



temple  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

## *The Pastor's Perspective*

Dr. Reggie Bridges

What a joy it was to host the Ambroses this past Sunday! I hope that you could hear their excitement for making disciples in the Boston area and for extending God's kingdom in the Northeast. JAmbrose (i.e., Jacob) underscored how God has worked in their lives even in the midst of the challenges. And remember, the Ambrose story is inextricably linked to the Temple story. In fact, they **are** Temple! Temple is not defined by our programs or our buildings (although the Lord can use all those things); Temple is a people who want to see people *growing in Christ, connecting in community, and engaging in mission*. For some time, I have prayed that we would be known by our "sending capacity more than we are known for our seating capacity." And God continues to show us how He is sending out people from us to engage our nation and the nations with the gospel!

**Please continue to pray for the Ambroses as they focus on the town of Tewksbury (in the Greater Boston area).** Ask the Lord to give them favor with the people, to provide necessary relationships in the community, and to prepare local hearts for the gospel's reception. Let's implore God to plant a strong, vibrant church in Tewksbury! As JAmbrose mentioned, you can receive specific prayer concerns by following their newsletter. Go to [boston.temple.life](http://boston.temple.life) to subscribe to their newsletter.

Already, you have supported the work in Boston through extraordinary ways. Last year, the Temple family gave over \$300,000 directly to support the Ambroses and the church's ministry. That initial "seed money" will be used in the days/years ahead not only to establish the church but also to fund its work. Moreover, we have committed \$25,000 to the Boston church plant through our 2024 annual budget. So, all of us have a part in the work as we contribute our tithes each month. You even support the Ambroses as you give to the Annie Armstrong Easter Offering (AAEO).

**Through your contributions to the AAEO, you allow our missionaries—including the Ambroses—to proclaim the gospel and plant new churches in strategic areas.** For example, the Ambroses were able to move directly to an apartment in Boston because it had been purchased with AAEO funds. Such real estate allows planters like JAmbrose and Amanda to transition to the area where they can then discern their specific church planting location.

**Every day, I am reminded that only the gospel of Christ can transform individuals, and subsequently, the culture around them.** This truth motivates me to pray and give to advance the kingdom of God throughout North America. We can actively participate in restoring the gospel's place in our land by praying specifically for our Southern Baptist missionaries and by giving sacrificially to support their endeavors. To me, the AAEO is vital for the gospel advancement in our nation. Outside of the Cooperative Program, the AAEO is the primary funding stream that sustains our effort to push back the darkness in the United States and Canada. I pray that you will help us far surpass our church goal of \$87,000—not for bragging rights but for life transformation. There is nothing more significant to contribute to than God's mission.

Of course, I'm grateful that we are not just content with being a giving church but that we are committed to being a "going" church. Just this week, our college students and leaders will participate in Beach Reach at Panama City Beach. They will have opportunities to witness personally to others regarding the life and grace of Jesus Christ. Please pray for them in their travel and efforts. Thank you, Temple family, for being both a giving AND going church! See you Sunday!

# Minister of Preschool and Children

## Sally Hearn

Collection is underway for candy and Easter eggs for our Annual **Easter Egg Hunts**. Items may be dropped off in the baskets located at each entrance.

**Grades 4-5 Flashlight Hunt and Cookout** will be held on **Thursday, March 28**.

**Babies-Grade 3 Hunt** will be held on **Friday, March 29**.

### Vacation Bible School (VBS) 2024: Breaker Rock Beach | June 3-7

In 2023, 2.3 million children attended VBS at 23,000 churches. 59,000 children made a decision to follow Jesus. As you can see, VBS is important. VBS matters in the lives of children. I am so excited about our theme this year. Children will learn “rock solid truth in a world of sinking sand.” They will be taught that the world may say one thing.... but God says another. And what God says is truth. You can make a difference in the life of a child. Will you join us in sharing the Gospel? There is a place and a way for everyone to be involved. You will be receiving an email in the next few days to volunteer. Please let me know how you will serve.

**RA Congress (for boys Grades 1-5 and their dads)** will be held **March 22-23** at Tall Timbers in Alexandria. Registration is underway at [events.temple.life](https://events.temple.life).

**Mother/Son Event for boys (Kindergarten-Grade 5) and moms** will be held on **April 26**.

More information is coming soon.

### WinShape Camp: July 8-12

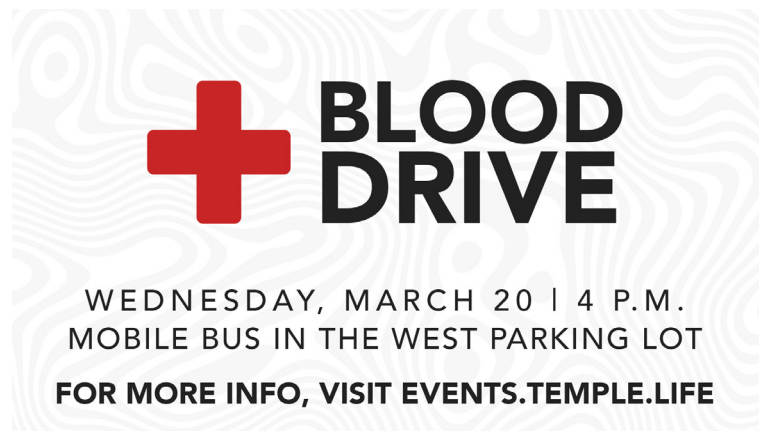
Registration for WinShape Camp opens **Monday, March 4, at 9 a.m.** Camp cost is \$205 for the first 175 campers to register. After the first 175, camp cost is \$235 with a 10% sibling discount. \$55 deposit is due at registration. Space is limited, so register early!

#### *Congratulations to:*

Kyle and Sarah Prather on the birth  
of their daughter, **Parker Mae Prather**.  
Proud brother and sister are Gus and Rosie.

#### **Mary Martha Women on Mission**

Monday, March 11 | 6 p.m. | Family Life Center  
Speakers: Brandon Ball on Costa Rica  
Hostess: Alicia Ball  
Mission Project: Items for D.A.R.T.



## Welcome to the Family!



Hough and Brianna  
Smith  
(Baptism | Letter)



Jack, Hollis, Addison  
and Ally Kate Lyles  
(Letter | Baptism)

**WinShape  
Camps™  
for Communities**

**July 8-12  
at Temple Baptist Church**

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

**Register at  
[winshape.temple.life](http://winshape.temple.life)**



TEMPLE BAPTIST

*Women's Retreat*

THURSDAY, APRIL 11 - SATURDAY, APRIL 13

**REGISTER AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](http://EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE)**

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## ***Executive Pastor*** **Jason Walsworth**

This is my fourth week post-surgery to return to the normal flow of worship and work. I cannot tell you how good it is to be back with all of you and our staff during the week. We truly do like each other and enjoy serving the Lord together! I am a people person, so I really missed knowing what was happening in church life and seeing everyone on Sundays. It felt strange to be disconnected from everyone even for just a few weeks. We were still watching and worshipping online every week, which is better than nothing, but is also a poor substitute for being together. That is a blessing we take for granted far too often. Worshipping and being together is life giving to me. The family of God is fun, encouraging, and necessary to be around regularly.

I am not sure how people do life without being connected to a church family that they love. Hebrews 10:24-25 says, "And let us consider one another in order to provoke love and good works, not neglecting to gather together, as some are in the habit of doing, but encouraging each other, and all the more as you see the day approaching." That is part of why our mission as a church is so important. Many people, yes even in Ruston, are separated from the love of God and the family of God. Let's do all we can to reach them for Christ and show them the love of Christ as we walk through life together.

You all have certainly loved us well during this time. Thank you all for your prayers, cards, and visits during my recovery. I am doing great, and I know that is because so many of you have been lifting me up to the Lord. He is good!





## Annie Armstrong Easter Offering®

FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

**Collected to Date**    **Our Goal:**  
\$812.00                      \$87,000

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Website: temple.life

## Week-at-a-Glance

**February 25-March 3 - Annie Armstrong Week of Prayer**

**March 2-8 - Temple College Beach Reach (Panama City Beach, FL)**

**March 4-8 - Family Life Center Closed (except for fob access)**

### Sunday, March 3

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life);  
Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space); Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship | Parent/Child Dedication  
(Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life); Sunday School for all ages
- 4 p.m. - Bible Drill (JPMR)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs)

### Wednesday, March 6

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,  
\$15 max/family; Menu: Breakfast for Supper)
- 5:30 p.m. - South Asia Advocacy Prayer Time (Rm 72)
- 5:45 p.m. - Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Children's M<sup>3</sup> (JP);  
Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Women's Bible Study (Rm 56)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting | Bible Study (FH)
- 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm); Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal  
(Choir Rm); Orchestra Rehearsal (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, March 7

- 2 p.m. - GriefShare (Rm 216)
- 5 p.m. - Senior Adult Game Night (FH)

**Broadcast Hours:** Sundays: 9 a.m. Channel 11 (KAQY); 9 and 10:30 a.m. livestream ([live.temple.life](http://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.

**The Journey Place Playscape Hours:** Monday 9 a.m.-4 p.m.; Tuesday-Thursday 2:30-4 p.m.



**LEARN MORE AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](http://EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE)**