

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

“For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life” (John 3:16). This is the Gospel. This is the message of Christmas. This season, as all seasons, focuses upon Jesus Christ and His mission for us. It is not about gifts. It is not about family gatherings. It is not about poinsettias. It is not about holiday music. It is not about time off from work/school. It is not about extra hunting opportunities. It is not about Saint Nick. It is all about Jesus, the God-Man, who came to save His people from their sins! Christmas exists because Christ exists! And the good news of His birth and work should prompt us to exalt Him accordingly! Kinda like we did this past Sunday! What a day it was as our Music Ministry led us in worship of the King! There were moments when I thought I would leave my front pew to join the worshippers in the choir and on the platform. To me, it was one of the best Christmas celebrations of which I have been a part! Thank you choir, orchestra, and technical support personnel for your faithfulness in leading us. (I'm looking for some of you back in the choir loft when January rolls around!) And thanks to Jeremy for his preparation and guidance for the worship event. I am so grateful I get to serve with him here at Temple.

Of course, the Christmas season is not complete, and I hope you will take time to join us this coming Sunday as we again worship Jesus, the King. (Note: Our Morning Worship Services will

return to our normal schedule as we gather together this week.) Moreover, make plans to be at one of my favorite worship services of the year – our annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service!

As this year moves to its end, we recognize the retirement of my friend and co-laborer, Loy Seal. For thirteen years, Loy and his wife, Deborah, have faithfully served and ministered here at Temple Baptist Church. (Including their work at Cook Baptist Church, they have been in Ruston some 21 ½ years!) We especially have been blessed to have them on our leadership team, and we want to express our gratitude to them this week. Please take a moment out of your hectic holiday schedule and drop by a reception in their honor this Sunday at 4 p.m. as we appropriately thank them for their ministry. We love them! Let's show them!

Finally, I want to say how much my family and I appreciate you, the Temple family. You give, you serve, you minister in Jesus' Name. Every day, I see the grace on your faces and the works in your lives. You constantly live out the Great Commission and give to see the Gospel circumnavigate the globe. (To date, you have given over \$140,000 to the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering alone!) Leslie, my kids, and I are so grateful we get to do life and ministry with you. Thanks always for letting us be a part of what our Lord is doing in and through Temple Baptist Church. You are loved dearly! Merry Christmas!

FROM THE RECORDS OF DECEMBER 16, 2018

Worship Attendance		SS Attendance		'18	'17
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	NA	Adults	461	403	
9 a.m. the gathering Worship Service	NA	Singles/Young Adults	148	106	
11 a.m. Combined Worship Service	1208	College	102	105	
The Springs Bible Study	7	Youth	92	84	
Combined Morning Total	1215	Children	117	101	
6 p.m. Evening Worship Service	NA	Preschool	103	77	
		Local	1023	876	
		Off Campus	117	93	
		Total	1140	969	

Give the Gift to the Lord		Sunday, December 16, 2018	
Budget		\$160,846.61	
Share the Light		\$900.00	
Lottie Moon Offering		\$141,489.00	

Extended Session 12/23/18	
9 a.m. Worship—Amanda Barham, Josh & Ashley Walpole, Faith Alexander, Carmen Echols, Doc & Brooke Hoefler, Susan Rasbury, Suzette Stroud, Suzanne Tyler, Teena Doxey	
11:15 a.m. Worship—Sherry McConathy, Leslie Bridges, Seth & Julie Riser, Gina Holstead	
Extended Session 12/30/18	
11 a.m. Combined Worship—Bobby & Karen Sanders, Sam & Kelly Hodge, Jody & Emily Adams, Sara Moore, Justin & Elyse Mills, Jordan Hearn, Laura Davis, Kelsey Whitlock, Lisa Barr, Daniel & Amanda Reynolds, Ann Marie Queen, Heather Meek, Anne Thompson	

MUSIC MINISTRY

Jeremy Asher

For to us a child is born, to us a son is given, and the government will be on his shoulders. And he will be called Wonderful Counselor, Mighty God, Everlasting Father, Prince of Peace.

Isaiah 9:6, NIV

Merry Christmas, Church Family! My heart is full of the Lord's joy tonight. On Sunday afternoon, my family had the opportunity to sing Christmas carols in the homes of several Temple members. Gathering together with other parents and (many) kids, it was a special time to minister to some precious Temple friends while proclaiming "Joy to the World! The Lord Is Come!" It is awesome to be a part of a church family that values people so much, ministering to them in big and small ways. The bright, joyous smiles that our singing brought to our recipients was only outshined by their own beautiful voices, fragile as they might have been, singing along with us. Don't you know the "Prince of Heaven" just loves to hear His children sing to Him?

As great as the caroling was on Sunday evening, it was actually the second amazing ministry event of the day! There are so many who helped with our presentation of "Prince of Heaven," and I am truly thankful for all who participated. I failed to properly acknowledge Dr. Galen Turner, III, who not only presented the narration, but he wrote all of it specifically for our Christmas program. Dr. Turner, I thank God for you! Thank you for using your talents to point others to Jesus! And wasn't it amazing to see a choir loft full of worshipers? As Dr. Reggie mentioned in the service, it would be so great if you would continue to participate in our Music Ministry. Whether you sing, play an instrument, use technical skills in media, or serve in our M³ Children's Choir Ministry, there is a place for you! The bottom line is, we simply cannot do ministry without YOU!

I pray that you and your family have a memorable and blessed Christmas season. May the Lord fill you and your family with His joy this year as you remember that "Christ is born!" Praise the Lord, the Savior has come and is coming again!

Upward Basketball & Cheerleading!



Volunteers Needed
5 Teams Need 2 Coaches Each

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

A Thank You card has been received from...

The family of Paula Weeks (Jonann, Karla, & Steve)
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)

Sharing Jesus (without freaking out)

Sundays, January 6, 13, 20, & 27, 2019
4:30 p.m. | Room 76

Sign up in Sunday School or
by calling the Church Office.

Contact: Ben Jernigan,
ben@temple.life, 255-3745

The Family Life Center will be closed

December 24, 25, 26, and January 1.

December 27, 28, and 31 it will be accessible
by key fob only or through the Main Office Doors
8 a.m. - 5 p.m.

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

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.

ALVIN L. REID



SHARING
JESUS
(without freaking out)

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.


**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)

The Tidings will not be printed the week of December 23-29.

Ordination Council for Gabe Hogan
January 6 | 4:30 p.m. | Room 81
All ordained men are invited to attend.


Deacon Ordination
January 6 | 6 p.m. | Sanctuary

Baton Rouge Mission Trip ~ April 12-14
Interest Meeting: January 9 | 6:45 p.m. | Room 76
Easter Eggstravaganza, family outreach, games, block party

Celebration Choir will sing in *the gathering*
Sunday, February 3 | 11:15 a.m. 
Rehearsals:
Tuesdays, January 15, 22, 29 | 6-7 p.m. | Choir Room
(Note Date Changes for Rehearsals)
Sunday, February 3 | 10:45 a.m. | Gathering Space
Open to everyone!
No age limit and no experience necessary!
Contact Zach Husser, zach@temple.life, 255-3745

Bible Drill

Children Grades 4, 5, & 6 will begin on Sunday, January 6, 2019, with an Orientation Meeting (for parents and students) at 5 p.m. in *The Journey Place* Multipurpose Room. Then, the following Sundays, students will meet from 4:30-5:45 p.m.

 the family of Jackie Hamilton,
grandmother of Toni Morgenthall.

Regular Wednesday Schedule RETURNS
beginning Wednesday, January 9.

College Connection
Casey Casady

The Blessing of Beach Reach. If you are looking for a holiday gift for your favorite college student, consider Beach Reach! You can support collegiate kingdom growth and help a college student go on Beach Reach. We are participating in Lifeway's College Beach Reach again. This year during the day, we will be involved in disaster relief in communities harmed by the recent hurricane.

The cost for your college student is \$349.00. Student will grow in their faith through evangelism, discipleship and experiential learning. Basically, they will learn to share the Gospel with their peers in a very collegiate environment. We hope you will encourage any college student you know to join us on this mission trip March 2-9. Many students will go skiing, go on a cruise, or visit friends; but some will give their time to go and expand the Kingdom of God. Pray for these students as they begin to prepare their hearts and minds to serve over Spring Quarter Break. If you have any questions, contact the College Ministry Office at 255-6184 and speak to Casey or Emma or email us at casey@temple.life.

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 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

January 2 (Wednesday)
No Afternoon or Evening Activities

Deacons of the Week—December 23-29
Kip Franklin & Paul Frazier

Deacons of the Week—December 30-January 5
David Gullatt & Bob Hearn

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Website: temple.life

Week-at-a-Glance

Sunday, December 23

9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Advent (Sanctuary);
the gathering Worship | Advent (GS)
10:15 a.m. - Bible Study for all ages
11:15 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship | Advent (GS)
4 p.m. - Retirement Reception for Loy Seal (FH)
Evening Worship is canceled.

Monday, December 24 ~ Christmas Eve

Church Offices Closed
5 p.m. - Christmas Eve Candlelight Service | Advent (Sanctuary)

Tuesday, December 25 ~ Christmas Day

Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, December 26

Church Offices Closed

Sunday, December 30

10 a.m. Bible Study for all ages
11 a.m. Combined Worship | Lord's Supper (Sanctuary)
Afternoon Activities and Evening Worship are canceled.

Tuesday, January 1 ~ New Year's Day

Church Offices Closed

Wednesday, January 2

9 a.m. - Quilting/Sewing (FH)
Afternoon and Evening Activities are canceled.

Thursday, January 3

6 p.m. - Upward Coach/Referee Training (FLC)

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 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)