

# 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! Kinda 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 that I thought I would leave my pew to join the worshippers in the choir and on the platform. To me, it was one of the best Christmas celebrations of which I have been a part! Thank you choir, orchestra, and technical support personnel for your faithfulness in leading us. (I'm looking for some of you back in the choir loft when January rolls around!) And thanks to Jeremy for his preparation and guidance for the worship event. I am so grateful I get to serve with him and Zach here at Temple.

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 Jesus, the King. (Note: Our morning services will return to our normal schedule as we gather together this week.) Moreover, make plans to be at one of

my favorite worship services of the year – our Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!


As the year moves to its end, so with it we recognize the retirement of my friend and co-laborer, Cecil Barham. For almost eleven years, Cecil has faithfully served and ministered here at Temple Baptist Church as our Supervisor of Buildings and Property. And if you know anything about our campus, you know that is a tremendous undertaking! There are so many different facets to the work (from maintenance, cleanliness, transportation, supervision, etc.). We have been blessed to have him on our leadership team, and we look forward to continuing to serve with him through the church ministry. But no doubt, we want to stop and express our gratitude to him this week. Please join me in taking a moment out of your hectic holiday schedule to drop by a reception in his honor this Sunday at 4 p.m. We'll eat some pizza together and collectively say thanks! We love Cecil and his family! Let's show them!

Finally, I want to say how much my family and I appreciate you, our Temple family. You give, you serve, you minister in Jesus' Name. Every day, I see the grace on your faces and the works in your lives. You constantly live out the Great Commission and give to see the gospel circumnavigate the globe. (To date, you have given over \$130,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering alone!). Leslie, my kids, and I are so grateful we get to do life and ministry with you. Thanks always for letting us be a part of what our Lord is doing in and through Temple Baptist Church. You are loved dearly! Merry Christmas!

### FROM THE RECORDS OF DECEMBER 15, 2019

Worship Attendance	
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	1403
Combined Morning Total	1403

Sunday School Attendance '19	
9 a.m. Sunday School	858
First Steps	110
Off Campus	107
Total	1075



<b>Sunday, December 15, 2019</b>	
Budget	\$48,175.14
Share the Light	\$1,100.00
Lottie Moon Offering	\$130,259.58

# College Connection Casey Casady

Christmas time in Ruston is so very special. It may be the decorations downtown. It could possibly be the Christmas lights twinkling around town. Or even the Christmas cards that fill your mailbox. These are some of the simple things that bring in the Christmas season. Soon the students will be heading home, the lines at Starbucks will shorten, and Ruston will slow down and catch its breath.

As you prepare to receive family or gas up the car to make your holiday trip, we hope you will breathe in this season of significance. Breathe in the breath of heaven as the song says. Enjoy the joy that the coming of our Lord and Savior brings. We pray the carols you sing will be loftier, the hugs you share will be warmer, and the smiles you give to strangers will be so wide your face hurts. Christ is not just the reason for this season; He is the reason for our salvation. Share the joy of Christ with someone today!

## Connections Class

Sunday, January 12 | 10:30 a.m. | Room 221

4 week study

More information at [connect.temple.life](http://connect.temple.life)



## The Journey Place Playscape Holiday Closures

December 24-27 and January 1-3

### BIBLE DRILL

Children Grades 4, 5, & 6 will begin on Sunday, January 5, 2020, with an **Orientation Meeting** (for parents and students) at 5 p.m. in *The Journey Place* Multipurpose Room.

The following Sunday Bible Drill begins at 4:30 p.m. for students.

Contact: Sally Hearn, [sally@temple.life](mailto:sally@temple.life), 255-3745



**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!

## Hungary Mission Trip Interest Meeting (Trip: June 17-28)

Wednesday, January 8 | 6:45 p.m. | Room 76

Mission: Traveling to and through Budapest, Hungary working alongside local churches hosting English Bible Camps.

## Sugar for CCA

Local Mission Opportunity

We are responsible for 75 bags of sugar each month.



## Policy for Announcements

All announcements to be considered for church-wide publications are due in the Church Office by noon on Thursday prior to the week of the next publication.

**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)*



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**UPCOMING SCHEDULE OF EVENTS**

**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.*

**All Regular Sunday and Wednesday Schedules  
return on or after January 5**

In accordance with IRS regulations,  
**contributions for 2019** must physically be in the  
church's possession **OR** postmarked by **December 31**.  
**ALL** contributions submitted on Thursday, January 1,  
2020, will appear on 2020 contribution statements.

**MUSIC MINISTRY**  
*Jeremy Asher*

My heart is so full after worshiping with my church family this past Sunday! Being able to worship the Savior with our Christmas choir, orchestra, and media team was so rewarding. Thank you to everyone who sang, played an instrument, served on the technical team, or helped decorate our facility for the Christmas season. The comments I have received have been overwhelming and, above all, give glory to the Lord. We rejoice because Jesus, the Savior, has come! And isn't that something worth celebrating? I also want to say a special "thank you" to Jodie Williams, who invested in me years ago as a college music major, and helped shape me as a worship leader and minister. It was my special joy to have had the opportunity to sing with Bro. Jodie, Zach Husser, and Dave St. Andre, all of whom have been encouragers and close friends of mine in my ministry. Thank you, brothers, for your continued ministry to the Lord and His Church.

Looking ahead to this Sunday, we have a great opportunity to take the message of Jesus' birth to our community as we go caroling. I hope you will join us this Sunday at 4 p.m. in Fellowship Hall to receive your assignment. There will be songbooks (and pizza!) when you arrive. This year in addition to caroling to some of our homebound members and in several businesses, we are planning to sing in neighborhoods that were affected by the April 25 tornado. I hope that you will plan to join us as we help spread Christmas cheer by singing loud, for all to hear!



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*Christmas Eve*  
Candlelight Service  
December 24 | 5 p.m.  
Sanctuary

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*Deacons of the Week—December 22-28*  
Ronny Valentine & Mike Walpole

*Deacons of the Week—December 29-January 4*  
Phillip Washington & Leon Stamm

Label here

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

## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, December 22

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Advent (Sanctuary);  
*the gathering* Worship | Advent (GS); Sunday School for all ages  
10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | Advent (GS); Sunday School for all ages  
4 p.m. - Retirement Reception for Cecil Barham (FH) | Church-wide Caroling  
5 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Springs)  
*Evening Worship is canceled.*

### Tuesday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Church Offices, FLC, *The Journey Place* Closed  
5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | Advent (Sanctuary)

### Wednesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

Church Offices, FLC, *The Journey Place* Closed

### Thursday, December 26

Church Offices, FLC, *The Journey Place* Closed

### Friday, December 27

*The Journey Place* Closed

### Sunday, December 30

9 a.m. - Combined Worship | Lord's Supper (Sanctuary)  
5 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Springs)  
*Afternoon Activities and Evening Worship are canceled.*

### Wednesday, January 1 ~ New Year's Day

Church Offices, FLC, *The Journey Place* Closed

### Thursday, January 2

*The Journey Place* Closed  
2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

### Friday, January 3

*The Journey Place* 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

**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)