

# 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*

Albert Einstein supposedly proposed, "The only reason for time is so that everything doesn't happen at once." I am not sure that the great thinker had fully deciphered time's purpose or its effect. To be honest, it often seems like everything is happening at once; and in my opinion, time does have a more encompassing function than Einstein described. Time also exists to help us mark the opportunities that God has provided for us. Indeed, there are specific moments that God has ordained to use for our good and His glory. He Himself reigns over time and its events! And He directs them purposefully and consequently for our lives! The Teacher stated it so succinctly and powerfully: "There is an appointed time for everything. And there is a time for every event under heaven . . . He [God] has made everything appropriate in its time. He has also set eternity in their heart, yet so that man will not find out work which God has done from the beginning even to the end" (Ecclesiastes 3:1, 11 NAS). Do you hear King Solomon's affirmation of God's intentional design? He declares that there is a specific time/purpose for every event and that God has placed everything within His divine timing.

What a truth to recognize! Biblically, we see it; practically, we experience it. Perhaps some of you remember my comments about our recent audio/visual upgrades and how God provided. In 2019, we began to move forward with planning for a major technological improvement so that we could begin livestreaming our services with excellence. Of course, we understood that such a move would require a great deal of resources, and we began to pray that the Lord would take care of this area. Some weeks later, God opened the door and the resources flowed! In our minds, we reasoned that we could kick off our livestream on Easter Sunday. So much for our genius! God had other plans for the moment. No doubt, He had us perfectly prepared to go online with our worship services a month earlier than we imagined so we could minister to individuals who were sheltering in place at home. I still marvel at that! Yet, God was also working in other areas. Andy Carter, our Media Director, asked me what I thought we should do with our older equipment (e.g. the camera that we had previously used in the Sanctuary). Should we sell it? Give it away? Ultimately, we decided to send

it to one of church planting partners in Chicago where two of former Tech students served on staff. Recently, one of those former students who directed the technological services for the church related how they received the camera and equipment the very week that they had to go online. He said, "Dr. Reggie, it was that camera that allowed us to continue our services through livestream!" You see, not only did God work in a timely way to take care of us, but He was also providing for others through us! (I think someone should stop and said "Amen" here.)

**Our God does not waste moments.** Take this past Sunday as another example. During my message on reconciliation (Exodus 18), I said that I believed that I wasn't just preaching because it was "the hour for the message"; instead, I was convinced that I was bringing the "message for the hour." And wow! How God affirmed that! After one of our services, a young lady sought me out to tell me that the message was just for her. She related how she had gotten up that morning and driven around trying to determine which church to attend. Her marriage was falling apart, and she needed a place to worship. She pulled into Temple's parking for the first time, walked into services, and was confronted with the sermon on reconciliation. Is that not God's sovereign hand at work? If you aren't convinced, let me share with you about the mother who texted me to say that she and her daughter watched the message online together . . . and how they wept over her daughter's strained relationship with her husband. Or how about two mothers who texted me on Monday to say they needed special prayer for reconciliation with their sons, or the husband who dropped by to express gratitude for a renewed commitment to his wife, or the mother who stopped us in the grocery store to share how the message gave her hope for a restored relationship with her daughter and son-in-law. My friends, God can use any moment! Any word! In fact, He **will** use the time He has given us! As Jim Denison declares, "If God could not use you in these chaotic times, you would not be alive in these chaotic days. He has equipped you with the gifts, abilities, experiences, and resources you need to make a kingdom difference where and when you are." **Redeem the time you have, my brother and sisters!** You won't regret it! See you Sunday!

# Youth Ministry

John Nugent

## School is Back in Session

The time has finally arrived for school to start again! We always have students in a variety of circumstances and structures as they begin new academic years, but this year has an even greater variety! We have students who are doing home school, virtual school, virtual school for 9 weeks and then seeing what happens, full in-person students, students who are in-person every other day and virtual every other day, and probably a few other options that combine all these elements!

Students have some of the same nervous excitement about a new year, and they also have some sadness and discouragement over things about “normal” school years that may or may not be happening. They are excited to be around their classmates and nervous about getting sick. They are hoping and dreaming of days that are like they remember and realizing that things may never be exactly the same again.

If you throw in all the physiological and psychological changes that teenagers are naturally going through in adolescence, this creates an unprecedented time of change and transition for them. To say that they are and will be going through a lot is an understatement.

**Pray for them.** Pray that the unchanging God we know and trust will give peace, strength, wisdom, discernment, endurance, flexibility, and so much more that these students will need as they navigate this school year. Pray for teachers and administrators who are trying their best to navigate the same uncertainties. Pray for our Christian students and leaders to direct the people around them to our Heavenly Father who still gives abundant life in circumstances that seem to be rearranging their lives way too frequently. Pray that we all will see God’s glory in and through the lives of teenagers as they live for God this school year.

In spite of the chaotic and crazy circumstances, I truly believe that God is going to do amazing and miraculous things!

### CHILDREN’S MINISTRY NEWS

#### M<sup>3</sup> (Missions, Music, & More)

Beginning Wednesday, September 2

5:45 p.m. ~ For the fall, we will have Missions Only.

#### First Grade Bible Presentation

Sunday, August 23



### Christian Hunters & Anglers Annual Skeet Shoot

Saturday, August 29, at 9 a.m.

Arcadia Gun Club

Cost is \$5/round

Lunch is provided

**The flowers in the Sanctuary**  
are in memory of Voncile Hood,  
given by Tina and Jerry McCann.

Georgia Barnette  
STATE MISSIONS OFFERING

# The Right Time

WEEK OF PRAYER  
September 13-20, 2020

2 CORINTHIANS 6:2 NLT  
Indeed, the "right time" is now.

GeorgiaBarnette.org

STATE GOAL:  
**\$1,700,000**

CHURCH GOAL:  
**\$28,000**

LOUISIANA BAPTISTS

# 2020 Fall Food POUNDUP

Louisiana Baptist Children's Home  
& Family Ministries

September 6-September 20

Collection baskets will be  
located at the church entrances  
Much needed items are listed below.

Cereal (Children's Brands)	Fruit (Canned)
Oatmeal (Instant)	Jell-O (Pie Filling/ Pudding)
Bottled Juice (Orange/Apple Grape/ Fruit Punch)	Pam Cooking Spray
Cleaning Supplies & Disinfectant Spray	Cooking Oil & Crisco Shortening
Paper Towels	Pickles & Relish (Dill & Sweet)
Dishwasher Detergent	Salad Dressing (Ranch/Italian/ 1000 Island)
Laundry Detergent (HE-Liquid)	Spaghetti Sauce
Dryer Sheets	Potatoes (Boxed & Instant)

## Temple's Newest Membership Candidates:



Parker  
Winkelpleck



Tyler McCorkle



the family of **Jean Cole**,  
wife of Ronnie.

*Congratulations to:*

O'Neil and April Fox on the birth of their daughter,  
**Malvina Abigail Rayne Fox.**

Proud brothers and sister are Will Norman,  
Gracie and Daniel Fox.

Grandparents are Gary and Tammie McCann.

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## MUSIC MINISTRY

Jeremy Asher

*"The Lord bless you, And keep you; Make His face shine upon you; And be gracious to you.*

*The Lord turn His Face toward you And give you peace. Amen."*

Lyrics from "The Blessing," quoting Numbers 6:24-26, NIV)

There have been so many times during this pandemic when I have been at a loss for words. When we were first under the stay-at-home orders preventing our church family from gathering together in worship on Resurrection Sunday, I remember the utter shock that our nation was enduring such circumstances. And even now, mid-August, I must confess that I am dismayed that things aren't closer to "normal" in our Music Ministry. If I am honest, I am disappointed that I am not leading worship with the choir in the loft each week. And in times like these, I certainly don't find much good news in the mainstream media. But there is hope! We serve a loving Father who not only gave us eternal life through His Son, but He is speaking a beautiful word of encouragement to us in this season: He wants to bless us. He is gracious toward us. And He wants to give us peace. Where can you turn to find such things? The truth is, nothing in the world can give you these things. Aren't you thankful that our Heavenly Father is speaking these words to us today? I pray that you will receive this message of hope and encouragement from Numbers 6:24-26 and that you experience peace through Jesus Christ today.

How can we help? Our staff is here to serve. You can contact them by calling the Church Office (255-3745)!

We are navigating unprecedented times, but we believe our God is still in control and can use us to share the Gospel in creative and powerful ways!

Church family, we LOVE you and are here to serve you!

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17 AY  
ER**  
LUKE 5:17

THE TIDINGS (USPS #020005), Published Weekly except Christmas by:  
Temple Baptist Church, Periodical Postage Paid, Ruston, LA 71270  
Postmaster send address changes to:  
Temple Baptist Church, 1515 South Service Road West, Ruston, LA 71270

Label here

Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134  
Website: temple.life

## Week-at-a-Glance

### Family Life Center Gym Closed ~ August 13-23

#### Sunday, August 23

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | First Grade Bible Presentation (Sanctuary); livestream at *live.temple.life* (Blended Worship); *the gathering* Worship (GS); Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | First Grade Bible Presentation (GS); livestream at *live.temple.life* (*the gathering* Worship); Sunday School for all ages

5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (Springs Sanctuary); livestream at *live.thesprings.life* (The Springs Worship)

#### Wednesday, August 26

5:45 p.m. - Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary); livestream at *live.temple.life*; Temple College Summer Bible Study (Rm 216)

7 p.m. - Senior High Worship (Youth Rm)

**Broadcast Hours:** Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9:30 a.m. 94.1FM (KRLQ); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (*live.temple.life*)

#### 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