



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

"This is not a fulfilling life. It's fulfilling from the sense of accomplishment, but it's not fulfilling from a sense of the deepest places of your heart," Scottie Scheffler related. As he discussed how his achievements impacted his self-concept, the top-ranked PGA golfer continued, "That's something that I wrestle with on a daily basis. It's like showing up at the Masters every year; it's like why do I want to win this golf tournament so badly? Why do I want to win the Open Championship so badly? I don't know because, if I win, it's going to be awesome for two minutes." Admittedly, I'm no golfer. I don't even pretend to be anymore. I also don't follow the professional golfing circuit very closely, but when I read these comments in an ESPN article, I felt an initial burden for him. Not a fulfilling life? Victories are fleeting? Sounds hapless and hopeless, right? I immediately wanted to send him a note to explain that true fulfillment and purpose are found in Christ! I even told Leslie how troubled I was for the young man.

But then things changed. I did a bit of research and found that Scheffler was a "devout Christian." The ESPN reporter had failed to capture that aspect of the story—perhaps out of neglect or through intention. Maybe the writer assumed everyone knew of Scheffler's public faith. However, I've already admitted my own ignorance. (No follow-up comments, please!) There was more to the narrative—an essential element, in my opinion. Scheffler wasn't wallowing in his own despair; rather, he was underscoring the transience of life's accomplishments while highlighting God's true purpose and priorities.

A few days after the interview, the champ proved his mettle again as he lifted the Claret Jug and claimed the "third leg of the Grand Slam." Inevitably, the inquiry was offered: "Easy question: To go back to that quote earlier this week that it is going to be awesome for two minutes to win the Open . . . is

it going to be longer than two minutes?" Scheffler humbly responded, "Yeah . . . I think we live now in a day and age where clickbait is what people look for . . . at the end of the day, I have a tremendous amount of gratitude toward moments like these . . . I've literally worked my entire life to be somewhat good at this game . . . and it is one of the great joys of my life being able to compete out here . . . I'm very fortunate to be able to come out here and live out my dreams." Hear it? Gratitude and grace mark his words. He then reminded his listeners of the greater reality: "Having success in life—whether it be in golf or work or whatever it is—that is not what fulfills the deepest desires of your heart. Am I grateful for it? Do I enjoy it? Oh, yeah. This is a cool feeling, and I can't wait to get home to celebrate this championship . . . At the end of the day, there is more to life than playing golf." And what is that "more"? Later in the presser exchange, he explicitly mentioned it: "My greatest priorities are my faith and my family. Those come first for me. Golf is third in that." Ah, that is it! God and our faith in Him bring ultimate fulfillment. **The Lord's blessing of relationships in family and friendships provides unbelievable joy. It is not about our earthly successes and victories—it is about our relationship with God and His people.**

My friends, how many of us get sidetracked by wrong pursuits that lead to wrong priorities that lead to wrong paths that lead to wrong prizes? Probably too many! The Lord spoke to a non-golfing preacher through a preaching golfer this week. Strange, huh? But He did! And what did my Savior say? "But seek first the kingdom of God and His righteousness, and all these things shall be added to you" (Matthew 6:33 NKJV). Some wise, wonderful words! Even if a golfer helped me hear them! See you Sunday as we keep seeking Him together!

From The Minister of Pastoral Care

Dale Oden

Early last Friday morning, Sadel and I sat out on our back porch for breakfast. We had a time of devotion and prayer. The scripture for the day in Open Windows was Psalm 8. "O Lord, our Lord, how excellent is Your name in all the earth, who has set Your glory above the heavens!" We read how God cares for us as well as the beasts of the field, the birds of the air, and the fish of the sea.

We have watched the deer come through our yard, squirrels (eating the bird seed), rabbits (eating Sadel's flowers), and the birds flocking to our bird feeder. We were made mindful of God's creation. We also know how much God loves us and sent His Son to be our Savior. The writer of the devotional in Open Windows expressed it like this, "God's glory is not something our eyes perceive. It is something our hearts absorb." And we did absorb His glory on that Friday morning.

It may be a few weeks away, but let me remind our senior adults of our **Summer Bible Study** that is coming up in a few weeks. Actually, you don't have to be a senior adult to attend. **August 24-27** is the date. Dr. Argile Smith will be with us again and will be leading us in a study of the book of Joshua. He is a wonderful teacher, and I know we will be blessed in this year's study. Sessions begin on that Sunday night at 6 p.m. The morning sessions will be held Monday-Wednesday from 9:30-11:30 a.m. All sessions will be held in the Chapel.

There is still room on our trip to **Celebrators Conference in Pigeon Forge**. The date for this trip is **October 12-17**. If you are interested, please let me know soon. The trip to **Branson** is almost to capacity, so if you are wanting to go with us, **please let me know by Monday, July 28**.



REFRESH
MARRIAGE RETREAT

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 7 - SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 8
SOUTHLAND CHRISTIAN CAMP

A 24 hour retreat for married couples! Join us to catch a breath, invest in your spouse, and connect with other married couples.

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



D-GROUP

INTEREST MEETING | WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 6 | 6 P.M. | YOUTH ROOM

LEARN WHAT D-GROUPS ARE, HOW THEY WORK, AND HOW YOU CAN BE PART OF ONE, EITHER AS A PARTICIPANT OR A LEADER.

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

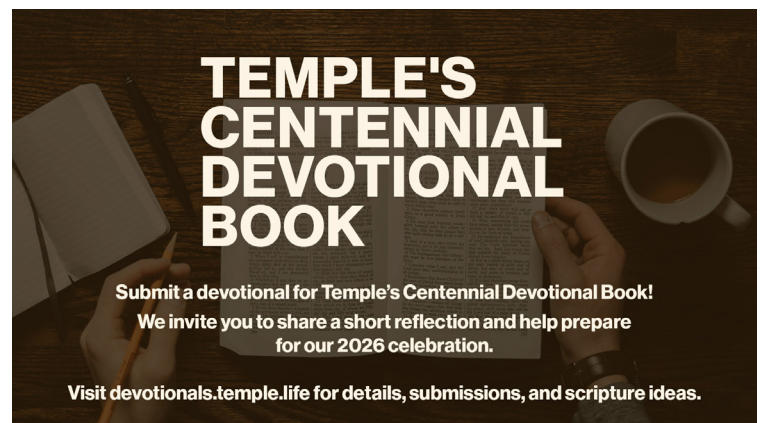


SUNDAY SCHOOL PROMOTION

SUNDAY, AUGUST 10

PROMOTING OUR STUDENT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES AND CREATING AN OPPORTUNITY FOR ADULTS TO START AND JOIN NEW CLASSES.

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



TEMPLE'S CENTENNIAL DEVOTIONAL BOOK

Submit a devotional for Temple's Centennial Devotional Book! We invite you to share a short reflection and help prepare for our 2026 celebration.

Visit devotionals.temple.life for details, submissions, and scripture ideas.

Welcome to the Family!



Joseph Anderson
(Letter)



Rosie Colvin
(Letter)



Congratulations to:

Michael and Emma Shelton on the birth
of their daughter, **Palmer Kay**.



the family of **Francis Hammons**,
sister of Ruth (Craig) Kent and Pat Norris;

the family of **Kenneth Wyatt**,
brother of Ginger Babcock.

Minister of Community Engagement

George Lee, IV

An Awesome Week at KAA! Two weeks ago, The Springs' youth ministry experienced a week away at Kids Across America (KAA) that left a mark on hearts, built lasting friendships, and deepened our desire for Christ.

This year's theme, "Apply Pressure," based on James 1:12, challenged and encouraged our youth in powerful ways:

*"Blessed is the one who endures trials, because when he has stood
the test he will receive the crown of life that God has promised to those who love him." — James 1:12 (CSB)*

At camp, our students learned that pressure in life isn't always a bad thing. Just like diamonds are formed through intense heat and pressure deep within the earth, God uses trials and hard moments to shape us into something beautiful—more like Jesus. Our students were invited to see their struggles not as setbacks, but as opportunities to be shaped by the Lord.

Throughout the week, our youth engaged in exciting outdoor activities, encouraging community, and intentional times of worship and Bible study. Each moment—whether on a zip line or doing a water activity—was anchored in the truth of God's Word.

Several of our Springs team attended camp as Kaleos, meaning "called ones"—servant leaders who not only supported our students, but were also poured into by KAA staff and other godly mentors. It was a week of growth, both spiritually and relationally, for every age and stage.

While many seeds were sown, we celebrate that two students made bold decisions in response to God's work. Cadence Turner accepted Christ and has expressed a desire to be baptized. Jailyn Williams made a decision to recommit his life to Christ and get baptized, boldly taking a step he's never taken before.

Please continue praying for all our campers and leaders who attended—that the truths they encountered at camp would take deep root and flourish in the weeks and years to come. To God be the glory!



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

July 29-31 - Tiny Trekkers Summer Camp (JP)

Sunday, July 27

- 8 a.m. - Blended Worship (Chapel)
- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Chapel); livestream at *live.temple.life*;
 Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space);
 Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Gathering Space);
 livestream at *live.temple.life*; Sunday School for all ages
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs Sanctuary)

Tuesday, July 29

- 12 p.m. - Jr. High Lunch with John (Youth Rm/FLC Gym)
- 7 p.m. - College Missions Study (Rm 216)

Wednesday, July 30

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,
 \$15 max/family; Menu: Fajitas)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Jr. High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting | Bible Study (Fellowship Hall); College Bible
 Study; Women's Bible Study (Rm 275); Children's Summer
 Sonstastics (JP)
- 7 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (FLC);
 High School Worship (Youth Rm)

Thursday, July 31

- 12 p.m. - High School Lunch with John (Youth Rm/FLC Gym)

Thursday, July 31-Saturday, August 2 - Young Adult Retreat

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.

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

