

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

Every time I enter into the Christmas season, I am reminded that this is the most wonderful time of the year—at least in my opinion! From the decorations to the special gatherings to the food, these holidays offer a spirit of celebration and blessing. I especially love the Christmas music. My family and I tune in to that musical genre on Thanksgiving Day, and we listen as long as it is offered. Of course, I really like those songs that reflect the reason for the season, Jesus. I often join in by adding my voice to the praise I hear emanating from my car radio, my iPhone, etc. It just seems natural to respond in such a way to the Savior's birth. Indeed, singing has always been a part of such worship.

Ask some of the earliest characters that play a role in the infancy narratives. Take Mary as an example. She naturally declared her praise before God as she contemplated how He had demonstrated His favor upon her. In fact, she broke out in a song that recounted His faithfulness. Throughout church history, this praise has been referred to as *The Magnificat* and is found in Luke 1:46-55. But the songs did not stop there. Zechariah, the husband of Mary's cousin and the father of John the Baptist, also emerged from a God-induced mute period by exclaiming

the advent of the Savior. This chorus is recorded in Luke 1:68-79 and is now entitled *The Benedictus*. Later, Simeon offered his verbal thanksgiving as he placed his eyes upon the long-awaited Messiah. He could not contain his gratitude for God's sending the Light unto the nations in what has been called the *Nunc Dimittis* located in Luke 2:29-32. In all three songs, you can hear the genuine joy of the singer and his/her faith in Yahweh.

So again, I implore you to join the cast of believers and sing this Christmas! Celebrate the Savior and His salvation! Exalt the greatness of His name! You can do it in your own personal context, or you can gather with your spiritual family. In either case, be real and be joyful.

This Sunday morning, we will have a Combined Worship Service at 11 a.m. as we sing our Christmas songs together. It is going to be an awesome experience as our Music Ministry teams lead us. Make sure you attend and invite others to come along. And then, we will welcome Zach and Marissa Husser to our team at 4 p.m., eat some pizza together, and then go caroling throughout our community at 5 p.m. Hope you can come! See you Sunday!

FROM THE RECORDS OF DECEMBER 9, 2018

Worship Attendance		SS Attendance		
		'18	'17	
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	509	Adults	420	446
9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	180	Singles/Young Adults	128	126
11:15 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	269	College	116	112
The Springs Bible Study	NA	Youth	99	100
Combined Morning Total	971	Children	104	123
6 p.m. Evening Worship Service	NA	Preschool	105	104
		Local	972	1011
		Off Campus	105	105
		Total	1077	1116

Sunday, December 9, 2018	
 Budget	\$51,158.95
Share the Light	\$325.00
Lottie Moon Offering	\$105,888.00

Extended Session 12/16/18

11 a.m. Combined Worship—Rebecca Williams, Garson Woodard, Patrick & Katie Golden, J & Blair Walpole, Lauren & Sydney Hull, Dustin & Anna Alexander, Tim & Jennifer McCarthy, April Winstead, Ciria Lee, Jennifer Parker, Lindsey Purvis, Kathy Shealy, Allison & Taryn Davidson

From The Minister of Pastoral Care

Dale Oden

Joy to the World! Isn't this a special time of the year as we celebrate the birth of our Savior? I enjoy all the decorations, the food, the music, the parties; but most of all, I am grateful for the greatest gift we have received, the birth of God's Son. And the angel said, "You shall call Him, Jesus, for He shall save His people from their sins." Now that's something to celebrate! I hope that you and your family will have a wonderful and blessed Christmas!

Our senior adults will celebrate next **Tuesday, December 18, at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall** at our monthly **Senior Adult Luncheon**. We had a great attendance at our November luncheon. The program for this month will be presented by the quartet, **Deacons of Light**. These four guys are deacons here at Temple and will share some music of Christmas with us. Plan to join us for a time of food, fellowship and entertainment. The church will furnish the meat and tea. Everyone else should bring a salad, vegetable dish, or a dessert to share.

Fourteen of our senior adults made the trip to work at the **Processing Center for Operation Christmas Child in Dallas**. We worked hard for several hours alongside a couple of hundred other folks. The people in charge of the Dallas center were expecting to pack one million boxes by the end of next week. That's amazing! The crates that we loaded were being shipped to Haiti and Honduras. Next year, I would love to see some individuals from Temple help deliver the boxes to the children overseas.

If you want to plan for a trip in 2020, Dr. Reggie and I have one scheduled in May, 2020, to attend the Passion Play in Oberammergau, Germany. Brochures are available in the Church Office and around the church. Having been twice, I can tell you it is a fantastic experience!

December Schedule

December 19 (Wednesday)

5 p.m. Family Night Meal
(M³ is canceled)

6 p.m. Prayer Meeting | Bible Study

December 23 (Sunday)

9 a.m. Blended Worship & the gathering Worship

10:15 a.m. Bible Study for all ages

11:15 a.m. the gathering Worship

4 p.m. Retirement Reception for Loy Seal

Evening Worship is canceled.

December 24 (Monday)

5 p.m. Annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service

December 24, 25, & 26 (Monday-Wednesday)

Church Offices Closed for Christmas Holidays

December 26 (Wednesday)

All evening activities are canceled

December 30 (Sunday)

10 a.m. Bible Study for all ages

11 a.m. Combined Worship | Lord's Supper

Evening Worship is canceled.

January 1 (Tuesday)

Church Offices Closed for Holiday

Policy for Announcements

All announcements to be considered for church-wide publications are due in the Church Office by noon on Thursday prior to the week of the next publication.

The Journey Place Playscape Holiday Play Hours

December 17-20 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

December 21-26 | Closed for the holidays

December 27 | 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

December 28 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

December 31 | 9 a.m.-12 p.m.

January 1 | Closed for the holiday

The Life Tree Project

(to benefit Life Choices of North Central Louisiana)

Now through Wednesday, December 19

Life Trees are located by Guest Services, across from Missions Hub, & the Gathering Space foyer.

To Participate: choose an ornament, purchase item listed on back, and then return item and ornament to the box located outside the Church Office or to Life Choices.

Our Newest Membership Candidates:



Kirk Reynolds



Zach & Marissa Husser



Dr. Reggie Bridges
for 5 years as
Senior Pastor of Temple.

**Retirement Reception for Loy Seal
Minister of Education/Administration**

Sunday, December 23 | 4 p.m. | Fellowship Hall.

Join us as we celebrate Loy and Deborah's service to Temple.

Presentation will be made at 4:30 p.m.

(Evening Worship is canceled)

In accordance with IRS regulations,
contributions for 2018 must physically be in the
church's possession OR postmarked by **December 31**.

ALL contributions submitted on Tuesday, January 1,
2019, will appear on 2019 contribution statements.



the family of Walterine Post, mother of Warren;
the family of Virginia Selle.

Upward Basketball & Cheerleading!



Volunteers Needed

Referees & Half-time Devotion Leaders

To volunteer, contact John or Emma
in the FLC, 255-6184, or john@temple.life.

Congratulations to:

Cole and Brooke Bishop on the birth of their son, **Jack Alan**.
Proud brother and sister are Beau and Collins.

Youth & Recreation Ministry

John Nugent

237 and 156 and Mission Trips

Upward Basketball and Cheerleading is about to begin! We're lining up teams with coaches, scheduling referees and half-time speakers, and getting ready to minister to our community! This year we have 237 basketball players and cheerleaders, which is our largest group ever! We really do plead with you to be praying for God to work in epic ways this season. You'll even find specific ways you can pray for Upward through announcements in your Sunday School boxes. Also, we still have some spots to fill for half-time speakers and referees. Be a part of it all by volunteering and praying!

Princess & Warrior Weekend has become the biggest event for our youth group family. This year we have our largest group participating with 156 students and adults signed up and ready to go! Pray for leaders as they are currently preparing to use God's Word to answer tough questions in which teenagers are struggling. Pray that God will already begin to prepare students' minds and hearts to take in the truth of His Word and be bold as they make changes in their lives to follow Him more closely.

One big thing we'll do at Princess & Warrior Weekend will be announcing our **summer Mission Trip locations**. Students in Grades 7-9 will be going to a new location this summer to experience some different ways of sharing God's love and the Gospel. Students in Grades 10-12 will be flying away to another exciting place that is desperately in need of people ready to work hard and love big as they expand God's Kingdom. Mark down these trip dates on your calendars!

Grades 7-9 Mission Trip July 15-20

Grades 10-12 Mission Trip June 15-21

December 16

10 a.m. Bible Study for all ages

11 a.m. Combined Worship | Sanctuary
Christmas Music Program, *Prince of Heaven*



4 p.m. Welcome Reception | Fellowship Hall
for Zach & Marissa Husser
Associate Minister of Music
Pizza will be served.
(Basket available for gift cards)

5 p.m. Church-wide Caroling
(Meet in Fellowship Hall for assignments.)

Deacons of the Week— December 16-22
Bobby Ensminger & Terry Ewing

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Week-at-a-Glance

Life Choices Tree Project ~ Now-December 19

Sunday, December 16

10 a.m. - Bible Study for all ages; Discover Temple (Rm 216)
11 a.m. - Combined Worship | *Prince of Heaven* Christmas Music Program |
Advent (Sanctuary)
4 p.m. - Welcome Reception for Associate Minister of Music (Fellowship Hall)
5 p.m. - Church-wide Christmas Caroling | *temple-tech* Caroling
6 p.m. - *temple-tech* Sunday Night Supper
7 p.m. - *temple-tech* Volleyball (FLC)

Tuesday, December 18

11:45 a.m. - Senior Adult Luncheon (FH)

Wednesday, December 19

9 a.m. - Friendship International Christmas Celebration (Turner Home);
Quilting/Sewing (FH)
5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Menu: Brisket;
Cost: \$4/person, \$2/child under 8, \$12 max/family)
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); GROW Visitation - ORANGE TEAM
(FH); Youth Wednesday Night Worship (Youth Rm)
6:45 p.m. - Music and Media Christmas Party (FH);
Hungary Mission Trip Interest Meeting (Rm 76)
7 p.m. - CORPS Meeting (Rm 270); Ensembells Rehearsal (Rm 213B);
temple-tech Freshman Bible Study (FH)
8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

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.-12 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)

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