

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

A few years ago, Leslie became enamored with the Mitford series, a collection of books that focused upon the ministry of a small-town, Episcopal priest who was affectionately called Father Tim. Every evening, I would find her consumed in her literary pursuit as she moved from page to page, and I admit that I dared not interrupt her. Rather, I waited until she emerged from her text and shared Father Tim's journey. On one such occasion, Leslie drew insight from the priest's sermonic prowess and offered her suggestion. "Reg," she said, "I've just discovered the best sermon ever."

"Yes?" I responded, not sure where this was about to go.

She then related her thought: "Father Tim stepped to the pulpit, opened his Bible to 1 Thessalonians 5:18, and read 'In everything, give thanks.' He then sat down. Isn't that a great sermon? Why don't you preach a message like that?"

Of course, I have never quite delivered such a brief sermon (and I know you are shocked!), but I recognize her point. There is something impactful about the simple, all-encompassing truth of that injunction. The straightforward command to believers is to give thanks.

And what is more? Our gratitude should be expressed in every imaginable context, in every imaginable way. The literal translation of

1 Thessalonians 5:18, "in all, give thanks," underscores the exhaustive nature of our thanksgiving. I am actually convinced that Paul purposely left the word *all* vague. As such, it could mean "in all things," "in all ways," "in all times," "in all contexts," etc. We thank God for everything by using every method at our disposal in every moment of our lives. Our appreciation for God and His blessings is to be evident "in all." Pretty comprehensive for four English words, isn't it?

This week, let's stop and praise our Lord for Who He is and what He has done. Thank Him for our daily provision. Recount the blessings of family and friendship. Exalt His saving Name, and express gratitude for forgiveness. In other words, "in everything, give thanks!"

Thank you for letting my family be a part of your lives. There are no other people like the ones we call Temple Baptist Church! We love and appreciate you all! See you Sunday!

FROM THE RECORDS OF NOVEMBER 24, 2019

Worship Attendance		Sunday School Attendance '19	
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	506	9 a.m. Sunday School	NA
9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	153	10:30 a.m. Sunday School	NA
10:30 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	101	First Steps	117
The Springs Worship Service	23	Off Campus	93
Combined Morning Total	783	Total	NA

Sunday, November 24, 2019	
Budget	\$49,717.25
Share the Light	\$1,725.00



Preschool Ministry ~ First Steps

Bible stories and Bible-learning activities for our preschoolers (Babies-Kindergarten).

Sundays 9-11:30 a.m.

Neighbors and Nations

Ben Jernigan

In Romans 8, one of my favorite chapters in the Bible, we find how followers of Christ can walk confidently as we live on mission for Him. God is for us. He gave us His best. Regardless of our past, we are justified by Him. Jesus is praying for us. We are more than conquerors through Him. We cannot be separated from His love. I'll say it again, because Paul does, we cannot be separated from His love! This should compel all of us to live on mission for Him!

Thank you for your support of the **Border Compassion trip!** We saw many people hurting and fleeing challenging circumstances for the hope of a new land. It was awesome to see God working through our church! We put together and delivered 258 hygiene kits in addition to hundreds of other supplies. Our mission team saw many patients during two days of medical clinics. They served faithfully at the respite center. They brought smiles to kids through teddy bears, warmth to families through sweaters, and hope to many through sharing the Gospel of Jesus! We saw nine people who made professions of faith in Christ! Thank you for being faithful to the task!

Sunday, December 8, is March for Missions Sunday! This is truly a special service for our church and a meaningful act of worship as we give to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering. One hundred percent of your LMCO gift goes to support the 3,678 International Mission Board missionaries serving around the world. Just last year, they engaged 847 different people groups globally! This year's goal at Temple is \$155,000. Please pray about your gift as we hold the rope for our missionaries worldwide!

Upward Basketball season is upon us, and we need your help! If you are looking for a place to make a kingdom impact in Ruston, Upward basketball is the opportunity for you! We need coaches, greeters, and referees, as well as people to do half-time devotionals and more! If you are interested, contact Emma Shelton at emma@temple.life, 255-6184.

For more TBC missions stories, read our blog at tbconmission.wordpress.com and follow us on Instagram at temple.go

Where Moms Connect: A Time of Encouragement

Monday, December 9 | 9:30 a.m. | *The Journey Place*
Moms, come and enjoy meaningful conversation, laughter, and friendship!



FAMILY ORNAMENT PARTY

(ORNAMENT STATIONS FOR PRESCHOOLERS & GRADES 1-5)

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 5
6-8 P.M., FELLOWSHIP HALL

(COME & GO)

KIDS: BRING YOUR PARENTS AND COME MAKE ORNAMENTS TOGETHER!
WE WILL HAVE PIZZA AND A BIRTHDAY CAKE FOR JESUS.

PARENTS' NIGHT OUT

Friday, December 13 | 5:30-8:30 p.m.

The Journey Place

Cost: \$3/child

Sign up online at nightout.temple.life

Deadline to sign up: Sunday, December 8

(Great night for Sunday School Christmas parties!)

Congratulations to:

Thomas and Rachel Davison on the birth of their daughter,
Caoline Britt. Proud sisters are Olivia and Lilly
and grandparents are Todd and Renee.
Great grandparents are James and Dianne Davison.

UPWARD
SPORTS

Basketball & Cheerleading!

Registration Closed but need **Volunteers for Evaluation Nights (No Experience Necessary)**

Evaluations: December 2 & 3 from 5-7 p.m.
in the Family Life Center

Contact: Emma, 255-6184, emma@temple.life

Worship with
Zion Traveler
Baptist Church

@ Temple Baptist
Church

December 15 | 6 p.m.
Sanctuary

Meal to follow in Fellowship Hall

**MEN'S
Retreat**

**THURSDAY, JANUARY 30, 5 P.M. -
SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 12 P.M.**

SEEKER SPRINGS

\$160

REGISTER AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE

Temple Men's Retreat is a powerful 3-day experience filled with opportunities to invest in your own faith journey and build brotherhood with other men. We are limited on space and have less than 40 spots, so please register today!



the family of **Thomas Brantley**,
father of Will (Kelly), grandfather of Sara.

M³ Christmas Program

Sunday, December 8
6 p.m. | Sanctuary

3 year olds - Grade 5

Mary Martha Women on Missions

Monday, December 2 | 6:30 p.m. | Home of Ann Windsor
Speaker: Dr. Joanne Hood
Project: Money for Lottie Moon Offering

Upcoming Schedule of Events

December 8

March for Missions (During all Morning Worship Services and The Springs)
6 p.m. M³ Music Program (Evening Worship)

December 15

9 a.m. Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. Combined Worship | Christmas Music Program
6 p.m. Combined Evening Worship with Zion Traveler

December 22

9 a.m. Blended Worship & *the gathering* Worship;
Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. *the gathering* Worship; Sunday School for all ages
4 p.m. Retirement Reception for Cecil Barham
and Church-wide Caroling (*Evening Worship is canceled.*)

December 24

5 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 25, & 26

Church Offices Closed for Christmas Holidays
Wednesday activities are canceled.

December 29

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

January 1

Church Offices Closed for New Year's Day
Wednesday activities are canceled.

imb | LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

WEEK OF PRAYER: DECEMBER 1 - 8
MARCH FOR MISSIONS: DECEMBER 8

CHURCH GOAL: \$155,000
NATIONAL GOAL: \$165 MILLION

YOUNG ADULT News
Jacob Ambrose

There are two upcoming events for Young Adults of which I want to make you aware.

A small group of ladies will be going to the **Living Proof Live Conference** in New Orleans, on January 17-18, 2020. At this LADIES ONLY event, you will experience the powerful biblical teaching of Beth Moore, and be led in worship by Travis Cottrell. The cost is \$65 per ticket. Transportation and lodging expenses will be split amongst the group.

Over Valentine's Day weekend, we will be taking a group of couples to **XO Marriage Conference** at Gateway Church in Southlake, TX. Speakers include Jimmy Evans, Robert Morris, Michael Todd, and many more! The event begins Friday, February 14, at 9 a.m., and ends Saturday, February 15, at 11:30 a.m. The cost per couple for tickets and 2 nights in a hotel room is \$300. If you would like to travel on your own and choose your own hotel, the cost for tickets only is \$112.

More details about both of these events can be found by visiting events.temple.life and clicking on the respective event. We hope you can join us!

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JOIN TEMPLE
WOMEN'S MINISTRY
& HEARTFELT FRIENDS
FOR A
*Fa-La-La
Fiesta!*
Tuesday, December 3
6 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
Registration Deadline:
Sunday, December 1
RSVP at holiday.temple.life

Deacons of the Week—December 1-7
Brian Spurlock & Matt Woodard

Label here

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

Week-at-a-Glance

**Week of Prayer for International Missions - Lottie Moon Offering ~
December 1-8**

Senior Adult Trip to Dallas - OCC Distribution Center ~ December 3-4
Life Choices Tree Project ~ December 4-19

Sunday, December 1 ~ Advent Week 1 (Hope)

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Baptism (Sanctuary); *the gathering* Worship (GS);
Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship (GS); Sunday School for all ages
5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs)
6 p.m. - Evening Worship (Chapel); *temple-tech* Sunday Night Supper;
High School Worship (Youth Rm)

Monday, December 2

5 p.m. - Upward Evaluation Night (FLC)
6:30 p.m. - Mary Martha Women on Mission (Home of Ann Windsor)

Tuesday, December 3

5 p.m. - Upward Evaluation Night (FLC)
6 p.m. - Women's Ministry Fa-La-La Fiesta! (FH); The Crossing Bible Study (JPMR)

Wednesday, December 4

9 a.m. - Friendship International (Rm 76); Quilting/Sewing (FH)
12 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Menu: Soup, Salad, & Sandwich; Cost: \$4/person,
\$2/child under 8, \$12 max/family); The Springs Small Group (The Springs)
5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ Dress Rehearsal and Party (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP)
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - GREEN TEAM (FH);
Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); High School Bible Study (Rm 252)
6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm); Nicaragua Mission Team
Meeting (Rm 75)
7 p.m. - *temple-tech* Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)
8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

Thursday, December 5

2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)
6 p.m. - Children's Ministry Ornament Party (FH)

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.
The Journey Place Playscape Hours: Monday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday: 2:30-5 p.m.; Friday: 9 a.m.-11 a.m.
Media Center Hours: Sunday: 8:15-9 a.m.; 10:30-11 a.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1:30-5 p.m.
Broadcast Hours: Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY)

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