



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

The Psalmist testified, “How lovely is your tabernacle, O LORD of hosts! My soul longs, yes, even faints, for the courts of the LORD; my heart and my flesh cry out for the living God . . . Blessed are those who dwell in Your house; they will still be praising You . . . For a day in your courts is better than a thousand” (Psalm 84:1-2, 4, 10a NKJV). Hear the emotion in his declaration? The passion of his prayer? The worshipper yearned to experience God’s presence within the temple; he craved the corporate exaltation of the Lord. No matter the obstacles or the barriers, his heart’s intent was upon the praise of the Most High.

Often, I find myself identifying with the Psalmist’s desire as I long to be in His presence with God’s people. I experience joy and satisfaction in the corporate worship of Christ Jesus. I am glad when they say unto me, “Let us go into the house of the LORD” (Psalm 122:1). Now, before someone accuses me of erroneous or sloppy interpretation and theology, let me clarify what I mean.

I affirm that believers themselves actually are the temples of God (1 Corinthians 6:19). There is no longer an Old Testament temple, or physical facility, that houses the Lord’s presence. During the Christ event on the cross, the veil that separated the Holy of Holies from the rest of the temple was torn from top to bottom. It was as though God’s hand took hold of the top and ripped it down—conveying the reality that God’s presence had been opened to us through the sacrifice of Jesus, our Mediator! At Pentecost, the Spirit descended and dwelt within believers. And He still resides in each and every child of God! Thus, we are ourselves are the “house of the Lord.” We are not God! But He has dwelt within us as our Comfort, Counsel, and Strength.

So, why would the Psalmist’s statements apply to us? I am convinced that when the living, breathing temples of God (i.e., His children) come together, there is a greater manifestation of His presence. In other words, there is something very powerful about the church coming together in worship and service. You probably know what I am talking about. There is a special, significant element when the congregation sings together, studies together, and shares together. It doesn’t negate our personal walk with the Lord; it simply amplifies the greatness and goodness of God when we join with the corporate body of Christ.

That is just one reason I look forward to gathering back with you this Sunday. **Most of you have heard that we will resume our 9 a.m. and 10:30 a.m. worship/Bible study schedule.** We will resume our 9 a.m. Blended Service back in the Sanctuary, our 9 a.m. Contemporary Simulcast in the Gathering Space, and our 10:30 a.m. Contemporary Service in the Sanctuary. Can I hear you say, “Hallelujah!”? Most of the renovation is complete, although there will still be some “touch-up” work and small projects for the next few weeks. Yet, it will be so good to be back in the Sanctuary.

My friends, I hope you have marked your calendars for this special Sunday, August 17. Many of our college students will be back as they prepare to leave for Beach Retreat, our men’s retreatants will be fired up from their weekend, and we will celebrate God’s continued faithfulness to us. I am reminded that the church is not brick and mortar; it is truly flesh and blood! I am grateful to pastor you, His people, and I am thankful we have a place where we can meet together. Let’s be glad when we go into the house of the Lord this weekend!

College Connection

Casey Casady

As you read this, we are finalizing preparations for our Annual Leadership Retreat and Beach Retreat. It will be a hectic weekend for the College Ministry as Louisiana Tech will be starting Fall Quarter 2025 shortly. We are excited for the 150 students and adults who will be participating in this retreat. Please pray for these students as they have committed to begin their 2025 college career by seeking the Lord and His leadership. Please pray for them in these areas specifically:

1. Spiritual Renewal and Hunger for God

Pray that the trip will be more than just a fun getaway—that students will encounter the Lord in fresh and personal ways. Ask God to stir a deep hunger for His Word, a renewed commitment to prayer, and a readiness to live out their faith boldly on campus. Pray that any spiritual weariness or discouragement from the past year will be replaced with joy, hope, and clarity of calling.

2. Christ-Centered Friendships and Community

Pray that students will form authentic, Christ-honoring friendships during the trip that will carry into the school year. Ask God to connect incoming freshmen and transfer students with encouraging peers and mentors who will help them stay strong in their walk with Christ. Pray for unity among the group, breaking down any walls of isolation, insecurity, or division.

3. Preparation for the Academic and Ministry Year Ahead

Pray that students will return from the trip spiritually, emotionally, and mentally prepared for the challenges of the semester. Ask God to equip them to be lights for Christ in their classrooms, dorms, and activities. Pray that each student will clearly see opportunities for ministry on their campus and step into them with courage and faith.

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the family of **Pat Duggan**,
father of Scott (Tonya) Duggan,
grandfather of Kelsey.

the family of **Linda Reneau**,
wife of Dan.

Welcome to the Family!



Baylor O'Neal
(Baptism)

**SENIOR
ADULT
BIBLE STUDY**

SUNDAY, AUGUST 24 | 6 P.M.
MONDAY, AUGUST 25 - WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 27 | 9:30 A.M.

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

Women's
MINISTRY

HEARTFELT FRIENDS
REGISTRATION DEADLINE

Sunday, August 24

Register at events.temple.life

Congratulations to:
John and Martie Clary on the birth of their
granddaughter, **Ellie Grace Clary**.

Busy Bee Quilters
Wednesdays | 10 a.m. - 3 p.m. | FLC
Do you enjoy sewing? Did you know we have a group of ladies
who gather together every week for a sweet time of sewing and
fellowship? You are invited anytime to be a part of this group!

Neighbors and Nations

Dr. John King

And he said to them, "Go into all the world and proclaim the gospel to the whole creation. (Mark 16:15, ESV)

Over 180 years ago, Southern Baptist churches from across the U.S. came together to form an agency to help them send their own church members to take the Good News of Jesus to places around the world with no witness for Christ. Today, the organization (now known as the International Mission Board or IMB) coordinates the long-term missionary sending of over 3500 Southern Baptist missionaries who are engaging lostness on every corner of the globe. As a church, we partner with our IMB missionaries to advance the church among all the peoples of the earth through our financial support which includes our weekly offerings and special collections (Lottie Moon Christmas Offering). Another part of our role is the ongoing support we provide through prayer and personal encouragement of our Southern Baptist missionaries.

In 2008, Temple acquired a house on Mesa Street in Ruston that we refer to as the Temple Mission House. The main purpose of the house is to host Southern Baptist missionaries who are on their stateside assignment, a part of their normal rhythm when they temporarily return to the U.S. to reconnect with family, check in on health and education progress, and get Southern Baptists more involved in their work. Our maintenance of the Temple Mission House and connecting with those who stay there is an important part of our partnership with IMB missionaries and engagement in God's global mission.

In early August, we were excited to welcome the Rockett family to our Temple Mission house for a second visit. Will and Caroline, along with their children (Eleanor and Titus) serve in Cologne, Germany. They engage in a wide-ranging ministry but have a particular focus on reaching Central Asian Muslims who have moved to that region over the past half-century. You will probably see them around the church over the next year, so make sure to help them feel welcome!

Will and Caroline have graciously opened the Temple Mission House to help you get to know them and see how your resources are being invested to care for our Southern Baptist missionaries.

The event is called, "Meet the Rocketts" and is a come and go event from 2-5 p.m. on September 7. Light refreshments will be provided. Can't make it? No worries, Will and Caroline would love to visit with your Sunday School class or Bible study group. You can reach out through me or contact them directly at wsrockett@gmail.com.



Last, but not least, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks to everyone who helped us with our Mission House renovation project this summer. There were too many Sunday School classes to list who came to clean, paint, and organize. Special thanks to Glen Scriber, Steve Diebold, Carson Fields, and Mark Johnson for lending their expertise. And most of all, thanks to Leon and Karen Stamm who worked tirelessly for two months overseeing flooring, painting, and cleaning projects in the house. You all honored the Lord and blessed our missionaries through your labors!

Back-to-School Supplies

In lieu of donating supplies, we are asking for donations to purchase school supplies.

For ways you can help, visit events.temple.life



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Week-at-a-Glance

August 17-21 - Beach Retreat (Gulf Shores)

Sunday, August 17

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

Wednesday, August 20

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,
\$15 max/family; Menu: Chicken Nuggets with Salad)
5:15 p.m. - Boston Advocacy Prayer Time (Rm 76)
5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm);
Children's M3 (JP)
6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); Women's Bible Study (Rm 275)
7 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm); High School Worship
(Youth Rm)

Saturday, August 23

- 9 a.m. - Ladies Prayer Breakfast (FH)

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.

