



*temple*  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

## *The Pastor's Perspective*

Dr. Reggie Bridges

In March of 2020, our world seemingly changed. Routines were disrupted, runways were deserted, relationships were distanced, resources were drained, and realities were devastated. None of us could imagine the far-reaching implications of what we could experience. This week, I reread the Tidings article that I wrote almost exactly one year ago today in which I pointed us to a passage in “The Book of Comfort and Hope” (Isaiah 40-66):

Do you not know? Have you not heard? The Everlasting God, the Lord, the Creator of the ends of the earth does not become weary or tired. His understanding is inscrutable. He gives strength to the weary, and to him who lacks might He increases power. Though youths grow weary and tired, and vigorous young men stumble badly, Yet those who wait for the Lord will gain new strength. They will mount up with wings like eagles, they will run and not get tired, they will walk and not become weary. . . . Do not fear, for I am with you; Do not anxiously look about you, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, surely I will help you, surely I will uphold you with My righteous right hand” (Isaiah 40:28-31, 41:10 NAS).

Reflecting upon this Scripture, I offered these following words: “Comfort! Hope! Assurance! Encouragement! How the Israelites needed that message after seeing the difficulty around them! And how we still need it! Panic and fear encompass the globe right now. From the outbreak associated with the coronavirus to financial uncertainty in our economies, people are paralyzed with fright. Terms like quarantine, pandemic, community spread and mortality rate frequent our lips . . . words that we had rarely used even six weeks ago. And as the disease continues its sprawl across the continents, more anguish is to follow. To be honest, news reports may capture the world’s landscape right now, but they fail to present the

whole picture. It is even more bleak when you look more closely around us. Friends of ours here in the community are battling cancer, heart disease, Parkinson’s, etc. Others are seeing marriages struggle. Some are attempting to minister to their spouses, children, and even grandchildren as dementia and depression affect their mental health. Still, there are those who are experiencing spiritual doubt and are poised to turn their back on the one true God. These are difficult days with heavy issues! No doubt! But circle back to Isaiah’s declaration of encouragement with me: ‘Do not fear, for I am with you.’ My friends, God has not abandoned us! He is with us through these moments. And when we grow weary and are ready to give up, He provides supernatural strength to us! Yes, we need to be wise in our work, but we must not forget our God is above every disease and struggle. . . He is the One Who brings healing and hope!”

A year later, my own words still echo within me. In no time over the past few months did God ever forsake us. It has been tough for so many! Sickness has abounded. Deaths have left tremendous voids. Social isolation has created anguish and anxiety. And yet, the Lord has been ever faithful! Don’t forget that! We have seen Him work to comfort and renew. We have seen Him save. We have seen Him transform. And even still, we see our Lord making a difference. Last Sunday, I saw many couples in worship whom I have not seen in over a year! In the past two days, I have visited with four families who plan to join our fellowship of believers. (At least six people within those families plan to be baptized!) We see ministry expanding and growing. Soon you will hear more about this! Our members are growing in Christ, connecting in community, and engaging in mission. Indeed, our great God is moving in the midst of all the challenges before us. Let’s give Him thanks together for how He has kept us through this past year, and let’s recommit to Him as we move through the next few days, weeks, and months. See you Sunday!

# The Journey Place

## Tiny Trekkers & Summit Kids

Sally Hearn

Springtime is here! We are planning to have our spring and summer events, and we hope you will be able to join us!

### Easter Egg Hunts

Grades 3-5: Home of Chris & Lisa Barr on Thursday, April 1, at 7 p.m.

Babies – Grade 2: Lincoln Parish Park on Friday, April 2, at 10 a.m.

More details to come!

**VBS 2021: Destination Dig:** Be on the lookout for ways to help with VBS. We will be sending out an email soon.

VBS dates are June 7-11.

**Registration for WinShape Camp is underway.** Camp is scheduled for July 12-16. We will need volunteers to help with camp. Information on volunteer registration coming soon.

**WEEKday Ministry registration is open now for everyone!** In some age groups, we have a few spots left. WEEKday Summer Camp registration will begin April 7. Contact Gina Holstead, Weekday Director, at 255-9506 or [gina@temple.life](mailto:gina@temple.life) for more information.



**APRIL 29-MAY 1**  
SEEKER SPRINGS | \$160

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH  
**RESURRECTION**  
MEN'S RETREAT

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)



**SUGAR FOR CCA**

ENGAGE IN HELPING OUR  
COMMUNITY BY BRINGING IN  
A BAG OF SUGAR!

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

### YOUNG ADULT WORSHIP

Every other Tuesday  
Next one is March 9  
7 p.m., Chapel

For ANY young adult  
in their 20s-30s  
Childcare Reservation  
at [events.temple.life](https://events.temple.life)



YOUNG ADULT WORSHIP  
TUESDAYS | CHAPEL | 7PM

1/12	3/23
1/26	4/6
2/9	4/20
2/23	5/4
3/9	5/18

TEMPLE YOUNG ADULTS



**Helloooooo Summer!**

**July 12-16**  
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.

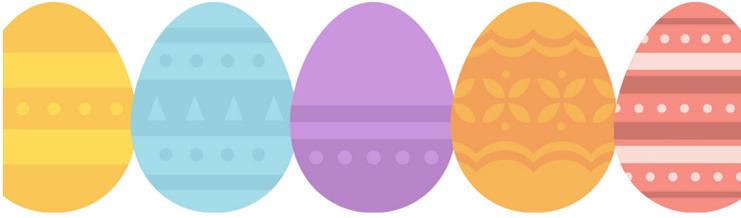
Find more info, at  
[winshape.temple.life](https://winshape.temple.life)

SPACE IS LIMITED THIS YEAR!

WinShape cost: \$219 per camper. Due to limited space,  
Temple is offering a \$30 discount for all campers this year only.  
Final cost: \$189 per camper

**The flowers in the Sanctuary** are  
in memory of Terry Bromell on the occasion of his  
birthday given by Rosy Bromell and family.

**CHILDREN'S MINSITRY  
EASTER COLLECTION**  
PRE-FILLED EGGS OR  
WRAPPED CANDY TO FIT EGGS  
DROP OFFS LOCATED AT ENTRANCES.



**Myrtle King Lunch Bunch**

Thursday, March 11 | 12 p.m. | Fellowship Hall

Bring a lunch.

Speaker: Kay Church (New Care Pregnancy Center)

Project: Money for diapers and wipes



the family of **Jerry Payne**, brother of Wanda (Larry) Ginn; the family of **Mary Jo Johnson**, mother of Mark (Nikki) Johnson, grandmother of Sarah-Cate Johnson and Anna Albritton.

---

# ***Education & Administration News***

***Jason Walsworth***

I'm writing this on Monday, March 1, and today I began my **Who's Your One? Prayer Guide**. On Sunday, we talked about the Who's Your One? focus for this month in partnership with the North American Mission Board. I have my one, and his name is James. I am committing to pray for him this month and to share the Gospel with him in March. I hope you will join us in reaching our community for Christ. If you want to participate with us, here is a summary of Who's Your One?

- Ask the Lord to put ONE person who is lost on your heart and mind. This could be a neighbor, coworker, friend, or family member who is lost.
- Pick up a 30-day Who's Your ONE? Prayer Guide at the church and begin to pray every day in March for their salvation.
- This week we are asking you to simply have a conversation with your ONE, it doesn't have to be spiritual. Maybe this is a new coworker or neighbor you haven't met or don't know well. Make a point to introduce yourself and break the ice.
- Commit to sharing the Gospel this month with your ONE.

We wrapped up our **Upward Basketball and Cheerleading** season last Saturday. Despite the challenges, we had a great season and close to 200 kids participated. I hope you will thank Jenna Price and Emma Shelton when you see them. Ben normally would have run our league along with most of the heavy lifting with Upward. After he moved, we asked Jenna to step in and direct Upward this year; and she did a fantastic job. She and Emma worked well together, and we could not have done it without them.



THE TIDINGS (USPS #020005), Published Weekly except Christmas by:  
 Temple Baptist Church, Periodical Postage Paid, Ruston, LA 71270  
 Postmaster send address changes to:  
 Temple Baptist Church, 1515 South Service Road West, Ruston, LA 71270

Label here

Phone: (318) 255-3745 • Fax: (318) 255-0134  
 Website: temple.life

## Week-at-a-Glance

### March 5-7 ~ Temple College Hike-A-Thon

#### Sunday, March 7

- 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, March 9

- 10 a.m. - Senior Adult Bible Study (FH)
- 7 p.m. - Young Adult Worship (Chapel)

#### Wednesday, March 10

- 5:45 p.m. - Children's M<sup>3</sup> 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); The Springs Women's Bible Study (The Springs)
- 6:30 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (GS)
- 7 p.m. - Senior High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 8 p.m. - Temple College Midweek (Sanctuary)

#### Thursday, March 11

- 12 p.m. - Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (FH)
- 2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 76)

#### Friday, March 12

- 7:30 a.m. - Rolling Hills Disaster Relief Training (FH, Rm 81)

#### Saturday, March 13

- 7 a.m. - Rolling Hills Disaster Relief Training (FH, Rm 81)

**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.

