

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**

Centuries ago, the prophet Isaiah offered hope to a burdened, disheartened people (see Isaiah 54:1-5). And oh, how God's children needed to hear that message! Basically, Israel had experienced loss at the hands of the Babylonians and had been carried into captivity. It had realized the pain of "barrenness" and the shame of defeat. In this context, Isaiah delivered the good news that God was going to intervene in the nation's story. Yahweh was not through with His people! That is why God's messenger called upon them to bring forth in song as they celebrated His future work.

No doubt, we of Temple Baptist Church have been incredibly blessed; we are not barren. We have seen many spiritual victories; we are not defeated. Yet, I am convinced that God has so much more for us ahead. I just marked my sixth anniversary here in Ruston, and I can't tell you how wonderful those years have been for my family. But again, I am confident that God has greater things in store . . . especially in 2020! We just have to prepare for Him to manifest His powerful presence.

In the last few months, your staff and I have been working and preparing for the upcoming new year,

and we believe that strategic planning will allow us to experience a fresh recognition of His work. Isaiah advised the Israelites to enlarge the place of their tents, stretch out the curtains of their dwellings, lengthen their cords, and strengthen their stakes. In other words, get ready! I think those are wise words for us as well. We must prepare ourselves to see God move in a great way.

This Sunday, I will begin a new morning worship series entitled, "Encounters with Jesus: A Look at Selected Passages from Luke," as well as a new Sunday night worship series based on The Sermon on the Mount entitled, "Living as Jesus." How grateful I am to be able to share this set of messages! Then on Sunday, January 12, I will present five specific goals for us to work toward this year as a faith community. I believe they are God-given and God-sized; no doubt, they will stretch us and grow us. I am excited to pursue His agenda with you! Please pray for me as I lead and communicate in this vision in the weeks to come!

This year, 2020, is going to be awesome! Break out into song and prepare yourselves for what He is going to do! And I will see you this Sunday, the first worship opportunity of the new year!

YOUNG ADULT News

Jacob Ambrose

Starting Sunday Feb 2 at 9 a.m., we will host our first pre-marital class called “Before You Say I Do.” The class will last 7 weeks and will be open to couples who are engaged or have been married for less than 2 years. Each class session will be taught by one of our ministers and their spouse, and the topics will include: Love Languages, Biblical Foundations, Intimacy, Finances, Communication/Conflict Resolution, Love & Respect, and In-Laws. In addition to the class sessions, each engaged/newlywed couple will be assigned a “Mentor Couple,” who will meet once a week with them for the duration of the class and discuss the topics that are covered. The class will conclude with an In-Law Luncheon on 3/15 from 11:45 a.m. – 1 p.m., for which parents of the couples will be invited to attend.

How you can help: if you know of an engaged or newlywed couple, please inform them of the details of this class and encourage them to attend! Direct them to our website (ya.temple.life) to join the group. If you are willing to be a “Mentor Couple,” please email me at jacob@temple.life. Thank you for your prayerful support as we do our best to start these young marriages off on the right foot!

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, 255-3745

Women on Mission Groups

Mary Martha Women on Mission

Monday, January 6 | 6:30 p.m. | Room 76

Myrtle King Lunch Bunch

Thursday, January 9 | 12 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
Speaker: Dr. Reggie Bridges, Trip to El Salvador
Projects: Money for LA Baptist Children’s Home

The Journey Place Playscape Holiday Closure

January 1-3



**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!



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

Download the app today.

GET IT ON
Google play

AVAILABLE ON THE
App Store

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

Sunday regular schedule returns
on Sunday, January 5, and
Wednesday regular schedule returns
on Wednesday, January 8.

Connections Class

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

More information on this 4-week class
at connect.temple.life



COMPASSION LIVE PRESENTS
AVALON
— THE CALLED TOUR —

SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020
6 p.m. | SANCTUARY

TICKETS ON SALE
More Information at
EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE

WITH SPECIAL GUEST
SARAH KELLY

COMPASSIONLIVE.COM

Temple's Newest Membership Candidates:



DJ & Paige Bowers
(also pictured Bailey
& Briley Bowers)

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 and
hosting English Bible Camps

Sugar for CCA

Local Mission Opportunity

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



The Crossing Ladies Bible Study (Special Needs Ministry)

Tuesday, January 7 | 6 p.m.
The Journey Place Multipurpose Room

From the Associate Minister of Music Zach Husser

It was almost exactly a year ago that I had the privilege of singing a special called “All Glory Be to Christ” in one of our combined services. The lyrics were set to the familiar tune of Auld Lang Syne. The first lyric read, “Should nothing of our efforts stand, no legacy survive.” As I write this article, this song is playing through my speakers in my office. These lyrics should shape our attitude as we enter into this upcoming year.

The New Year prompts us to remember the mountains and valleys of the past year and make resolutions for the new. As you prepare to make these resolutions, remember that our striving will achieve nothing unless our efforts are in the strength and the will of Christ. All of our labor is in vain if we are seeking to build our own legacy rather than the Lord's. Only the legacy of the Kingdom of God will stand.

So I challenge you to view this upcoming year through the lens of glorifying Christ and doing labor that will last.

My grandfather passed away several years ago, but I remember the days of going to his house on Christmas and gathering around the fireplace for warmth (his house had no central heating). Over the fireplace hung a wooden sign that read, “there is only one life, twill soon be passed, only that done for Christ will last.”

Resolve to live for Christ in this new year. Do work that will last. Bring glory to Him in all things. Have a Happy New Year everyone!

Sunday, January 12

Make sure you join us
for one of our services
as we cast vision
and goals for 2020!



Deacons of the Week—January 5-11
David Abernathy & Jody Adams

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Week-at-a-Glance

East Asia Mission Trip ~ January 11-21

Sunday, January 5

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); *the gathering* Worship (GS);
Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship (GS); Sunday School for all ages
- 4 p.m. - Temple Students Girl Talk (Rm 216)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Springs); Grades 4-6 Bible Drill
Information Meeting (JPMR); Puerto Rico Mission Team Meeting (Rm 76)
- 6 p.m. - Evening Worship (Chapel); High School Worship (Youth Rm)

Monday, January 6

- 6:30 p.m. - Mary Martha Women on Mission (Rm 76)

Tuesday, January 7

- 6 p.m. - The Crossing Bible Study (JPMR)

Wednesday, January 8

- 9 a.m. - Friendship International (Rm 76); Quilting/Sewing (FH)
- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$4/person, \$2/child under 8,
\$12 max/family); The Springs Small Group (The Springs);
East Asia Final Meeting (Rm 76)
- 5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study | East Asia Commissioning (FH); GROW
Visitation - GREEN TEAM (FH); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); High School
Bible Study (Rm 252)
- 6:45 p.m. - Hungary Mission Trip Interest Meeting (Rm 76); Sanctuary Choir
Rehearsal (Choir Rm); Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)
- 8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

Thursday, January 9

- 12 p.m. - Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (FH)
- 2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)
- 6 p.m. - Young Adult Worship Night (Youth Rm)

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