

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**

Communication is the lifeblood of a relationship—any relationship! As James so powerfully points out in his New Testament letter, our tongue contains the power of both life and death. We can enhance life through our words; or quite frankly, we can drain the life out of others. In truth, we can unintentionally and needlessly damage relationships and even harm our witness before others if we fail to communicate in a constructive way. Quite a sobering and challenging thought!

Thankfully though, God has given us a handbook in communication and relationships. You got it! It is His Word! Throughout Scripture, He says much about how we are to interact with one another. While I could point to a plethora of verses to help us communicate, let me offer you some insight specifically based on Proverbs 15:1-9. Some years ago, the Lord illuminated my mind and gave me four principles of wise communication from this passage.

First, **be a "softie."** Now, I know that doesn't sound appealing to many of you reading this article. I mean, who wants to be known as a "softie," especially in our culture? Often, we are taught to give back what has been given to us! However, God says, "A soft answer turns away wrath, but a harsh word stirs up anger" (Prov. 15:1 NKJV). When you are "soft" in your response, you can often de-escalate the situation. You can carefully place the explosive situation in a calmer context. On the other hand, if you respond with a "harsh" word, you simply ignite the fuse, escalating the moment for both sides. Indeed, such a response stirs up the anger. In my study, I noted the word for stir up was used in the Old Testament to speak of presenting a burnt offering to God. Now stay with me here. There is a time to light a fire . . . in our worship before Him! But instead of lighting a fire of commitment/consecration as his people should, there are those who would light a

fire of contention. The Lord encourages us to turn away wrath by being a "softie" in our response to those who are contentious.

Second, **think before you speak.** Now we all have heard this adage, but the writer of Proverbs recorded it for us this way: "The tongue of the wise uses knowledge rightly, but the mouth of fools pours forth foolishness" (15:2 NKJV). Later in the same chapter, he recognizes, "The heart of the righteous studies how to answer, but the mouth of the wicked pours forth evil" (15:28 NKJV). Sometimes, we pour forth foolishness and evil because we didn't take time to consider how our words would be taken or how those words would affect others. We should always stop and think about how to wisely communicate! And no, it is not our personalities that are to blame for our abruptness; it is our lack of self-control and dependence on the Spirit!


Third, **if you don't have anything good to say, don't say anything at all!** "A wholesome tongue is a tree of life, but perverseness in it breaks the spirit. . . . The lips of the wise disperse knowledge, but the heart of the fool does not do so" (Prov. 15:4, 7 NKJV). Enough said!

Fourth, **get real.** Be authentic in your relationship with God and others. God doesn't embrace outward offerings from people who inwardly reject Him. So often the people brought sacrifices before Him in worship, yet their hearts were far from Him (Prov. 15:8). And God didn't accept such behavior! He is not into pretense. And neither should we! We are to be open and genuine in our relationships with Him and others in our family, our church, and our community. Be real!

These four principles are practical and applicable every day in my relationships with others . . . all drawn straight from God's Word of wisdom! You gotta love how He takes care of us by instructing us! Let's put these into practice today! And let's live to communicate His love/truth/wisdom! See you Sunday!

FROM THE RECORDS OF FEBRUARY 23, 2020

Worship Attendance		Sunday School Attendance	
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	600	9 a.m. Sunday School	96
9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	211	10:30 a.m. Sunday School	740
10:30 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	220	First Steps	123
The Springs Worship Service	41	Other	104
Combined Morning Total	1072	Total	1063

Sunday, February 23, 2020	
	Budget NA
	Share the Light NA



Preschool Ministry ~ First Steps

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

Sundays 9-11:30 a.m.

Youth Ministry

John Nugent

Need to Know Dates for Summer 2020

If the rain will ever stop, the sun will come out and begin to warm things up around here. Then, summer is practically here! Here are some dates you'll need to know for our Youth Ministry events this summer:

Senior Mystery Trip	June 1-5	High School Mission Trip	June 13-19
Junior High Mission Trip	July 6-11	WinShape Camp	July 13-17

You can find more information about these events and how you can participate at www.templebcstudents.org

You can also think of this as a prayer list! Start praying for students as they sign up, prepare, train, and get ready to be used by God in epic ways this summer. Pray for God to work in and through their lives as they serve and minister this summer.

LOST AND FOUND ~ MARCH 1-8

A table is located by the Church Office.
Please stop and pick up your "lost" items.

Any items left after March 8 will
be donated to Rolling Hills Ministry.



Sunday, March 8



LA Tech Baseball Trip March 13 and 14

Smith Wills Stadium in Jackson, MS
Hosting Middle Tennessee Blue Raiders

**Cost is \$120 (includes transportation and room)
Plus \$10 per ticket for each game**

*Call the Church Office to sign up!
Deadline to sign up: Wednesday, March 4*



Vacation Bible School

Concrete & Cranes

June 1-5 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

*Mark your calendar and pray
about how you can serve.*



2020 NORTH LA EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Hosted by Rolling Hills Ministries

March 13-14 | Temple Baptist Church

**Contact: David Abernathy, 251-0065,
rollinghillsministries.com/disaster-relief-training**

Daily Registration: 7:30-8:30 a.m.

Training: 8:30-11:30 a.m.

March 13 & 14: LA Baptist Disaster Relief Training

*(Costs will be found at
rollinghillsministries.com/disaster-relief-training)*

**March 14: Certified Severe Weather Spotter
or Shelter Training**

(both sessions are free to the public)

THE PACK SHACK

March 14 | 1 p.m. | Temple Baptist Church

After lunch, we will be packing 50,000 meals.

Funded by NLAR Weyerhaeuser

Temple's Newest Membership Candidates



Braxton & Kalea Trull

Weekday Early Education Ministry

**REGISTER
NOW**

Now accepting Fall 2020 applications 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@temple.life.
Contact: Gina Holstead, 255-9506

Myrtle King Lunch Bunch

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

Speaker: Patrick Patton, India

Project: Money for beans and rice for Western Shoebox Ministry



**WinShape
Camps**

Mark Your Calendar!
WinShape Camp for Communities

July 13-17

Completed Grades K-8

Registration opens **March 2 at 9 a.m.**

Camp cost is \$219 but the first 175 campers to register will receive a \$30 discount.

A **\$50 non-refundable deposit** is due at the time of registration. Camp cost balance is due one month before camp begins.



the family of **Mervin Taylor**, grandfather of Chris Taylor; the family of **Bobby Joe Howell, Jr.**, father of AJ Howell.

Youth Missions Chicken Dinner Fundraiser

Sunday, March 22 | 11 a.m. - 1:30 p.m. | Fellowship Hall



Get Your Tickets!

Dine-in or Take-out

Dinners are \$8 & include chicken, beans, corn, & bread

Buy from a student on Sunday mornings or Wednesday evenings to help raise money for their summer mission trips.

SALE BEGINS SUNDAY, MARCH 1

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jeremy Asher

Praise the Lord! Praise God in His sanctuary; Praise Him in His mighty firmament!

Praise Him for His mighty acts; Praise Him according to His excellent greatness!

Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!

(Psalm 150:1-2, 6)

The Lord is so good and worthy to be praised! I hope that you have taken time today to “praise Him for His mighty acts, according to His excellent greatness!” As I write this article, we are preparing for the 2020 Volunteer Appreciation Banquet. I know this is true of every ministry, but the Music Ministry simply would not exist without our volunteers! I want to thank each one of you who serves in our ministry. From M³ children’s choir leaders, Sanctuary and Celebration choirs, orchestra, gathering band, youth and college band, and all who serve on our media teams – thank you! We simply could not do what we do without you.

Looking ahead, there are several opportunities for you to join us in the worship ministry. As we approach Resurrection Sunday, we will soon begin rehearsing music for the Easter season. Whether in choir or orchestra, we would love to have you join us in the Sanctuary. If you attend one of *the gathering* services, we have an opportunity on Palm Sunday for you as well. Our Celebration Choir will be leading that day. I love it when our Celebration Choir leads, so please reach out to me in the Church Office if you are interested in getting involved. We love to lift songs of praise to Jesus, and we want to you join us! Let’s praise Him together. I hope to see you at rehearsal (check the worship guides for times).



SATURDAY, MARCH 7, 2020 - 6 p.m.
TEMPLE BAPTIST - RUSTON, LA

TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

More information at events.temple.life

Deacons of the Week—March 1-8
Eddie Blick & Mike Brister

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Week-at-a-Glance

Bahamas Mission Trip ~ February 22-March 1

Lost and Found Table ~ March 1-8

Beach Reach ~ March 4-10

Sunday, March 1

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); Sunday School
 11:30 a.m. - Simmons SS Class Lunch (FH)
 4 p.m. - Temple Students Girl Talk (Rm 216)
 4:30 p.m. - Children's Bible Drill (JPMR); South Asia Team Meeting (Rm 76)
 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Springs Sanctuary)
 6 p.m. - Evening Worship (Chapel)
 6 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm)

Tuesday, March 3

9:30 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Study (Rm 275)
 5 p.m. - Mary Martha Women on Missions (Rm 76)
 6 p.m. - Temple Jewels-Widows Banquet (FH); The Crossing Bible Study (JPMR)

Wednesday, March 4

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: Soup, Sandwich, Salad)
 5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP);
 The Springs Midweek Gathering (The Springs Sanctuary)
 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - GREEN TEAM (FH);
 Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
 6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm); Orchestra Rehearsal
 (Sanctuary)

Thursday, March 5

2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)
 5:30 p.m. - Senior Adult Game Night (GS)

Saturday, March 7

6 p.m. - Avalon Compassion Concert (Sanctuary)

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: 9-11 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)



TEMPLE
 BAPTIST CHURCH

COME GATHER AROUND THE WORD

Vision:

To become authentic, loving followers of Jesus,
 who are experiencing life transformation through God's Word,
 For the purpose of impacting our world.

Core Values:

Authoritative Truth • Strengthening Worship
 Authentic Community • Intentional Transformation
 Hands-On Missions • Relational Evangelism
 Compassionate Servanthood