

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

After warning the Northern Kingdom of Israel of impending consequences for its sin, the prophet Isaiah turned his attention to a more hopeful message. You can practically feel the pivot in his fortieth chapter as spirits are lifted and confidence is encouraged. Many biblical students appropriately refer to the rest of Isaiah's work (chapters 40-66) as "The Book of Comfort" or "The Book of Hope." A familiar passage drives home this theme:

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly. Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. . . . Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand" (Isaiah 40:28-31, 41:10 NAS).

Comfort! Hope! Assurance! Encouragement! How the Israelites needed that message after seeing the difficulty around them! And how we still need it!

Panic and fear encompass the globe right now. From the outbreak associated with the coronavirus to financial uncertainty in our economy, people are paralyzed with fright. Terms like *quarantine*, *pandemic*, *community spread* and *mortality rate* frequent our lips . . . words that we rarely had used even six weeks ago. And as the disease continues its sprawl across the continents, more anguish will follow.

To be honest, news reports may capture the world's landscape right now, but they fail to present the whole picture. It is even more bleak when you look more closely around us. Friends of ours here in the community are battling cancer, heart disease, Parkinson's, etc. Others are seeing marriages struggle. Some are attempting to minister to their spouses, children, and even grandchildren as dementia and depression affect their mental health. Still, there are those who are experiencing spiritual doubt and are poised to turn their backs on the one true God. These are difficult days with heavy issues! No doubt!

But circle back to Isaiah's declaration of encouragement with me: "Do not fear, for I am with you." My friends, God has not abandoned us! He is with us through these moments. And when we grow weary and are ready to give up, He provides supernatural strength to us! Yes, we need to be wise in our work. (For example, we are following the State Department advisories as well as the International Mission Board's recommendations as we evaluate upcoming trips.) But we must not forget our God is above every disease and struggle. In fact, I would encourage you to stop and pray that our Lord would stop this coronavirus and protect His people. Be bold! Sometimes, we have not because we ask not. So ask! In addition, pray for those around us who are struggling physically, relationally, mentally, and most importantly, spiritually. He is the One Who brings healing and hope!

Lastly, don't forget that God is still working. Our college ministry team just returned from Panama City Beach where they recorded 459 gospel conversations! Hallelujah! This is a great time to tell people good news—Jesus! So let's be about it! See you Sunday!

FROM THE RECORDS OF MARCH 8, 2020

| Worship Attendance | | Sunday School Attendance | |
|--|-----|--------------------------|------|
| 9 a.m. Blended Worship Service | 557 | 9 a.m. Sunday School | 90 |
| 9 a.m. the gathering Worship Service | 178 | 10:30 a.m. Sunday School | 683 |
| 10:30 a.m. the gathering Worship Service | 146 | First Steps | 123 |
| The Springs Worship Service | 32 | Other | 105 |
| Combined Morning Total | 913 | Total | 1001 |

| Sunday, March 8, 2020 | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| Budget | \$59,695.63 |
| Share the Light | \$500.00 |
| Annie Armstrong Easter Offering | \$10,089.07 |



Preschool Ministry ~ First Steps

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

Sundays 9-11:30 a.m.

YOUNG ADULT News

Jacob Ambrose

I want to thank you all for your prayers and support of the “**Before You Say ‘I Do’**” class! This Sunday will be the last official meeting of that class, but we are going to start a new Sunday School class from it! There are several young couples in this class who are new to Temple and not yet connected to a Sunday School class, so we are starting a new class with this community that has formed. The class will begin on March 22 at 9 a.m. in Room 250. We praise the Lord for His provision and direction in this area!

Our next Wednesday night study for Young Adults will start on March 18, entitled “**Work as Worship.**” This 6-week study focuses on the intersection of our faith and work. No matter what line of work we are in (business owner, teacher, stay-at-home parent, food service, construction, etc.), we are all tempted to compartmentalize our faith to our time at church and our work to our time at work. However, God desires something much deeper for our work; He designed our work to be an act of worship! If you are a Young Adult or a college Junior/Senior, we hope that you will join us on March 18 at 6 p.m. in Room 49.

Lastly, our **Young Adult Mission Trip to Boston** is **July 25-August 1**. We will be working with Harbor City Church in Winthrop, MA, serving the community through soccer camps and other outreach opportunities. We need both young professionals and families to go with us to help put on these events! If you are interested in going, please join the “Boston Mission Team” group online at missions.temple.life.



Vacation Bible School

Concrete & Cranes

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

Mark your calendar and pray about how you can serve.

EASTER EGG HUNT
CANDY OR PRE-FILLED EGGS
WE NEED YOUR HELP!
COLLECTION BASKETS AT
EACH ENTRANCE!



Youth Summer Trips

Senior Mystery Trip ~ June 1-5

High School Mission Trip ~ June 13-19

Junior High Mission Trip ~ July 5-11

More information at www.templebcstudents.org

Senior Adult Luncheon

Tuesday, March 17 | 11:45 a.m. | Fellowship Hall

Speaker: Sue Ledford on “How to Live Until You Die”

Community Easter Worship Service & Fellowship

Sunday, March 29 | 6 p.m.

First Baptist Church, Ruston

Everyone is encouraged to attend!

This service will be in lieu
of our Evening Worship Service.

Speaker: Chris Witt, LifeChurch.LA

WinShape Camp for Communities

July 13-17

Completed Grades K-8



**WinShape
Camps**

Register NOW at winshape.temple.life
Camp cost is \$219

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

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.



the family of **Jack Potter**, father of Deborah (Philip) Johnson and David (Stacy) Potter, and grandfather of April and Jacob Potter; the family of **Martha Finklea**, mother of Connie Eagles and grandmother of Katie Eagles.



Gospel Conversations Class

Sunday, March 22 | 4:30-6 p.m. | Room 81

Have you ever had this thought, "I know I should share my faith more, but what exactly do I say?" The truth is that many of us have. Join us for this class as we explore what to share and how to develop a plan to have Gospel conversations.



Sugar for CCA

Local Mission Opportunity

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



From the Associate Minister of Music Zach Husser

Hello, Temple family. I am not trying to cause jealousy in any of your hearts, but I'm writing this article while on the beach enjoying some sand and sunshine! I'm with about 50 of our college students attempting to share the Gospel with those who are on Spring Break in Panama City. I just want to use this article to give you a brief update on the work that is being carried out here.

Our goal for the trip is 400 gospel conversations. Yes, 400! As I write this article, we are about two-thirds of the way there. We've seen two people place their faith in Jesus, and we're praying for more! Our students are boldly proclaiming the truth of the Gospel, despite being in a highly secularized context.

We've had some powerful nights of worship. We sang hymns and modern songs with only a piano and voices. It was great to see students passionately singing with a simple, yet timeless setup.

By the time you read this article, the trip will be over. However, there are two specific things that we would love for you to pray:

1. For the discipleship of those who come to Christ on this trip.
2. For this trip to create a habit of evangelism in our students.

Hopefully, this update is an encouragement to you and also serves as a reminder for all of us to seek to share the Gospel with those whom the Lord puts in our path.

ANNIE ARMSTRONG
EASTER OFFERING
FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

March 8-15



It's all about the gospel

100% of your gifts support North American missionaries
ANNIEARMSTRONG.COM

Temple's Goal: \$65,000

Deacons of the Week—March 15-21
Bill Cox & David Darland

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Week-at-a-Glance

Week of Prayer for North American Missions ~ March 8-15

Sunday, March 15

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. - Before You Say "I Do" Lunch Banquet (FH)
4:30 p.m. - Children's Bible Drill (JPMR); Deacons Meeting (Rm 81)
5 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Springs Sanctuary);
Handbell Rehearsal (Rm 213B)
6 p.m. - Evening Worship | Faith Riders Commissioning (Chapel);
temple-tech Sunday Night Supper (Youth Rm)
6 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm)

Tuesday, March 17

9:30 a.m. - Ladies' Bible Study (Rm 275)
11:45 a.m. - Senior Adult Luncheon (FH)

Wednesday, March 18

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: Chicken Fried Steak
5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP);
The Springs Midweek Gathering (The Springs Sanctuary)
6 p.m. - Business Meeting/Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH);
GROW Visitation - ORANGE TEAM (FH); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm);
Work As Worship (Rm 49)
6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

Thursday, March 19

2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

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)

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