



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it. If a man tried to buy love with all his wealth, his offer would be utterly scorned. – Song of Solomon 8:7 NLT

Love is powerful. The biblical witness trumpets love and its impact upon us. In fact, the Scripture itself is a love letter that God penned to us as it describes His ever-faithful passion for us. God desires us, He wants to live in relationship with us, and He desperately pursues us. Why? Because He truly loves us! He loved us so much that He was willing to give up His one and only Son to die for us. And while most of you have heard that truth before, maybe you need to simply pause for a moment here and allow that reality to settle in your mind and heart one more time. The Father willingly offered up His own Son so that He could live in a right relationship with you! My friends, that is love! And it is incredible!

But get this! Our Lord not only wanted you to live in relationship with you, but He also intended for you to live in an authentic community of love. He has given you a place to belong—the church! In this body of believers, you find relationships that will sustain you through life. You discover a family of encouragers! These brothers and sisters in Christ are called alongside you during the great times and during the difficult moments. In the setting of the church, we really do laugh together and weep together. We simply do life together . . . a life lived out in the context of our love relationships!

For so many, God also allows us to experience another facet of love within marriage and family. Solomon's words above actually describe the committed, passionate love that a man and woman exhibit in the marriage relationship. Waters

cannot quench such fire, nor can the rivers extinguish its blaze. Money cannot purchase the treasure of love found in the marital bond. Perhaps the significance of such love is best underscored by the marriage analogy used by Paul to describe Christ's intimate relationship to the church in Ephesians 5:22-33. The apostle reminds us of the love the husband (Christ) and the wife (the church) share for one another. It is a love of selflessness and sacrifice.

I am so grateful that we have earthly examples of that type of commitment as well. As we move toward Sunday (which is also Valentine's Day), I reflect upon the married couples within our congregation that display an unbreakable union. According to our congregational records, we have ninety-five couples who have been married for fifty years or more. Can you join me in a collective, "Wow!"? Seriously, that number is enough for us to stop in amazement! The eight couples who have been married the longest: Virgil and Myrtis Orr (75); Ed and Elsie Spiller (72); Tom and Mary Kilpatrick (69); Barney and Frances Sumrall (69); Bill and Gloria Gullatt (68); Royce and Vera Watson (68); Jack and Betty Cox (67); Bennie and Lee Loflin (67). Again, what an awesome testimony of determination and faithfulness. I give thanks that the Lord has given each couple health to see these milestones, and I am grateful for the personal commitment that each couple has demonstrated through the years. To me, their testimonies are encouragement to all of us in how to live faithfully and responsibly in our love relationships!

I say it again . . . love is powerful. Whether it is God's love, the church's love, or marital/familial love, we are changed forever by its impact. Let's not forget that this week, and let's live out that love in our lives. See you Sunday!

College Connection

Chad McClurg

Greetings from Temple College! For those whom I have not met, my name is Chad McClurg and I am serving this spring as Interim Associate Minister to College Students. I am originally from Knoxville, TN, and attended New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary in December of 2004. After serving with Baptist Collegiate Ministries (BCM) at Georgia Southern University, I moved to Alexandria, LA, where I served with BCM at LSUA for six years. In 2013, I moved to North Louisiana. Currently, I am serving as the BCM Director at ULM. The ministry at ULM has been a great experience, and we have built a new BCM building during my tenure. Serving Louisiana Baptist churches has been an awesome experience, and I am thankful for churches like Temple that believe in reaching the next generation. We are about to finish the Winter Quarter with Temple College and have had a great few weeks together at MidWeek. The Student Leadership Team is doing a great job serving both at church and on the LA Tech campus. Even through the difficulties that the pandemic has brought to College Ministry, we have seen new student involvement and our leadership has responded to the challenges. We have wrapped up MidWeek for the quarter and are excited to have Brinner and a few events to wrap up this month. MidWeek will begin again in March, and we look forward to see how students will continue to grow in their walk with Christ through the ministry of Temple College.



Thank you for your generosity during our Blood Drive. We had an all-time high of **18 units** of blood.

A thank you card has been received from...

Harvey, Christine and Timothy Farley;
New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary - Mike Wetzel,
VP for Institutional Advancement
(Located on the bulletin board in the Library window)



The flowers in the Sanctuary on are for couples that have been married 50+ years, given by church family.

Helloooooo Summer!



July 12-15
At Temple Baptist Church
Registration opens
March 1 at 9 a.m.

Come be a part of an incredible adventure as we combine sports, recreation, arts, Bible study and worship into one amazing week.

Find more info, at
winshape.temple.life

Weekday Early Education Ministry



Now accepting **Fall 2021** applications for Temple members and those presently enrolled.
Open to the public March 1.

Summer Registration begins April 7.

Applications available in *The Journey Place*.
For a digital copy, email Gina, **WEEK**day Director,
at gina@temple.life or 255-9506.

Temple's Newest Membership Candidates:



Jeff, Laurie, Jack,
and Emmie Parks



the family of **Margaret Colvin**;
the family of **Bobby Ray Myers**,
grandfather of Camille (David) Roark
and great-grandfather of Teri, Maycee, and
Daphne; the family of **Joy Murphy**; the family of
Marion Elliott, grandmother of Jennifer (Aaron) Paul
and great-grandmother of Annalise and Andrew;
the family of **Jean Oldham**, grandmother of Paige (DJ)
Rollinson Bowers and great-grandmother of Bailey and Briley.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH
RESURRECTION
MEN'S RETREAT

APRIL 29-MAY 1
SEEKER SPRINGS | \$160

A POWERFUL 3-DAY EXPERIENCE
FILLED WITH OPPORTUNITIES TO INVEST IN
YOUR FAITH AND BUILD BROTHERHOOD
WITH OTHER MEN.

LEARN MORE AND REGISTER AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)

Congratulations to:

Harold and Helen Shrell on the birth of their great-granddaughter,
Hadleigh Faith Shrell;

Ryan and Katy Haight on the birth of their son, **Liam**.
Proud grandparents are Mike and Donna Haight.

GRIEF SHARE

THURSDAYS | FEBRUARY 18-MAY 13 | 1 P.M.

GriefShare is a friendly, caring group of people who will walk
alongside you through one of life's most difficult experiences.
You don't have to go through the grieving process alone.

LEARN MORE AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)

Neighbors and Nations

A word from an IMB Partner

From the rising of the sun to its setting my name will be great among the nations, and in every place incense will be offered to my name, and a pure offering. For my name will be great among the nations, says the Lord of hosts.

Malachi 1:11

At the center of the highest concentration of lostness on earth, the incense of praise from true worshippers of the Most-High God is rising. God is at work in the Heart of South Asia! In the midst of an “unprecedented” year in 2020, the Lord was faithful to continue His work of reconciling the nations to himself. In the region where my family and teammates work in the Heart of South Asia, we were able to see 1,975 professions of faith, 766 baptisms, 135 new Bible study groups started, and 28 healthy churches form. Multiple people groups [nations] have been engaged with the Gospel and we are able to report with confidence there are baptized believers among several of them for the first time in recorded history. This progress toward fulfilling the Great Commission task can only be attributed to the grace of God strengthening us and our partners in this work. He is faithful to do what He has declared He will do!

We are grateful for your continued prayers for our family, team, and our national partners. Because of your faithful giving to the ministries of your church and the Lottie Moon Christmas Offering, we have been able to continue the work to which God has called us in these uncertain times. Please continue to intercede for the work in the Heart of South Asia as we pursue the vision of reaching all peoples and places with the Gospel of Jesus Christ.

WE EXIST TO SEE EVERY MEMBER:
**GROWING IN CHRIST,
CONNECTING IN COMMUNITY,
AND ENGAGING IN MISSION.**



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Week-at-a-Glance

Sunday, February 14

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at *live.temple.life*
(Blended Worship); *the gathering* Worship (GS); Sunday School
for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - *the gathering* Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at
live.temple.life (*the gathering* Worship); Sunday School for all ages
- 4 p.m. - Bible Drill (JP Multipurpose Rm)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs Sanctuary)

Tuesday, February 16

- 10 a.m. - Senior Adult Bible Study (FH)

Wednesday, February 17

- 5:45 p.m. - Children's M³ Music (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Sanctuary); Women's Bible
Study "Seamless" (Chapel); Men's Bible Study "No More Excuses"
(Rm 76)
- 7 p.m. - Senior High Worship (Youth Rm)

Thursday, February 18

- 1 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

Broadcast Hours: Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream (*live.temple.life*)
Family Life Center Hours: Monday, Tuesday, & Thursday: 8 a.m.-7 p.m.; Wednesday and Friday: 8 a.m.-5 p.m.

