world. If we truly believe that God sent His Son to redeem the nations and provide eternal life, then we must be faithful to support the effort through our resources. To date, we have given over \$112,000 toward our \$160,000 Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goal. May we finish strong in our giving to international missions! And remember, it takes us all to make a difference!

I’m looking forward to what the Lord has in store for us this week! I hope you are too! See you Sunday!

YOUNG ADULT News

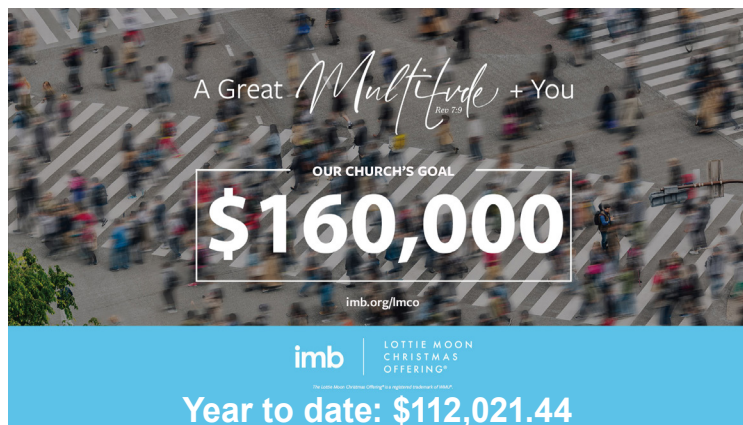
Jacob Ambrose

We are looking forward to a great new year in 2021 in the Young Adult Ministry! We will continue to connect young adults into community, push them into deeper accountability relationships, equip them for the work of the ministry, and release them to serve in the power of the Spirit in Ruston and beyond. Although there were many challenges and setbacks in 2020 (to say the least), we praise the Lord that we were able to see these things accomplished in the lives of our young adults this year. We will kick off Young Adult Worship on Tuesday, January 12, at 7 p.m. in the Chapel and will continue on an every-other-week basis. If you know of any young adult in their 20's-30's struggling to find community with other believers, point them in our direction! We greatly anticipate what the Lord is going to do in our lives and in this ministry in the years to come.



In accordance with IRS regulations, **contributions for 2020** must physically be in the church's possession **OR** postmarked by **Thursday, December 31**.

ALL contributions submitted after December 31 will appear on 2021 contribution statements.



The flowers in the Sanctuary are poinsettias purchased by members of the Temple family in memory of or in honor of loved ones.

Sugar for CCA

Local Mission Opportunity

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



UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

December 23 (Wednesday)

All activities are canceled.

December 24, 25, & 28 (Thursday, Friday, Monday)

Church Offices Closed for Christmas Holidays

December 27 (Sunday)

9 a.m. Combined Worship | Lord's Supper
Sunday School is canceled.

December 30 (Wednesday)

All activities are canceled.

January 1 (Friday)

Church Offices Closed for New Year's Day



Temple's Newest Membership Candidates:



Calvin Martin



Avery Spangler



Shirley Stephens



the family of **Mae Dugan**, mother of Brenda (Gene) Smith, grandmother of Casey (Jonathan) Oden, and great-grandmother of Rayne, Noah, and Lily; the family of **Claire Evelyn Caver**, sister of Curtis Tubbs.



A thank you card has been received from...
The Jernigans; Shannon, Kristie, Tanner, Levi, & Lillie Frasier
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

From the Associate Minister of Music

Zach Husser

Merry Christmas, Church Family! It's amazing how the Lord has changed my perspective on the Advent season throughout the years. He's really grown my understanding of what it means to celebrate what he accomplished through the incarnation.

Each week in *the gathering* service, we have had a special prayer time emphasis on the various themes of Advent. Last week focused on **God's Peace**, and I wanted to share with you the narration that we read to the congregation:

"Where many would have felt despair, hopelessness, betrayal, and shame; Joseph and Mary were given peace in the midst of impossible circumstances. Their faith is a demonstration to us all that peace in life does not come from the circumstances that surround us but in the anchor of our faith in Jesus Christ. The candle that we light today represents the peace of God and reminds us that nothing is impossible with God. True peace is only found in Christ and the knowledge of who he is and what he's accomplished."

We then challenged the congregation to pray for God's Peace in three specific areas: 1) Their own walk with the Lord 2) Their family 3) The world. Maybe you could pray for the same right now. I hope you and your family have a great Christmas!

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, December 20

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 Worship (Outside at The Springs)

Wednesday, December 23

All activities are canceled.

Thursday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Church Offices Closed

4 p.m. - Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)
6 p.m. - Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service (Sanctuary)

Friday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

Church Offices Closed - Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 27

9 a.m. - Combined Worship Service | Lord's Supper (Sanctuary)
5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (Outside at The Springs)

Monday, December 28

Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 30

All activities are canceled.

Friday, January 1

Church Offices Closed

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)

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.