



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

Many waters cannot quench love, nor can rivers drown it.

If a man tried to buy love with all his wealth, his offer would be utterly scorned. – Song of Solomon 8:7 NLT

Love is powerful. The biblical witness trumpets love and its impact upon us. In fact, the Scripture itself is a love letter that God penned to us as it describes His ever-faithful passion for us. God desires us, He wants to live in relationship with us, and He desperately pursues us. Why? Because He truly loves us! He loved us so much that He was willing to give up His one and only Son to die for us. And while most of you have heard that truth before, maybe you need to simply pause for a moment here and allow that reality to settle in your mind and heart one more time. **The Father willingly offered up His own Son so that He could live in a right relationship with you! My friends, that is love!** And it is incredible!

But get this! Our Lord not only wanted you to live in relationship with Him, but **He also intended for you to live in an authentic community of love.** He has given you a place to belong—the church! In this body of believers, you find relationships that will sustain you through life. You discover a family of encouragers! These brothers and sisters in Christ are called alongside you during the great times and during the difficult moments. In the setting of the church, we really do laugh together and weep together. We simply do life together . . . a life lived out in the context of our love relationships!

For so many, God also allows us to experience another facet of love within marriage and family. Solomon's words above actually describe the committed, passionate love that a man and woman exhibit in the marriage relationship. Waters cannot quench such fire, nor can the rivers extinguish its blaze. Money cannot purchase the treasure of love found in the marital bond. Perhaps the significance of such love is best underscored by the

marriage analogy used by Paul to describe Christ's intimate relationship to the church in Ephesians 5:22-33. The apostle reminds us of the love the husband (Christ) and the wife (the church) share for one another. It is a love of selflessness and sacrifice.

I am so grateful that we have earthly examples of that type of commitment as well. As I prepare to deliver a sermon from Colossians 3:18-21 entitled "Christ in Our Homes," reflect upon the married couples within our congregation that display an unbreakable union. **According to our congregational records, we have ninety-five couples who have been married for fifty years or more.** Can you join me in a collective, "Wow!?" Seriously, that number is enough for us to stop in amazement! The ten couples who have been married the longest: Tom and Mary Kilpatrick (74); Louie and Janece Miller (71); Wayne and Patsy Causey (69); Ed and Betty Harris (69); Hubert and Carolyn Estes (69); Ed and Margaret Aston (68); Phillip and Barbara Washington (68); Bill and Minette Cox (67); Robert and Margie Hearn (66); Robert and Billie Dawkins (66). Again, what an awesome testimony of determination and faithfulness. I give thanks that the Lord has given each couple health to see these milestones, and I am grateful for the personal commitment that each couple has demonstrated through the years. **To me, their testimonies are encouragement to all of us in how we live faithfully and responsibly in our love relationships!**

I say it again . . . love is powerful. Whether it is God's love, the church's love, or marital/familial love, we are changed forever by its impact. That is why we declare His love to everyone with whom we have contact. It is why over one hundred individuals are with our College Ministry in Panama City Beach and are sharing His love through what we call Beach Reach. It is why our identities and relationships are securely found in Him! Let's not forget that this week, and let's live out that love in our lives. See you Sunday!

Executive Pastor

Jason Walsworth

A big thank you to everyone who has made a commitment or gift to our Next Chapter Campaign since we began raising money for our renovations in the Fall of 2024. We are so thankful for every gift; as we said, we want everyone to participate no matter how large or small the gift. It will take us all doing our part to accomplish this big goal. Also, it is not too late to make a pledge or gift as we still have a long way to go to pay off our loan. To date, we have received over \$3.8 million dollars in commitments and gifts, and we thank you for your generosity. If you haven't made a gift yet and would like to know how to help, please reach out to me or Lindsay Rome, our new Director of Finance for more information. Our loan balance currently stands at \$4.3 million dollars. We are very pleased with our progress so far but would like to pay off this debt as soon as possible. We are praying and trusting the Lord to continue to provide.

We are certainly enjoying the many benefits of our newly renovated spaces. We are using our new Connections Corner space daily during the week as people gather for a Bible study, a meeting, or a place to spend time with a new friend or church member to encourage one another in the Lord. We have hosted birthday parties, wedding showers, and baby showers already. It has been a great space to celebrate the Lord's goodness together. Our Sanctuary and Foyer look and feel amazing as well and are very warm and welcoming spaces for our members and guests. We have been blessed with many amazing times of worship recently, and many new friends have joined us since we returned to the Sanctuary. You may remember, we originally wanted to be in these spaces as we celebrate our Centennial celebration this year and look forward to continuing to celebrate the Lord's faithfulness to us. We all are blessed to be at Temple Baptist Church! Thank you for the way you love, serve, and sacrifice for one another so the Lord can be glorified and we can reach our community with the Gospel of Jesus Christ. You really are making a difference!



PANAMA
GO TEAM INTEREST MEETING
SEPTEMBER 19-26

INTEREST MEETING
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 18 | 5 P.M. | RM 82

COME LEARN ABOUT OUR TRIP PLANNED FOR
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 19 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 26.

LEARN MORE AT [MISSIONS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://missions.temple.life)



NEXT CHAPTER
TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

THANKS TO THE **316** WHO HAVE ALREADY GIVEN

\$3,889,910.70 \$7,000,000

You can complete your 3-year pledge commitment at
[PLEDGE.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://pledge.temple.life)



NIGHT OF WORSHIP

WITH MACK BROCK
AND FIRM FOUNDATION

SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 6 P.M.
TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY

COME JOIN IN A FREE NIGHT OF WORSHIP | [LEARN MORE AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)



SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, MARCH 17 | 11:45 A.M. – 1 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Senior Adults (50+), join us for lunch, followed by a program.

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

Welcome to the Family!



Kenny & Renee Sullivan
(Letter)



Ella Eagles
(Baptism)



Thy Hong
(Statement)



Ngaatendwe "Wish"
Dumbarimwe
(The Springs - Statement)

Under Our Watchcare

Alyssa White, Anna Von Tress, Avery Bandy, Baylee Guillory, Ellie Simmons, Hays Tibbets, Silas Lovett, Jackson Grigg, Jason Kessler, Josiah Meissner, Lauren Thomas, Sarah Strain, Leanna Womack, Slay Coleman, Hannah Hammond, and Harper Gianelloni

MOMS CONNECT

MONDAY, MARCH 16 | 9:30 - 11:30 A.M.
THE JOURNEY PLACE MULTI-PURPOSE ROOM

A time of encouragement for moms one Monday a month.

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

Christ in the Passover

Wednesday, March 25 | 6 P.M.
In the Sanctuary

An Exploration of Passover, the Last Supper, & Your Communion Experience.

Learn more at events.temple.life

A thank you card has been received from...

Family of Louella Howard



the family of **Gloria Guerrero**,
mother of Paul (Kelly) and grandmother of Owen.
the family of **Clint Scott**, husband of Vernaughn.

Minister of Preschool and Children Sally Hearn

We are getting in gear for an amazing summer! Doesn't it sound crazy that summer is almost here?

Make plans to join us for **VBS 2026** as we visit Illumination Station! Shining a light on who Jesus really is! Children will learn that Jesus is God's Promised Son, Jesus is God's Perfect Son, Jesus is the Powerful Son of God, Jesus is the Proven Son of God, and Jesus is God's Plan for Forgiveness. We need your help to make this happen. Would you pray about how you can serve this year at VBS? We need lead teachers, helpers in Bible Study, crafts, recreation, music and snacks. Look for the QR code at the bottom of this article or call Sally/Sarah to sign-up! Registration is open for students and volunteers at vbs.temple.life.

WinShape Registration opened on Monday! We are so excited about camp this year! The theme is Ascend: Encounters with the Holy God. It is going to be awesome! Spots are limited, so sign up today at winshape.temple.life!

We are **collecting candy and eggs** for our Annual Easter Egg Hunts. Pre-filled eggs are always welcome! Drop off in tubs located at each entrance.

Church Bible Drill will be held on March 22. Pray for our 4th-6th graders as they are preparing for Drill.



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 1-8 - Week of Prayer for North American Missions

March 4-9 - Temple College Beach Reach

Sunday, March 8

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship | Fifty Years of Marriage Recognition (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life; Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life; Sunday School for all ages
- 11:30 a.m. - Fifty Years of Marriage Luncheon (FH)
- 4 p.m. - Bible Drill (JPMR)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship | Baptisms (The Springs)
- 5:30 p.m. - The Chapel (Chapel)

Monday, March 9

- 6 p.m. - Mary Martha Women on Mission

Wednesday, March 11

- 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study (Rm 270)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Children's M3 (JP)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Chapel);
Coed Bible Study - Judges (FLC Glass Classroom)
- 6:30 p.m. - College Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)
- 7 p.m. - Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Thursday, March 12

- 12 p.m. - Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (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.

A graphic for WinShape Camps for Communities. It features a yellow flag icon, a map outline, and a mountain scene. The text reads: "WinShape Camps™ for Communities Monday, July 6 - Friday, July 10 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. Registration Opens Monday, March 2 at 9 a.m.! Register at winshape.temple.life" There is also a small logo for "ASCEND" in the bottom left corner.

A graphic for a Youth Pulled Pork Sandwich Dinner. It features a close-up of a pulled pork sandwich. The text reads: "YOUTH PULLED PORK SANDWICH DINNER SUNDAY, MARCH 22 | 11 A.M. - 12:30 P.M. FELLOWSHIP HALL \$10/PLATE PROCEEDS HELP FUND YOUTH SUMMER MISSIONS FIND MORE INFO AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE"