

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

No doubt, this Christmas season seems a bit different than usual. After all, it is still 2020! And as much as I am disappointed in the cancellations of parties and programs, perhaps the simplicity of the holidays reminds us to center our thoughts on Christ. In particular, we recognize that the days are about more than a flurry of activities; they call us to worship Jesus as the one and only Savior of humanity.

Recall that announcement on the first Christmas? The angel declared, "Fear not; for behold, I bring you good tidings of great joy, which shall be to all people. For unto you is born this day in the city of David a Saviour, which is Christ the Lord" (Luke 2:10-11 KJV). The message was simple but powerful: Good news! The Savior has finally come, and He has brought salvation to all of the world! Jesus was the predicted Messiah who came to provide forgiveness for sinful humanity. In fact, he was born to die. The Father's plan was for His Son to become the sacrifice for our sin. Through Christ's work, we have the opportunity to experience true spiritual freedom. Again, that's good news, news that prompted a multitude of angels to exclaim, "Glory to God in the highest" (Luke 2:14a KJV).

Humanity joined the supernatural chorus in their own gratitude. A group of rugged, smelly shepherds were the first to hear the news. This ragtag group did not rank high on the social ladder, but God revealed to them the news of salvation. Their response? Ultimately, they praised and glorified God (Luke 2:20). They worshiped Jesus as the Messiah.

Some time later in the infancy narrative, an Eastern caravan followed the star's direction to find this new King. Unlike the shepherds, the wise men were wealthy, well-respected members of society. However, their response was basically the same as their shepherd counterparts. The Scripture relates that the magi came (some time after the birth) to worship the King of the Jews (Matthew 2:2). When they found the young boy, they worshiped Him and presented gifts to Him. Extraordinarily, the wise men recognized Jesus as the true King.

So what does this mean to us? It should mean that our primary response to the Christ of Christmas involves worship. Supernatural beings as well as human beings worshiped. The affluent as well as the lowly worshiped. No matter who you are or what your position, you are called to recognize Jesus as the one and only Savior who is worthy of your worship. You may choose various elements to aid your worship, but your focus should be Christ. He alone has achieved our salvation!

I encourage you to take some personal moments to exalt our Lord and to join fellow believers in worship as well. Gather with us this Sunday, December 27, for our Combined Worship Service at 9 a.m. as we observe the ordinances of baptism and the Lord's Supper. Then plan to join us for the first Sunday of 2021, January 3, as we look to turn the calendar with a renewed resolve. My friends, we have so much to celebrate! And there is no better way to rejoice than coming together to worship as one united family! See you Sunday! And Merry Christmas!

Education & Administration News

Jason Walsworth

Merry Christmas, Temple family! Every year when we arrive at Christmas, it feels like this is the time we have waited for all year long. The hope and joy that the Lord gives us is truly a gift from God, and I am thankful He makes it available to us more than just during this season. I pray the Lord will bless you and keep you as we begin a new year. Let's commit to walk with Him and follow Him wherever He leads in 2021. Pretty soon, we will gather for our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service, and I wanted to give you a few details about what we plan to do differently this year. Thanks for your help and patience as we manage this season we are in!

- A **4 p.m. and a 6 p.m. service** this year, just in case you haven't heard!
- Please **enter** the Sanctuary by Fellowship Hall **or** the Church Office in order to help our ushers.
- We will begin by skipping rows, but once we get over 350 people that is no longer possible. Our ushers will help people find seats and space you out as best we can. There will likely be someone seated closer than normal to you.
- The **balcony will be open**, and you can use the stairs or elevator. We will have ushers to help with seating upstairs as well.
- **Candles: clean , unused candles will be used for each service** will be by the exterior doors as you enter. Please **pick one up** on your way in and **drop them** back in the same buckets as you exit.
- Please encourage people to **wear masks**, and some will be available.
- We will use all of the doors to **exit** after each service.
- Pews will be **wiped down** between each service.

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Create your profile and explore away!



FEBRUARY 4-6
CAMP CANEY | \$160

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
RESURRECTION
MEN'S RETREAT

A POWERFUL 3-DAY EXPERIENCE
FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST IN
YOUR FAITH AND BUILD BROTHERHOOD
WITH OTHER MEN.

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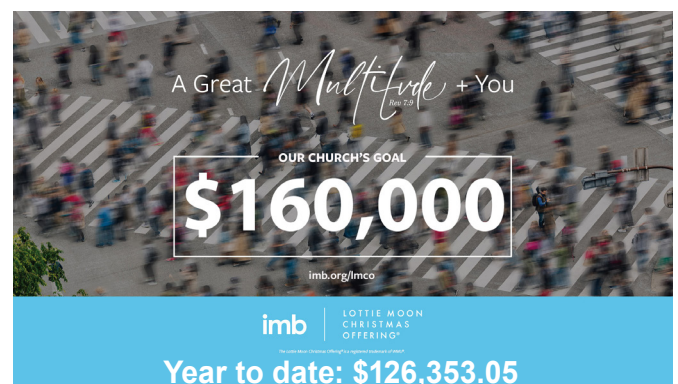


LIFETREE PROJECT

MONTH OF DECEMBER
PICK UP AN ORNAMENT BY GUEST SERVICES,
ACROSS FROM THE MISSIONS HUB OR
GATHERING SPACE FOYER.

FIND MORE INFO AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)

A thank you card has been received from...
Trae, Dedria, Nicole, & Jackson Brashear; Bitsy Martin
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)



A Great *Multi-City* + You

OUR CHURCH'S GOAL

\$160,000

imb.org/lmco

imb | LOTTIE MOON CHRISTMAS OFFERING

Year to date: **\$126,353.05**

The flowers in the Sanctuary are memory of
D.E. "Blue" Parkman on the occasion of his birthday,
given by the Donnie Parkman family.

Temple's Newest Membership Candidate



Madison Bratton

UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

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



Congratulations to:

Scott and Robin Sullivan on the birth of their granddaughter, **Laura Kate Roach**; Matthew and Katy Fisher on the birth of their daughter, **Sophia Pearl**. Proud brother is Bankston and grandparents are David and Nancy Darland.

REGULAR WEDNESDAY EVENING SCHEDULE RESUMES WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 6.

5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ Music (JP) | Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary)
The Springs Bible Study (Springs Sanctuary)
7 p.m. - Senior High Worship (Youth Rm)
8 p.m. - Midweek (Sanctuary)

DEACON ORDINATION COUNCIL

Sunday, January 10 | 2 p.m. | Chapel

All ordained men are invited to attend.

DEACON ORDINATION

Wednesday, January 13 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary

Richard Hood, Brad Waller, and Brandon Williams

Our app to find
Serving Opportunities,
Event Information,
and more!



Download
the app today.



You may also find
Volunteer Opportunities
at volunteer.temple.life

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 family of **Robbie Robison**, father of Eddie
(Kimberly) Robison, grandfather of Abbie, Annelise,
Ethan, and Emma Robison; the family of **Barbara
Sylvia King Harper**, grandmother of Hannah and Zach Harper.

The Journey Place Ting Trekkers & Summit Kids Sally Hearn

Merry Christmas, Church Family! May your hearts be filled with the joy of the season as we celebrate the birth of our Savior. I am so thankful for the hope we have in Christ and the promises that Christmas brings to us. As we begin a new year, may we continue to trust the One who is faithful in all things. You are loved!

Bible Drill for Grades 4-6 will begin in January. We will have an Orientation Meeting for new participants and parents on Sunday, January 3, at 4 p.m. Bible Drill will begin on Sunday, January 10, at 4:30 p.m.

Save the Dates:

VBS 2021: Destination Dig June 7-11

WinShape Camp: July 12-16

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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Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

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);
livestream at live.temple.life

Friday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

Church Offices Closed - Merry Christmas

Sunday, December 27

9 a.m. - Combined Worship Service | Lord's Supper | Baptism (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

Sunday, January 3

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

4 p.m. - Bible Drill Orientation (JP Multipurpose Rm)

5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (Outside at The Springs)

Wednesday, January 6

5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ Music (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary); The Springs Bible Study
(Springs Sanctuary)

7 p.m. - Senior High Worship (Youth Rm)

8 p.m. - 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.

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