

# 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

Some twenty years ago, one of our church's forefathers, Leamon Best, stood before our congregation and declared his personal assessment of Temple Baptist Church and its future:

I marvel at the edifice [i.e. the church building] itself, but there's more there than brick and mortar buried in its foundation . . . made possible by those who went before us and who made stewardship sacrifices that you and I have been made benefactors of. Our mission has been made easier by their legacy . . . our future was secured with the relentless fervor of a great faith, unyielding hope, and an embedded trust in an omnipotent God. Stewardship was their way of life. They truly lived to give. [In addition,] growth has been made possible by those of us who currently are members of this congregation who a few years ago had a dream and dared to undertake this vision through commitment and faith that God would bless our efforts. . . . that enhance the future of our church in many generations to come. . . . The best is yet to be. [italics added]

Every time I read this excerpt from his testimony, I am both challenged and inspired. Think of it. Can you hear the appreciation for those who have gone before us at Temple Baptist Church in these words? Can you sense the ongoing understanding and commitment to the church's work? Can you discern the abiding faith and confidence in our future? The people called Temple Baptist Church—not the building itself—have made a lasting difference. They

have dreamed together, worked together, and celebrated together. Indeed, those who have gone before us have left an example of commitment and determination that should motivate in our service.

Over the past six years (how can that be!), I have witnessed your love for our Lord, His people, and His mission. I have also experienced your unceasing optimism concerning our future, a conviction I wholeheartedly share. It has been a true blessing to pastor you; and oh, how I look forward to the days ahead together! God has a plan for us, and He truly wants to raise us to new heights. For us, we must depend exclusively upon Christ and work hard in the Spirit's strength to realize that future.

This coming Sunday, I will present five specific goals for us as a church in 2020. Now remember from this past week: my overarching prayer is that we would encounter Jesus daily in our families, our friendships, our work, our communities, etc. There is absolutely no substitute for Jesus. To me, the 2020 goals that the staff and I are placing before you puts Jesus and His message at the forefront of our efforts. In fact, we can encounter Christ through these efforts; and just as importantly, others can encounter Jesus as well. I am so excited about this coming Sunday as we prepare for a transformative 2020! Pray for me as I craft the right words to communicate His vision, and make a commitment to be present! Let's join Leamon's refrain from two decades ago—"The best is yet to be!" See you Sunday!

### FROM THE RECORDS OF JANUARY 5, 2020

| Worship Attendance                              |      | Sunday School Attendance '20 |      |
|---|------|------------------------------|------|
| 9 a.m. Blended Worship Service                  | 543  | 9 a.m. Sunday School         | 60   |
| 9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service     | 221  | 10:30 a.m. Sunday School     | 779  |
| 10:30 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service | 219  | First Steps                  | 136  |
| The Springs Worship Service                     | 36   | Off Campus                   | 93   |
| Combined Morning Total                          | 1019 | Total                        | 1068 |

| Sunday, January 5, 2020 |             |
|-------------------------|-------------|
| Budget                  | \$84,392.14 |
| Share the Light         | \$1,410.00  |



### 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

Happy New Year! I hope all of your resolutions are still holding up a week into 2020. If you are a Sunday School teacher, director, prayer leader, or care group leader, I hope one of your resolutions was to attend our monthly meeting of Sunday School Leadership. When is the next one? I am glad you asked.

**Monthly SS Leadership Meeting:** Join us this Sunday, January 12, at 5 p.m. in Fellowship Hall for our monthly meeting together. We will talk about a few key areas you can help us this year as a church. Also, I am very excited about our 2020 Goals which will be unveiled this Sunday in worship. We will talk about the role your SS group can play in making 2020 a great year. See you Sunday.

January is a month full of Men's Ministry events, so please take advantage of these opportunities to invest in your faith and go deeper in your walk with the Lord this year.

**Man Up Monday:** Monday, January 20, at 6 p.m., in Fellowship Hall. We have former LSU and NFL player, Eric Edwards, coming to share his testimony and talk about the upcoming Men's Retreat. Eric is from Monroe and played Tight End for the Arizona Cardinals. He is also one of over 2,000 men who have experienced the Men's Retreat our church is hosting later this month. So come hear from him, eat some fried fish, and register for some door prizes. It's going to be a fun night! Cost is \$5 at the door.

**Men's Retreat:** It is not too late to sign up. This will be an exciting weekend to invest in your faith and encourage others to do the same. Seeker Springs Camp is hosting our retreat, and we are anticipating the Lord doing a great work there. Monroe area churches have been hosting these for a few years now, and we have been hearing reports of how powerful they have been. Invite a friend who needs to know the Lord or someone to go with you. Sign up now online at: [events.temple.life](https://events.temple.life). Contact Jason for more info. Cost is \$160/person and covers everything. Scholarships are available. **Itinerary:** Thursday, January 30, 5 p.m., depart from Temple and Saturday, February 1, return to Temple around noon.

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## Connections Class

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

More information on this 4-week class  
at [connect.temple.life](https://connect.temple.life)

*Thank you cards have been received from...*

Cecil Barham

(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

COMPASSION LIVE PRESENTS  
**AVALON**  
— THE CALLED TOUR —

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

TICKETS ON SALE  
More Information at  
[EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE)

WITH SPECIAL GUEST  
SARAH KELLY

COMPASSIONLIVE.COM

## Weekday Early Education Ministry



Accepting Fall 2020 applications beginning February 4 for Temple members and those presently enrolled. Opens to the public March 4.

Applications available in *The Journey Place*.  
For a digital copy, email Gina at [gina@temple.life](mailto:gina@temple.life).

Contact: Gina Holstead, 255-9506



the family of **Carmelite Smith**, mother of Drs. Tommy (Nancy) Smith, grandmother of Jason (Paige) Smith, Ross (Paige) Smith, and Daniel Smith; the family of **Sherri Johns**, sister of Ricky (Polly) Durrett; the family of **Virginia Wilkinson**; the family of **Shirley Young Truett**, mother of Robert Truett; the family of **Thomas Hutson, Sr.**, father of Denise (Skip) Stinson and grandfather of Olivia (Zach) Garner, Jason (Paige) Smith, and Mattie Lou Stinson.

### LA Baptist All-State Youth Choir

Tuesday, February 4

6:30-7:30 p.m. | Choir Room and Sanctuary

All youth are invited to participate.

2020 Chicago Tour Dates: June 3-12

**2020 Homecoming Concert:** Friday, June 12

6:30 p.m. | Guinn Auditorium Louisiana College

### Senior Adult Luncheon

Tuesday, January 21 | 11:45 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

Program: Pilots for Patients



*Congratulations to:*

Vivian Magee on the birth of her great-grandson, **Robert David Larkin**; Chris and Tori Brister on the birth of their daughter, **Maryn Magnolia**. Proud brothers are Rhett, Mayes, and Maverick and grandmother is Mary Soto.

## The Journey Place Ting Trekkers & Summit Kids Sally Hearn

Happy New Year! What an exciting time in the life of our church as we look at our goals for 2020. I hope you will be here Sunday to share in this time together.

**Bible Reading Plan for Kids** may be picked up from the 2nd floor of *The Journey Place*. Completion cards can be returned each week in the Resource Room on the 2nd floor. Look for a sign just inside the secured doors. Let us know if you have any questions.

**Bible Drill** begins this Sunday for Grades 4, 5 and 6. We will meet each Sunday from 4:30-5:45 p.m. in *The Journey Place* Multipurpose Room. I hope all of our students in Grades 4-6 will come and be involved in this outstanding program.

**2020 Father/Daughter Banquet**, "You're My #1 Fan" will be held on Friday, February 28, at 6 p.m. More information coming soon!

**WEEKday Registration for Fall 2020** will begin Tuesday, February 4, for church members and children currently enrolled. *Contact Gina Holstead in the Weekday Ministry Office for more details.*

### Important Summer Dates for 2020

VBS: June 1-5

WinShape Camp: July 13-17

Summit Kids Serve: July 27-29



# 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 12-18*  
Ron Adams & Ronnie Ainsworth

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## Week-at-a-Glance

**East Asia Mission Trip ~ January 11-21**

**Youth Princess & Warrior Weekend ~ January 17-20**

**Living Proof Live ~ January 17-18**

### Sunday, January 12

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); *the gathering* Worship (GS);  
Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | Baptism (GS); Sunday School for all  
ages; Connections Class (Rm 221)
- 4:30 p.m. - Grades 4-6 Bible Drill (JPMR)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Springs); Sunday School Leadership  
Meeting (FH); Nicaragua Mission Team Meeting (Rm 75)
- 6 p.m. - Evening Worship (Chapel); High School Worship (Youth Rm)

### Monday, January 13

- 9:30 a.m. - Where Moms Connect (JPMR)

### Wednesday, January 15

- 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; Menu: Fried and Baked Fish)
- 5:45 p.m. - Children's M<sup>3</sup> (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP); The Springs  
Mid-week Gathering (The Springs)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - RED TEAM (FH);  
Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Love Talk (Rm 49)
- 6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
- 8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

### Thursday, January 16

- 2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

### Saturday, 18

- 8:30 a.m. - LBCH Journey Home Training (JPMR)

**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