

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

Unspeakable. Unfathomable. Unimaginable. The horrific tragedy perpetuated this week in that small Baptist church down in Sutherland Springs, Texas, has stirred inexpressible emotions within Christ-followers everywhere. For the last few days, we have lived in the territory of shock, distress, and anger. No doubt, demonic influences demonstrated their strength by orchestrating the death of twenty-six churchgoers and by inflicting wounds upon approximately twenty more. The New York Times painted the grim scene: *"Families, gathered in pews, clutching Bibles and praying to the Lord, were murdered in cold blood on the spot." As Satan witnessed the carnage, he must have celebrated the fulfillment of his purpose "to steal, kill, and destroy."*


If that had been the end of the story, we believers would be miserable and pitied. But we know that Satan's apparent victory is just a false shadow! Remember Sunday morning's message on the resurrection of Jairus' little daughter? As we looked at that story, we left with two takeaways: **1) Jesus has authority over life; and 2) Jesus has authority over death.** And while I knew that these truths would inform our daily lives, I didn't realize how applicable they would prove in this context. Our Lord continues to maintain sovereignty over all circumstances . . . no matter how painful they are. He has the power to take the most evil acts (like the one in Texas) and redeem them for His glory! I don't always know how that will manifest itself, but I do know that God's glory will prevail in the darkest of moments. And what's more, the physical death of a believer is not the

final punctuation of his/her existence. In fact, Paul determined "to be absent from the body is to be present with the Lord." Eternal life is eternal; nothing can change that! Not even an evil gunman's intent upon destruction! I am confident that those Christ-followers who died in First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, now enjoy a different dimension of eternal life as they experience Heaven itself. And the apostle goes even further! He reminds us that their physical bodies will be resurrected on that great, triumphant day of Christ's return! Evil may have appeared to achieve its victory this past week, but don't be fooled by this cowardly act. Jesus is the Victor already, and He holds authority over all!

I know many of you all are concerned about our church security, and I assure you that we continue to evaluate our procedures to maintain a safe environment. This week, our Security Committee will meet to discuss these issues specifically. But while we make plans to address our own safety, let me ask you to pray for your Southern Baptist brothers and sisters in Texas who are going through this pain right now. Implore God to grant strength, grace, and comfort to the families and friends who are suffering through this loss. Moreover, pray that the Gospel will shine forth from Sutherland Springs and that this senseless act will find purpose in the salvation of lost souls. And as we ourselves join together to worship and serve, let's do so with full confidence in Christ and with an even greater sense of faithfulness! See you Sunday!

FROM THE RECORDS OF NOVEMBER 5, 2017

Worship Attendance		SS Attendance		'17	'16
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	650	Adults	446	438	
9 a.m. the gathering Worship Service	194	Singles/Young Adults	166	120	
11:15 a.m. the gathering Worship Service	408	College	122	112	
Combined Morning Total	1252	Youth	101	86	
5 p.m. Evening Worship Service	144	Children	126	105	
		Preschool	125	111	
		Local	1086	972	
		Off Campus	93	93	
		Total	1179	1065	

Sunday, November 5, 2017	
 Budget	\$84,059.67
Share the Light	\$2,098.96

Extended Session 11/12/17
9 a.m. Worship—Kristie Frasier, Sally Graham, Rene Davidson, Mary Lou, Morgan, & Mary Lindsay Funes, Lauren & Sydney Hull, Jared & Kim Little, Chris & Angie Taylor
11:15 a.m. Worship—Amanda Barham, Brittany Albritton, Justin & Danyelle O'Neal, Daniel & Amanda Reynolds, Kelly Guerrero

Education & Administration News

Loy Seal

I know you were as shocked and sickened by the shootings at First Baptist Church, Sutherland Springs, Texas, on Sunday as I was. I know you cannot imagine what that might be like. From a ministerial perspective, I would think that the pastor, who was not present during the service as he was out of town, is second guessing himself and wondering what he might have done if he had been there. Please pray for him in his personal loss as well as all the families in that church.

Let me tell you what we do at Temple each Sunday to try to prevent something like this from happening here. We have a sheriff's car parked prominently in front of the Sanctuary. There is a uniformed, armed deputy present during the 9 a.m. Blended Worship Service and in *the gathering* at 11:15 a.m. We have church members on golf carts in the parking lots, watching for suspicious activity. They are to call 911 if they see something potentially dangerous. We have members of the Security Committee, as well as licensed law enforcement officers attending each service and by church policy, many are armed. Many sit in specific seats so they have a good overview of the Sanctuary and *the gathering*, so as to detect potential threats. Security Committee Chairman, Kip Franklin, and I are always looking for ways to improve our security, and we communicate frequently.

I am not an eloquent speaker or writer so I am at a loss for words following this tragedy. This morning's blog by Dr. Thom Rainer, President of LifeWay, spoke eloquently to this, so let me quote him.

"But these things I will do:

- *I will pray. I will pray for the families of those killed and wounded. I will pray for the church. I will pray for the community. I will pray for Pastor Frank Pomeroy as he leads and comforts his congregation in the midst of his own grief. I will pray for the shooter's family.*
- *I will trust God for His comfort, His promise, and His guidance for those affected.*
- *I will pray for the Gospel of Jesus Christ to be magnified in this tragedy.*
- *And I will embrace in spirit the members of First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs. I will identify with my brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- *We are First Baptist Church of Sutherland Springs.*
- *We are your brothers and sisters in Christ.*
- *We pray for you. We care for you. We love you."*

Where Moms Connect: A Time of Encouragement

Monday, November 13, 9:30 a.m., *The Journey Place*
Moms, come and enjoy meaningful conversation, laughter, and friendship!



Do you have some Christmas village pieces the Decorating Committee may borrow to use for decorating this holiday season? Please call the Church Office by Monday, November 20.

Upward Basketball & Cheerleading!



Registration October 30 - December 5
Boys & Girls in Grades 1 - 6

Register online (upward.temple.life) or brochures available.

Volunteers Needed! Contact John or Michelle
in the FLC, 255-6184 or john@temple.life.

THE HOLY LAND TOUR

led by
Dr. Reggie Bridges and Rev. Dale Oden

March 6-15, 2018



\$500/person due NOW!

Brochures are available in the Church Office.

Deadline to sign up is Friday, November 17.

Myrtle King Lunch Bunch

Thursday, November 9 | 12 p.m. | Fellowship Hall
Bring a sandwich. Project: Shoeboxes/Samaritan's Purse
Speakers: Randy and Kitty Trail with Africans in France

Missionary Round Table

Friday, November 10 | 9:30 a.m.
at the home of Erma Hudson (2608 Briarhill Drive, Ruston)
Reviewer: Marilynn Lewis. Guests are cordially invited.

Our Newest Membership Candidate:



Teri Roark

SPECIAL CALLED BUSINESS MEETING

Sunday, November 12, all Morning Worship Services
Deacon Election, Budget Vote, and Annual Meeting

DEACON NOMINEES (Elect ten on November 12)

Jody Adams	Ronnie Ainsworth
Fred Benefield	Mack Blake
Mike Brister	Mike Collie
John Corley	David Darland
Don Hogan	Gabe Hogan
John Hood	Ben Humphries
Ted McKinney	Randy McWhorter
Jeff Roberts	Leon Stamm
Mike Stone	Galen Turner III
Phillip Washington	Matt Woodard

Christmas Poinsettias



Reservations will be **November 5-26** to purchase poinsettias for display in the Sanctuary and the Gathering Space.

\$12/poinsettia - Red reservation envelopes are available throughout the church.



Operation Christmas Child

Temple's Goal - 800 boxes
Due Date: Sunday, November 12
Boxes are available throughout the church.

Congratulations to:

Gary & Tammie McCann on the birth of their grandson,
Javin Heber.

Adopt-A-School Partnership Needs

Hospitality Team, Prayer Partners, and
Visit with students & local nursing home residents
Sign up cards available in your Sunday School boxes.

TEMPLE TECH

TAILGATING
Saturday, November 11



Tailgating at **1 p.m.** | Menu: Shish Kabobs, Waffle Fries, Roll
LA Tech vs. Florida Atlantic | 2:30 p.m. Kickoff

The Journey Place Tiny Trekkers & Summit Kids Sally Hearn

Recently we celebrated our **Parent/Child Dedication**. I am so thankful for the precious families who participated and the commitment they made to raise their children in the ways of the Lord and teach them to follow Him. I am also thankful for our wonderful church family and the commitment we made to stand beside these families and to encourage them and support them on this journey. We look forward to the day when each of these children make their personal commitment to follow Christ as their Lord and Savior.

Operation Christmas Child is underway. Have you picked up a box? Will you fill a box and help us reach our goal of 800 gifts? *Temple* boxes are due this Sunday, November 12 in any Morning Worship Service. We will dedicate our boxes on November 12 as we have a time of prayer for the children who will be receiving them.

The **Relay Center** will be open from Monday, November 13-Sunday, November 19. Drop-off times that week are Monday-Wednesday, 10am-2 pm; Thursday, 4-6 p.m.; Friday, 10 a.m.-2 p.m.; Saturday, 10 a.m.-12 p.m.; Sunday, 2-6 p.m. in Fellowship Hall. If you are interested in serving at the Relay Center, please call *The Journey Place* Office.

I have talked with several people who have not heard of Operation Christmas Child. Share with a friend or neighbor and invite them to fill a box. Help share the love of Christ with children around the world through this simple gift.

December Parents Night Out will be held on **Friday, December 8 from 5:30-8:30 p.m.** If your Sunday School class is planning a Christmas party, this is the night for childcare. Sign-up envelopes are located in *The Journey Place* and in Sunday School boxes.

Mark your calendar for our **Family Ornament Party** to be held on **Thursday, November 30, from 6-8 p.m. in Fellowship Hall.** Come with your family to make ornaments together. This is a great time to spend with each other before the rush of the holidays begins. We will have pizza and a birthday cake for Jesus.

Annual Thanksgiving Celebration with Zion Traveler Baptist Church

Sunday, November 12

6 p.m. (Time Change)

at Temple Baptist Church



Come and worship
together as Zion
Traveler leads.
Meal to follow in
Fellowship Hall.

Deacons of the Week—November 12-18
Bob Myers & Jim Pearce

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Week-at-a-Glance

Nicaragua Construction Trip Homes Fundraiser ~ November 1-December 1
Poinsettia Sale ~ November 5-26
Operation Christmas Child Relay Center ~ November 13-20

Sunday, November 12

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Baptism | Special Called Business Meeting | OCC
Box Dedication (Sanctuary); *the gathering* Worship | Special Called
Business Meeting | OCC Box Dedication (GS)
10:15 a.m. - Bible Study for all ages
10:40 a.m. - Celebration Choir Preservice Rehearsal (GS)
11:15 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | Celebration Choir Singing | Special
Called Business Meeting | OCC Box Dedication (GS)
3:30 p.m. - Deacons Meeting (Rm 76)
6 p.m. - Evening Worship Service | Thanksgiving Service and Meal with Zion
Traveler

Monday, November 13

9:30 a.m. - Where Mom's Connect (JPMR)
6 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

Wednesday, November 15

9 a.m. - Friendship International Thanksgiving Celebration (FLC);
Quilting/Sewing (Rm 81)
12 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
5 p.m. - Family Meal (FH; Menu: Beef Tips over Rice;
Cost: \$4/person, \$2/child under 8, \$12 max/family)
5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) (JPMR)
6 p.m. - Business Meeting | Prayer Meeting | Bible Study (FH);
GROW Visitation - ORANGE TEAM (FH);
Youth Wednesday Night Worship (Youth Rm)
6:45 p.m. - Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary); Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm);
Nicaragua Construction Team Meeting (Rm 76)
7 p.m. - CORPS Meeting (Rm 270); Ensembells Rehearsal (Rm 213B);
temple-tech Freshmen Bible Study (Rm 216)
8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (FH)

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

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 Free Play Hours: Monday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.; Tuesday, Wednesday, & Thursday: 2:30-5 p.m.; Friday: 8-11 a.m.
Media Center Hours: Sunday: 8:15-9 a.m.; 10:15-11:15 a.m.; Wednesday: 9 a.m.-12 p.m.; 1:30-5 p.m.
Broadcast: Sundays at 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY)