

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

Baptist polity can be incredibly difficult to wrap your mind around . . . especially for those raised in non-Baptist circles. To think that each church is fully autonomous in its existence and government defies conventional denominational structure. I mean, doesn't the Southern Baptist Convention tell each church what to think and do? The Louisiana Baptist Convention provides marching orders for Temple, right? At least it makes sense that the local association of churches governs our church's decisions? The answer to all of these questions is a resounding "No!" Instead, we voluntarily cooperate with other Southern Baptist churches in order to promote ministry and missions. We retain our right to make our own decisions as we submit to the Lordship of Christ, but we know that we can do more together than we can achieve alone.

But what happens when a cooperating congregation embraces unbiblical and/or unethical stances/practices? What can we do? First, I want to reassert that we cannot violate another church's autonomy no matter how vehemently we disagree with its positions. And for that matter, no Baptist entity, such as a board or convention, can step in to overrule the individual church's decision. However, we can and should withdraw our fellowship from such a group of individuals. They can hold whatever they wish, but we do not have to openly associate with them.

Over the past few years, most Southern Baptist churches have been removed from our fellowship because they have publicly approved of homosexual lifestyles, have ordained practicing gay clergy, or have sanctioned same-sex marriages. Of course, I strongly agree that we cannot maintain a relationship of fellowship with such congregations. We have no choice but to publicly state

that we are not in fellowship with such churches. Recently, an African-American pastor and friend vividly framed the picture of such churches for me: "Reggie, those churches who approve of homosexual practices are not liberal. They are wicked!" And as Scripture reminds us, "What fellowship has light with darkness?" (2 Corinthians 6:14c NASB).

Last week, a Georgia Baptist association took the extraordinary step of removing a church from its fellowship for the equally sinful attitude of racism. And although I cannot recount the full story here, the simple truth is that African Americans were turned away from the church service. One visitor told the Christian Index when "she asked to use a restroom in the church, she was told to go down the street and use a convenience store's restroom." After associational leaders failed to mediate reconciliation and repentance, the association unanimously voted to withdraw fellowship from the church over "unchristian attitudes." This, I believe, is the first such action taken against a Southern Baptist church upon those grounds, and I believe it to be necessary to the Kingdom's priorities. We must unequivocally declare that the Gospel is for all and that the message of Christ actively confronts hate. You and I should be most notably grateful for this good news as we trace our ancestry to those who were outside looking in—the Gentiles!

My prayer is that we, as Temple Baptist Church, will always stand for the truth and work with those who embrace that Word. Moreover, we should pray that God would lead those wayward congregations to repentance and reconciliation!

FROM THE RECORDS OF APRIL 8, 2018

Worship Attendance		SS Attendance		'18	'17
9 a.m. Blended Worship Service	623	Adults	435	410	
9 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	148	Singles/Young Adults	125	137	
11:15 a.m. <i>the gathering</i> Worship Service	297	College	94	100	
Combined Morning Total	1068	Youth	90	79	
		Children	117	113	
		Preschool	104	126	
		Local	965	965	
		Off Campus	111	93	
6 p.m. Evening Worship Service	184	Total	1076	1058	

Sunday, April 8, 2018



Budget	\$34,374.94
Share the Light	\$815.00
Annie Armstrong Offering	\$55,058.21

Extended Session 4/15/18

9 a.m. Worship—Tommy & Dolora Gregory, Rebecca Williams, Garson Woodard, J & Blair Walpole, Stacey Casady, Alicia Ball, Dustin & Anna Alexander, Tim & Jennifer McCarthy

11:15 a.m. Worship—Candee Anderson, April Winstead, Dale & Sadel Oden, Patrick Patton

From The Minister of Pastoral Care

Dale Oden

The beautiful flowers all around town say that it is Spring, but the temperature of the past few days have said that Winter is lingering for a little longer. I have heard folks declare that if it thunders in February we will have frost in April. That has been proven to be true over the past several years.

Our **monthly Senior Adult Luncheon** is scheduled for next Tuesday, April 17. We meet in Fellowship Hall at 11:45 a.m. Come enjoy a great meal plus wonderful fellowship! Bring a salad, vegetables, or dessert to share. The program for this month will be presented by Walter Allen. He is the Coordinator for the "Teach One to Lead One" mentoring program at Ruston High School. Walter will share what the program has accomplished; and hopefully, some of our group will want to get involved in the Fall.

It is always impressive to see our senior adults involved in various activities and service opportunities throughout the church and community. We have two such events coming up in the next couple of weeks. One is the **Great American Cleanup** on Saturday, April 21, from 8-11:30 a.m. The second one is the next day, Sunday, April 22, starting at 4 p.m. That's our **Released** Sunday. I hope that many of our senior adults will participate!

Brochures for the **Fantastic Fall in the Smoky Mountains and Celebrators Conference** will be available at our luncheon on Tuesday, April 17. The dates for the trip are October 19-26, 2018 (Friday-Friday). Plans are to go to Charlotte, North Carolina to visit the Billy Graham Library and Museum before going to Pigeon Forge, Tennessee, for the conference. The program for the conference looks outstanding. Pick up a brochure next week if you have an interest in going.

Plans for "**The Footsteps of Paul**" trip are in the works for 2019. Watch for details on touring many of the cities that the Apostle Paul traveled to as he shared the Gospel. It's going to be a fantastic opportunity to learn more about the Bible.

Robert S. & Vivian Magee Scholarship

College and Seminary applications are in the Church Office or may be downloaded from magee.temple.life.
Absolute deadline for applications: Monday, April 23, 5 p.m. in the Church Office.



KEEP AMERICA
BEAUTIFUL

GREAT AMERICAN CLEANUP

Saturday, April 21 | 8-11:30 a.m.

Let's help clean up our community!

Meet at The Springs - formerly Barnett Springs Baptist Church
Saturday morning from 8-11:30 a.m.

For more information and to register go to released.temple.life

Launch Training for Mission Teams

This is a mandatory training for all first-time international team members.

Wednesday, April 25 | 6:45 p.m. | Room 76

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



IN HIS GRIP

IN HIS GRIP MEN'S INVITATIONAL

Monday, May 7 | Squire Creek Country Club

Cost: \$85/player or \$340/team

(Includes a gift bag and meal following your round)

Time: Morning-8 a.m. and Afternoon-1:30 p.m.

Sign up by calling the Church Office (255-3745)
or online at inhisgrip.temple.life

Contact: Jason Walsworth, jason@temple.life, 255-3745



Mondays, April 16-July 23 | 6 p.m. | Room 76

Facilitator: Linda Echols

Contact: Loy Seal, loy@temple.life, 255-3745

International Summer Missions Fundraiser

temple-tech Hike-A-Thon! ~ April 27-29 (Date Change)

Eagle Rock Loop in Arkansas (28 mile loop)

Will you sponsor a college student per mile?

Goal: to raise \$5,000 for International Summer Missions

Contact: Casey Casady, casey@temple.life, 255-6184

Our Newest Membership Candidates:



Brian & Carole Aston



John & Kaylee Jones
(Also pictured Juliann)



*John Nugent for 5 years
of service at Temple.*

Congratulations to:

Thomas and Rachel Davison on the birth of their daughter, Lilly Renee. Proud grandparents are Todd and Renee Davison and proud great-grandparents are James and Dianne Davison. Chris and Tori Brister on the birth of their son, Maverick Henry. Proud grandparents are Tony and Mary Soto.

VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL ~ JUNE 4-8

Children entering Kindergarten-entering Grade 6



Sign up now at vbs.temple.life
or in *The Journey Place*.

VBS t-shirts available for \$10.

The Journey Place has order envelopes.

Volunteers needed in Grades 1, 5, and 6!

Contact: Sally Hearn, sally@temple.life, 255-3745



the family of Wymie Smith, mother of
Alexa Lambert; the family of Rex Mobley,
brother of Larry Mobley

A Celebration of the Heart

Monday, April 23 | 6 p.m. | Temple Youth Room

A Women's Ministry Event: All Heartfelt friends & those interested
in joining Temple's Heartfelt Ministry are invited.

Youth & Recreation Ministry

John Nugent

Belonging and *fitting in* are two very different things. We've had 171 different youth check in to a weekly youth service at least once in the last month. All of these teenagers don't fit into one big general category. They are athletes, intellectuals, popular, and overlooked. They're a part of the band, the tennis team, the swim team, or FBLA. They run track, play volleyball, golf, and you can hear them on the school radio station. They're single, dating, or just "talking." They're winning young chemist competitions; and they're competing in beauty pageants. Some of these students are called to ministry; others are leading Bible studies at their schools. Some go through the motions of church, and others struggle to pursue Christ at all. These 171 youth are all different, and they definitely don't all fit in with each other – but they all belong in our Youth Ministry.

If you ask just a few of our youth about our Youth Ministry, you'll quickly hear them talk about how we are all one big family and how it doesn't matter where you go to school or what you're a part of, we all seem to get along and feel unified. All of these teenagers, and many more, have a group in which they know they belong, and they have a purpose through our student ministry. It's really quite amazing.

Missions endeavors help them all seem like one big family. When students go away together on a mission trip, they become unified in their efforts to reach people with the Gospel. They live together for a week, worship together, struggle together, work together, and see together God do amazing things in and through them.

This summer, our teenagers have the opportunity to serve on mission trips to Calgary, Canada, and New Orleans, Louisiana. These experiences are vital for students to know they belong to our Youth Ministry and to what God is doing.

Our **trip to New Orleans to work with MissionLab of New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary** still has room and time to sign up! Mission trips and experiencing what God does in and through our group outside of Sunday mornings and Wednesday nights is even more important for our younger youth. Make sure that you get signed up for MissionLab in New Orleans by *May 1*! You can sign up and get more information at missionNOLA.templebcstudents.org

Keep praying for God to continue showing us His favor and doing incredible things in and through our big youth group family!



Church-wide service projects

Sunday, April 22

Meet in Fellowship Hall

4 p.m.

*For more information and to sign up,
go to released.temple.life*

*Help share the love of Christ by doing
Spring Cleaning projects at Boys and Girls Club,
CCA, Elementary Schools, Freedom 13 Ministries,
Life Choices, and Rolling Hills.*

Deacons of the Week—April 15-21

David Darland & Bobby Ensminger

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Week-at-a-Glance

temple-tech Crawfish Trip ~ April 20-21

Sunday, April 15

9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); *the gathering* Worship (GS)
10:15 a.m. - Bible Study for all ages
11:15 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship (GS)
4:30 p.m. - Children's Bible Drill (JP); Deacons Meeting (Rm 76);
VBS Leadership Meeting (JPMR)
5 p.m. - Sanctuary Handbell Rehearsal (Rm 213B)
6 p.m. - Evening Worship Service (Chapel); *temple-tech* Sunday Night Supper

Monday, April 16

6 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

Tuesday, April 17

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

Wednesday, April 18

9 a.m. - Friendship International (Rms 72, 76, 81); Quilting/Sewing (FH)
5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Menu: Chicken Fried Steaks; Cost: \$4/person,
\$2/child under 8, \$12 max/family)
5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ (Missions, Music, & More!) (JP)
6 p.m. - Quarterly Business Meeting (FH); GROW Visitation - ORANGE TEAM (FH);
Youth Wednesday Night Worship (Youth Rm)
6:45 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
7 p.m. - CORPS Meeting (Rm 270); *temple-tech* Freshmen Bible Study (Rm 216);
Ensembells Rehearsal (Rm 216B)
8 p.m. - *temple-tech* Midweek (GS)

Saturday, April 21

8 a.m. - Great American Cleanup

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)

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