

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

“Say not, I will study the Torah with the purpose of being called Sage or Rabbi—or to acquire fortune, or to be rewarded for it in the world to come; but do it for the sake of thy love to God.” This quote from an older Jewish teacher rests upon the desk of my “inner” office and serves as a reminder to me in my studies. I’m not supposed to be digging into the Scripture in order to impress people or to further my kingdom; but rather, I want to develop an intimate relationship with Christ Himself Who directly speaks through His Scripture. My desire is to engage in a conversation with Him, and in particular, to hear His voice. Again, I placed a copy of the quote on my desk so that I would not forget why I am breaking down the biblical passage in front of me. Yes, I get excited when I find how a verb tense furthers the message of the text. I so enjoy finding how a specific word was used in the biblical world and how that term adds depth to our understanding. (Yep, you probably already recognized it, but I am a nerd at heart!) But God often confronts me in that study with a caution: “Reggie, remember! You are not studying to express your knowledge before the congregation. You are looking into My Word in order to communicate My knowledge to My people!” And how right He is!

I’m so blessed to be surrounded by so many believers who longingly yearn for God’s authoritative truth. I see it on Sunday mornings in our worship services and in our Sunday School classes. I witness it on Sunday nights and Wednesday nights as you are faithful to gather again. I observe it in the small D-groups that meet during the week. And I recognize it in personal devotions that mark our daily activities. You love the Word! Praise be to Him! But remember, you study not to make more of yourself; you study to make more of Him in yourself!

We don’t just try to get through Scripture; we pray that the Scripture will get through us! Indeed, we study for the “sake of our love for God!”

What sweet, great moments we are experiencing right now as a church as we gather to study and as we go to serve! No doubt, **gospel conversations** are occurring daily. I hear reports from you all, and I am so encouraged. (By the way, when you do have such conversations with individuals, please bring your green ball to Guest Services—or pick up one if you haven’t been able to get one yet—and write on it the initials of the person so we can celebrate and pray with you in this endeavor. We are attempting to have at least **1100 gospel conversations this year!**) This coming Sunday, we will baptize in both gathering services, and the next week, we’ll baptize in the blended service. Can I get an “Amen?” Come on, you can do it! In addition, we are seeing the Lord draw others to our church family. Just this past Sunday, there were many visitors who joined us for worship and Sunday School. I was so excited to see those families with us!

Ok, you get the picture . . . God is doing some awesome things! As my old pastor used to say, “He is up to something!” I give thanks that He is allowing us to be involved in that “something.” Let’s give thanks for this privilege, but let’s also pray for continued growth and effectiveness as His Spirit moves among us. **Pray** specifically for our **Men’s Retreat** this weekend, for our **Puerto Rico Mission Trip** as the team returns, and for our **services Sunday** (and the **Super Bowl Mega Men’s Choir** that will be singing). Remember, too, **bring a can of soup** as we support CCA (Christian Community Action). And as almost always, I will see you Sunday!

FROM THE RECORDS OF JANUARY 26, 2020

Worship Attendance		Sunday School Attendance	
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	601	9 a.m. Sunday School	128
9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	234	10:30 a.m. Sunday School	721
10:30 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	269	First Steps	123
The Springs Worship Service	49	Off Campus	93
Combined Morning Total	1153	Total	1065



Sunday, January 26, 2020

Budget	\$54,035.76
Share the Light	\$1,250.00



Preschool Ministry ~ First Steps
Bible stories and Bible-learning activities for our preschoolers (Babies-Kindergarten)
Sundays 9-11:30 a.m.

Minister of Community Evangelism

George Lee

This past Saturday, January 25, was the 5th Annual White As Snow: A Queen's Celebration hosted by Freedom 13 Ministries. A Queen's Celebration serves as a day of ministry for women in our community who are "recovering, rehabilitating, unemployed, hurting, neglected, or just needing a moment of peace." How great it was to be able to serve the ladies in attendance and witness the Lord work in their lives!

By God's grace our church was willing and able to serve Freedom 13 and these ladies! The Lord has blessed our church abundantly with resources, and particularly with lots of space! This past Saturday, we served women from Mount Grace Teen Challenge, Minden Adult & Teen Challenge Family Center, Life Choices of North Central Louisiana, DART, Mercy Multiplied, CCA, Life House Ministries, P31 Women's Transition Home in West Monroe, Purchased: Not For Sale Shreveport, and the Louisiana Baptist Children's Home. This day of unconditional love and hospitality truly made a difference in these women's lives. They were encouraged and challenged by God's Word, provided with a meal, and given the opportunity to experience different stations to learn about their health and wellness. There were 260 ladies in attendance, 120 volunteers, and 20 DECISIONS MADE FOR CHRIST! Our God is faithful!

As we continue to serve our local missions partners, this week we will have an opportunity to support CCA for National Souper Bowl of Caring effort. Please don't forget to bring canned soup items with you to church or CCA this week.



TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
COMMUNITY AND THE WORLD

2nd SPORTSMAN'S BANQUET FOR MISSIONS

Friday Feb. 7
Ruston Civic Center
6 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Tickets are \$100 for a table of 8 or \$5 General Admission
Tickets available at events.temple.life or the Church Office.

LA Baptist All-State Youth Choir Auditions

Tuesday, February 4 | 6:30-7:30 p.m. | Choir Room and Sanctuary
All youth are invited to participate.

Chicago Tour Dates: June 3-12

Homecoming Concert: Friday, June 12
6:30 p.m. | Guinn Auditorium Louisiana College



YOU'RE MY #1 FAN!

GIRLS IN KINDERGARTEN-5TH GRADE
FATHER/DAUGHTER BANQUET
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 28
6 P.M. IN FELLOWSHIP HALL
\$20/FAMILY

REGISTER ONLINE @ [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)
Registration ends Wednesday, February 19
BRING YOUR DAD, GRANDAD OR FRIEND!
*SPORTS/TEAM ATTIRE WELCOMED



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. Open to the public March 4.

Applications available in *The Journey Place*.
For a digital copy, email Gina at gina@temple.life.
Contact: Gina Holstead, 255-9506

Before You Say "I Do"



7-week class beginning
Sunday, February 2 | 9 a.m. | Room 216
Open to couples who are engaged or married less than two years

Each session will be taught by one of our ministers and his/her spouse.
Topics: Love Languages, Biblical Foundations, Intimacy, Finances, Communication/Conflict Resolution, Love & Respect, and In-laws.

temple.churchcenter.com/groups/bible-studies

"Mentor Couples" needed.

Contact: Jacob Ambrose, jacob@temple.life, 255-3745

Temple's Newest Membership Candidates:



J. J. Hoover



Jessica Barr &
Christian Foster
(also pictured Luke Rinehart)



Preston Slaton



Now-February 2

A soup collection for Christian Community Action
Bring cans of soup to the drop-off baskets
located around the building

For more information: souperbowl.org

Congratulations to:

Ryan & Laura Roberson on the birth of their son,
Reynolds Hays. Proud sister is Ava & grandparents are
Robbie & Karen Roberson and Steve & Suzy Blackwelder.

Chili Cook-off & Ice Cream Fellowship



Sunday, February 9,
following Evening Worship
Sign up to bring chili during
Sunday School on February 2.

Bring your chili to Fellowship Hall prior to Evening Worship.

A Thank you card has been received from...

Kay Church for Life Choices

(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

XO Marriage Conference ~ Southlake, TX

February 14-15

\$112 - Conference tickets Only/Couple **or**
\$250 - Conference Tickets/couple plus 2 nights hotel

Register online at events.temple.life

Contact Jacob Ambrose, jacob@temple.life, 255-3745

Super Bowl Mega Men's Choir

Singing in the 9 a.m. Blended Worship Service
Sunday, February 2

Rehearsal: Sunday, February 2 | 8:15 a.m. | Sanctuary

Men and boys of all ages are welcome to join us.

Where Moms Connect:

Monday, February 10 | 9:30 a.m. | *The Journey Place*

Moms, come and enjoy meaningful conversation, laughter, and friendship!

Mission Trip Interest Meetings

Boston Community Outreach (Trip: July 25-August 1)
Wednesday, February 5 | 6:45 p.m. | Room 82

Baton Rouge 2020: Wednesday, February 12 | 6:45 p.m. | Room 76

Congo: Wednesday, February 19 | 6:45 p.m. | Rm 76

More information at missions.temple.life or contact:
Ben Jernigan, 255-3745, ben@temple.life

From The Minister of Pastoral Care Dale Oden

Last week, our monthly luncheon for Senior Adults had one of our largest crowds in attendance. We were inspired by the representative from the group "Pilots for Patients," who shared with us the ministry of flying patients to hospitals all over the country. Some members of Temple have been blessed by this group of pilots who donate their planes and their time to get patients to appointments in various hospitals in cities across the United States.

Our program for next month's luncheon will be given by **Dr. Jon Barker, retired Professor of Music at Louisiana Tech University**. He is an outstanding soloist and will be singing some of the great hymns sung by George Beverly Shea. Some of you may remember that Jon served as our Interim Minister of Music many years ago. I hope many of our senior adults will join us for the luncheon on Tuesday, February 18. We meet in the Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m. It's a covered-dish meal, so bring a salad, vegetable dish, or dessert and enjoy a delicious meal and some great fellowship! The meat and tea are provided by the church.

A group of us made our way to Lafayette to attend the annual Senior Adult Luncheon that is a part of the Louisiana Baptist Evangelism Conference earlier this week. We heard some fantastic music by a group called "Veritas." They are a group of men from Alabama who have outstanding voices and use their talents to glorify our Lord. We also heard Chad Williams speak. Chad served his country on SEAL Teams One and Seven for five years, completing tours of duty in the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Bahrain, and Iraq. He was one of 13 out of 173 to make it through to graduation in the group. He is a dedicated Christian who has written a book, *Seal of God*.



Wednesday, February 5
4-8 p.m.
Rooms 76 & 81

Goal: 15 Units

Go to *blooddrive.temple.life*
to schedule an appointment.

If we meet our goal, Temple members who
need blood will move to the top of the list.

Deacons of the Week—February 2-8
Cecil Barham & Curtis Barham

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Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

Souper Bowl Collection for CCA ~ Last Day is Sunday, February 2

Sunday, February 2

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); *the gathering* Worship (GS);
Sunday School; Before You Say "I Do" (Rm 216)
- 10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship (GS); Connections Class (Rm 221);
Sunday School
- 4 p.m. - Evening Worship (Chapel); The Springs Worship Service (The Springs);
Temple Students Girl Talk (Rm 216)
- 4:30 p.m. - Grades 4-6 Bible Drill (JPMR); South Asia Team Meeting (Rm 76)
- 6 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm); *temple-tech* Sunday Night Supper

Tuesday, February 4

- 6 p.m. - The Crossing Bible Study (JPMR)
- 6:30 p.m. - LA Baptist All-State Youth Choir Auditions (Choir Rm, Sanctuary)

Wednesday, February 5

- 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: Breakfast for Supper)
- 5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP);
The Springs Midweek Gathering (The Springs)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - GREEN TEAM
(FH); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Love Talk (Rm 49)
- 6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm); Orchestra Rehearsal
(Sanctuary); Boston Community Outreach Mission Trip Interest Meeting
(Rm 82)
- 8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

Thursday, February 6

- 5:30 p.m. - Senior Adult Game Night (FLC)
- 6 p.m. - Young Adult Worship (Ambrose Home)

Friday, February 7

- 6 p.m. - Sportsman's Missions Banquet (Ruston Civic Center)

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