



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

Pain. Violence. Heartbreak. Tragedy. I had somewhat prepared myself for the somberness and reflection of last week. After all, **the twenty-fourth anniversary of 9/11** was upon us, and plaguing memories visited my thoughts. The reality of that event continues to follow me as I recall the planes hitting the buildings, the towers collapsing, the dust consuming the city, and the lives that were taken. I specifically remember the first responders running toward danger in order to rescue people—only to experience disaster. The terrorist attack that rocked our nation was seared into my consciousness, and every year since, I prepare myself for that difficult recognition again.

Pain. Violence. Heartbreak. Tragedy. I really had not prepared myself for the grief and horror of last week. As we all know now, **evil once again demonstrated its intention as a public assassination was carried out for all to see. The death of Charlie Kirk has stirred strong emotion and reaction across the nation.** Anger, confusion, and disappointment are but a few of the feelings that have been expressed. Even a great anxiety has seeped into some of our language.

My friends, let me offer some counsel as we navigate these wicked, perverse days. First, let's **grieve with those who are hurting.** Let's "weep with those who weep" (Romans 12:15). Every time that one who bears the *imago dei* (i.e., the image of God) is murdered, we should mourn. Second, let's **pray for his family.** I cannot help but be burdened for the loss his wife, his children, and his family are experiencing. May the Lord grant them all an incredible amount of grace and comfort! Third, let's **call evil "evil."** It is wrong when someone takes another person's life in the act of premeditated murder. Why do people kill others? Because of evil (1 John 3:12). Remember, **the thief (Satan himself) comes only to steal, and kill, and destroy** (John 10:10). He will keep stealing, killing, and destroying. That is who he is. So, recognize that there is evil and that the Evil One is trying to rob us of life and blessing. Fourth, **let's affirm the truth that God can take that which was meant to be evil and use it for good** (Genesis 50:20; Romans 8:28). Satan does not have the final say; our Lord does! God can take that which was intended for destruction and use it for blessing. Now, I can't always explain or even outline how He will do that, but I know He will. Doubt me?

I simply point you to the Cross, a New Testament sign of horror and torture, that now has become a symbol of forgiveness and life. The Jewish leaders, the Roman army, and the devil meant for the Cross of Calvary to be an instrument utilized to extinguish the very existence of Jesus, yet God purposed it to be the way of salvation for us all.

Finally, I would remind you (as I did this past Sunday) that **Jesus Christ is still on the throne and that we are to keep proclaiming and living out the gospel no matter what comes our way.** The events of twenty-four years ago did not stop the good news of Jesus from going forth, and neither will last week's horrific moment. If anything, the Lord gives us a greater determination to be about His work. To be honest, while many have seen the devil's work on the national scale (as you should!), I (and many others) have seen Satan wreaking havoc on our families locally this past week. Did I mention that the Evil One has come to steal, kill, and destroy?

But again, **our blessed Lord is on the move still!** I rejoice over what He is doing in expanding the Kingdom. As I have shared repeatedly, **the Spirit is producing a mighty move in our community as people are saved, discipled, and even renewed.** Our worship has been vibrant and our obedience strong in the midst of trying times. Families are being restored, and grace is being appropriated across our parish.

What's more? Our mission continues! We have a team returning from Honduras where they have worked the past week. We are supporting the Louisiana missions through our giving to the Georgia Barnette State Missions Offering. **And the launch of Valley Church in Tewksbury, Massachusetts, last Sunday?** Well, Jacob Ambrose called me first thing this past Monday to tell me that **121 were in attendance.** Of that number, **fifty-three were first-time guests (thirty-four adults and nineteen children)!** Can you say, "Praise the Lord!"? You see, evil continues to come against us, but our great God continues to empower us to make a difference! **The gospel is the only power that can change individuals, cultures, and communities.** So, let's share it daily, and let's remember that the gates of hell will never prevail against His church (Matthew 16:18). See you Sunday!

College Connection

Casey Casady

Welcome back! What a glorious Welcome Back Sunday. We have had the privilege to have over 300 freshmen and new students visit one or more of our welcome back events this past week. It is overwhelming the volume of students God has blessed us with this year. We need your help in the one area we can all help in: prayer! We need you to pray that the spiritual fervor that has begun in these students would continue throughout the year.

1. Spiritual Growth and Discipleship

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to deepen students' roots in His Word and to cultivate daily rhythms of prayer, Scripture, and fellowship.

Scripture: "As you therefore have received Christ Jesus the Lord, so walk in Him, rooted and built up in Him..." (Colossians 2:6-7)

2. Friendships and Community

Prayer Prompt: Pray for godly friendships and mentors who will encourage faith and provide accountability.

Scripture: "As iron sharpens iron, so one man sharpens another." (Proverbs 27:17)

3. Perseverance in Trials

Prayer Prompt: Ask God to strengthen students when they face stress, homesickness, or discouragement.

Scripture: "Consider it pure joy, my brothers, whenever you face trials of many kinds, because you know that the testing of your faith produces perseverance." (James 1:2-3)

4. Holiness and Purity

Prayer Prompt: Pray for purity in thought, relationships, and actions, so that students glorify God in body and spirit.

Scripture: "Flee youthful passions and pursue righteousness, faith, love, and peace, along with those who call on the Lord from a pure heart." (2 Timothy 2:22)



Come Join Temple College Ministry for Tailgating this Saturday under the blue striped tent on top of the hill near the TAC beginning at 3:30 p.m.!

You can find discounted tickets to attend this week's game by scanning the QR Code as well!



Welcome to the Family!



Rod and Jan Johnson
(Letter)



Ella Price
(Baptism Only -
Temple College Midweek)



WHAT MATTERS MOST
BY KAREN EHMAN

WEDNESDAYS
OCTOBER 1 - NOVEMBER 12
6 P.M.
RM 275

Ladies of all ages join us as we study what the Bible teaches about contentment.

Facilitated by Catrina Willis.
Books are \$10 each.

Register at events.temple.life

Charlotte Mabry Women on Mission

Monday, September 29 | 5:30 p.m.
Hostess: Jan Murphy - 116 Yellow Pine Dr., Ruston
Mission Project: Boston Church Plant



MEDIA OPEN HOUSE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 | 3 P.M.
IN THE SANCTUARY

COME AND SEE WHAT OUR MEDIA TEAM GETS TO BE A PART OF EACH SUNDAY MORNING!

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



Going Beyond

LIVE WITH PRISCILLA SHIRER

SATURDAY, OCTOBER 11 | 9 A.M.
BOSSIER CITY

EXPERIENCE THE TRUTH OF SCRIPTURE AND POWER OF PRAYER.
\$60 PER PERSON.

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

Neighbors and Nations

Dr. John King

Greetings, church family. I'm writing this update from La Esperanza, Honduras. We have a team of twelve guys here working with a mission organization called Honduras Mission International. We're building a cinder block fence for a school where they do outreach events and Vacation Bible school. We're also having opportunities to learn about life and ministry in Honduras and share the gospel as we work and travel around town.

Being with this group of guys who love the Lord and love serving others is a great reminder of the blessing of Christian community. A verse that has come to mind several times this week is Ecclesiastes 4:9-10. "Two are better than one, because they have a good reward for their toil. For if they fall, one will lift up his fellow. But woe to him who is alone when he falls and has not another to lift him up!" I'm thankful to be a part of a church where we genuinely enjoy spending time together and are there for one another in good times and bad.

Did you know that you can also be involved in God's global mission right here in Ruston through reaching the nations that He has brought to us. Whether it is your coworker from Central America, a neighbor from the Middle East, or an international student from South Asia, you can share the love of Christ through simple acts of hospitality and friendship. If you'd like a way to connect with international students, you can join the Friendship Families program through Bridges International at Louisiana Tech. My family has been part of this program for years, and it's a great way to get to know an international student and show them God's love in practical ways. The commitment is small; you get matched with a student, and you just connect with them at least once a month throughout the school year. If you'd like more information about how to participate, just send me an email (johnk@temple.life) or call me at the Church Office (318-255-3745).



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Week-at-a-Glance

Sunday, September 21

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Baptism (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life; Contemporary Worship | Baptism (Gathering Space); Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship | Baptism (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)
- 5:30 p.m. - The Chapel | Young Adults (Connections Corner | Chapel)

Wednesday, September 17

- 4 p.m. - Seasonal Decorations Clean-Out (FLC Racquetball Room); LifeShare Blood Drive (Mobile Bus in West Parking Lot)
- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8, \$15 max/family; Menu: Hamburgers)
- 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); Coed Bible Study - Psalm 23 (Chapel)
- 7 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm); High School Worship (Youth Rm)
- 8 p.m. - College MidWeek (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 25

- 9 a.m. - Women's Ministry Closet Clean-Out (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.

BLOOD DRIVE

WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 | 4 P.M.
 MOBILE BUS IN THE WEST PARKING LOT

FOR MORE INFO, VISIT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE

CLOSET CLEAN-OUT

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 25
 9 A.M. - 3 P.M.
 FELLOWSHIP HALL

We're having a closet clean-out for both the Women's Ministry Closet and the Hostess Closet.

Please come claim your items from the Hostess Closet if they have been stored there.