

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

Justice Anderson writes, "In the early stages of the church, mission was more than a function; it was a fundamental expression of the life of the church." In other words, the proclamation of the Gospel naturally grew out of early believers' identity in Christ and their authentic belief in His work. Missions was not a manufactured program, but a sincere outflow of the church's response to grace. I love this characterization of our missionary efforts because I believe it correctly connects those endeavors with the reality of our own experience today. Indeed, we as Christ-followers are constrained to demonstrate His love in our lives as we carry the good news of salvation to the nations. If we were to fail to do such, we would be abandoning our distinctiveness and responsibility. Or in the words of Emil Brunner, we would forfeit our very existence: "The church exists by mission, just as fire exists by burning. Where there is no mission, there is no Church; and where there is neither Church nor mission, there is no faith." Similarly, George W. Truett once stated that the church who is not missionary in spirit and practice does not deserve the ground upon which its building stands. I totally agree. For as Truett declared, "The earth is the LORD's, and the fulness thereof, and they that dwell therein" (Psalm 24:1). Our God has claim over the whole world and its inhabitants. He deserves all peoples' worship and devotion; indeed, He deserves all glory.

I give thanks continually to be a part of our church that embraces missions and supports it through praying, giving,

and going. For example, this month is an opportunity for us to rally around international missionaries in prayer and financial support. I hope that we have specifically committed time to lift up our brothers and sisters in Christ who serve areas overseas. Many are in cultures that are openly hostile to the Gospel, yet we believe that the Holy Spirit is powerful enough to convict and transform rebellious hearts. I say we should pray in faith to that end! And don't stop there. Pray for God to grant safety, physical strength, wisdom, and spiritual empowerment to those missionaries. In addition, consider how you can give sacrificially to support our international missionaries and their ministries. This coming Sunday morning, we will participate in our annual March for Missions, as we visibly affirm our support by bringing our mission offerings to baskets around the Sanctuary and Gathering Space. Please consider how God is leading you to give and prepare yourselves to "march" this Sunday. And remember, every dollar that we give to this Lottie Moon Christmas Offering goes to assist the field missionaries of the International Mission Board of the Southern Baptist Convention. Through our selfless giving to the Lottie Moon Offering, we will not only reach our \$155,000 church goal, but we will far surpass it. And even greater than meeting a goal, we will advance the Gospel to the nations! Again, I am grateful for you and look forward to joining with you this Sunday as we make a difference for His kingdom! See you then!

FROM THE RECORDS OF DECEMBER 1, 2019

Worship Attendance		Sunday School Attendance '19	
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	579	9 a.m. Sunday School	82
9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	216	10:30 a.m. Sunday School	645
10:30 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	201	First Steps	115
The Springs Worship Service	28	Off Campus	93
Combined Morning Total	1024	Total	935

Sunday, December 1, 2019	
Budget	\$74,451.50
Share the Light	\$2,880.00



Preschool Ministry ~ First Steps

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

Sundays 9-11:30 a.m.

Education & Administration News

Jason Walsworth

We wish you a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year! This is my last chance to write for *The Tidings* in 2019, so I wanted to wish you all a Merry Christmas. We are so blessed to serve together and at such a great church. I am just completing my first year as Minister of Education and Administration. How time has flown by! I appreciate all the work our Sunday School leaders have done to serve this year, and some great plans are in place for 2020 as well. Let's start praying for the Lord to do a great work in 2020 and be ready to go wherever He leads us.

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. Over 2,000 men from the Monroe area have attended these men's retreats in the last few years. The Lord has used these to bring about salvation and renewal in the lives of men. We are excited to be the first Ruston church to host one. The dates are Thursday, January 30 (5 p.m.), to Saturday, February 1 (12 p.m.), at Seeker Springs and the cost is \$160. We are limited on space and have less than 40 spots, so please register today at events.temple.life

December 15 Schedule: 9 a.m. Sunday School; 10:30 a.m. Christmas Music Program in the Sanctuary.

I want to remind you that we are moving all Sunday School classes to 9 a.m. on this day only. So meet in your normal classroom at 9 a.m. instead of 10:30 a.m. then join us for Combined Worship in the Sanctuary. If you already go to a 9 a.m. class, you may have a few new faces on Sunday.

The Life Tree Project

(to benefit Life Choices of North Central Louisiana)

Now-Thursday, December 19

Life Trees are located by Guest Services, across from Missions Hub & the Gathering Space foyer.

To Participate: choose an ornament, purchase item listed on back, and then return item and ornament to the box located by the Church Office or to Life Choices.

Retirement Reception for Cecil Barham

Supervisor of Building & Property

Sunday, December 22 | 4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Join us as we celebrate Cecil and Babs' service to Temple.

Presentation will be made at 4:30 p.m.

(Christmas Caroling to follow - Evening Worship is canceled)

Myrtle King Lunch Bunch

Thursday, December 12 | 12 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Speakers: Loy and Deborah Seal, Mission Trip to Baton Rouge

Projects: Canned Meat, Sugar for CCA

Senior Adult Luncheon

Tuesday, December 17 | 12 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Program: Christmas Music by Hannah Parker

A Glorious Mystery:

Come and See What God Has Done

A Christmas Worship Experience

Sunday, December 15 | 10:30 a.m.

Sanctuary

Sunday School | 9 a.m.

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!

**Worship with
Zion Traveler
Baptist Church**

© Temple Baptist
Church

December 15 | 6 p.m.
Sanctuary

Meal to follow in Fellowship Hall



A thank you card has been received from...
LA Adult & Teen Challenge Staff & Students
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)



Upcoming Schedule of Events

December 8

March for Missions (All Morning Worship Services & 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 &
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.

Our Heartfelt Sympathy to:
the family of **Murlene Benedict**, sister
of Hilda Estes; the family of **Keith Bunn**,
husband of Pam.

The Journey Place
Tiny Trekkers & Summit Kids
Sally Hearn

The holidays are upon us and what a blessing it is to celebrate our Savior. I pray we will always remember that He is the Greatest Gift. May we instill in our children the true meaning of the season and encourage them to share that with others.

Family Advent Calendars are available in *The Journey Place* if you have not picked one up yet.

Family Ornament Party: Thursday, December 5, from 6-8 p.m. "Come and Go" as a family and make ornaments together. Pizza and a Birthday Cake for Jesus will be served.

Children's M³ Choir Music Program: Sunday, December 8, at 6 p.m. in the Sanctuary (3 year olds-Grade 5)

December Parent's Night Out: Friday, December 13, from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in *The Journey Place*. Cost is \$3/child. Sign up online at nightout.temple.life. Deadline to sign up is Sunday, December 8. You may send supper with your child. A snack will be provided.

Sign up online at nightout.temple.life or through the church app through the "Events Tab."

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imb | LOTTIE MOON
CHRISTMAS
OFFERING®

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

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

Deacons of the Week—December 8-14
George Stone & Mike Stone

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**

Life Choices Tree Project ~ December 4-19

Sunday, December 8 ~ Advent Week 2 (Peace)

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | March for Missions (Sanctuary); *the gathering* Worship |
Celebration Choir | March for Missions (GS); Sunday School for all ages
10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | Celebration Choir | March for Missions (GS);
Sunday School for all ages
3:45 p.m. - M³ Children's Christmas Program Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
5 p.m. - The Springs Worship | March for Missions (The Springs)
6 p.m. - Evening Worship | M³ Children's Christmas Program (Sanctuary);
High School Worship (Youth Rm)

Monday, December 9

9:30 a.m. - Where Moms Connect (JPMR)
6 p.m. - Upward Basketball Coaches Training (FLC)

Tuesday, December 10

6 p.m. - Orchestra Christmas Rehearsal
6:30 p.m. - Christmas Program Final Rehearsal #1

Wednesday, December 11

9 a.m. - Friendship International (Rm 76); Quilting/Sewing (FH)
5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH); Menu: Chicken & Dumplings; Cost: \$4/person,
\$2/child under 8, \$12 max/family); The Springs Small Group (The Springs)
5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ Missions Only (Projects and Parties) (JP)
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - RED TEAM (FH);
Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); High School Bible Study (Rm 252)
6:45 p.m. - Christmas Program Final Rehearsal #2
7 p.m. - *temple-tech* Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)
8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

Thursday, December 12

12 p.m. - Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (FH)
2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

Friday, December 13

5:30 p.m. - Parents' Night Out (JP)

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

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)