



temple  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

## *The Pastor's Perspective*

Dr. Reggie Bridges

As the Apostle Paul wrote to his Corinthian brothers and sisters, he recognized an important ministry truth: "I planted, Apollos watered, but God gave the increase. So then neither he who plants is anything, nor he who waters, but God who gives the increase. Now he who plants and he who waters are one, and each one will receive his own reward according to his own labor" (1 Corinthians 3:6-8 NKJV). In other words, **God uses individuals in different ways at different seasons to advance His kingdom for His glory.** The Corinthians had witnessed that reality personally. Paul had planted their church during his eighteen-month ministry there, but Apollos had come along afterwards to disciple the new believers through biblical instruction and admonition. Yet, it was the Lord Himself Who was convicting, fashioning, empowering, and ultimately maturing the congregation. Paul and Apollos (along with teachers like Priscilla and Aquila) were simply characters He cast in the story to accomplish His will.

And my friends, God is still utilizing individuals in different ways at different seasons to advance His kingdom for His glory. We have had a front row view of such work, haven't we? Well, this past Monday night, I certainly did! **At our Concord-Union Baptist Association semiannual meeting, we celebrated our formal affiliation with Iglesia Bautista Belen, or for most of us non-Spanish speakers, Bethlehem Baptist Church.** So, what does this mean? You see, the Concord-Union Baptist Association is comprised of sixty-six (actually, sixty-seven now!) Southern Baptist churches in Lincoln Parish and Union Parish that voluntarily cooperate for the gospel's proclamation. We are held together by our confession of faith and our commitment to missions. Bethlehem Baptist Church petitioned us to be a part of our efforts, and we gladly welcomed them. Why does that matter to us specifically? Because you planted that church!

**Bethlehem Baptist Church was formerly referred to as Bethlehem Hispanic Mission, and it began**

**right here on our campus in 2000.** The Temple leadership at the time, along with our associational partners, caught a vision to reach Spanish-speakers in our area and established a work aimed at proclaiming Christ in their heart language. Pastor Cleto Perez has faithfully led the mission for the entire twenty-six years. The church's worship location has changed from the Temple chapel to their current facility (the old Vienna Baptist Church) in Vienna, but the congregation's purpose has not. **Recently, Bethlehem constituted as an autonomous church, and thus, they became full fledged members of the Association.** They are our partners officially (even though we have ministered with them for years)!

Someone planted. Someone watered. God have the increase. I wasn't here in 2000, and many of you weren't either. However, the work that was accomplished by those who were here is still bearing fruit today. As I sat in the associational meeting on Monday night, I recognized I was a recipient of my previous generation's vision and effort. In that moment, I gave thanks for those Templites back then and for God's gracious increase now. However, I was also confronted by a few questions: "What am I doing now that will impact the church and the community twenty-six years from now?" "How am I allowing God to use me to plant or water so that God can give the increase to the next generation?" I am planning to be around at Temple for a long while—if the Lord grants me health/direction and if you grant me grace to stay. But whatever the length of that season, I want to do my part so that the next generation of leaders (including the future pastor) and families will be able to reach new ministry heights for God's glory alone.

Brothers and sisters, are you planting and watering? Are you being faithful to do what He has called you to do at this specific time for this specific season? If so, trust Him for the increase in your family, your church, and your community. Let's work now in order to make a difference in the next twenty-six years and beyond! Love you guys! See you Sunday!

# Youth Ministry

## John Nugent

**Critical Conversations:** I recently read a statistic in the book *Define the Relationship* by Chad Higgins and Zac Workun that said only 35% of church-going parents (attended church three times a month or more) had a spiritual conversation with their students in the last two weeks. These are parents that are clearly committed to church attendance, so why are the spiritual conversations with their students so few?

Genuine conversations with parents are incredibly influential in the lives of students. So, why don't parents talk about spiritual and Godly things with more frequency and consistency? Maybe they are scared, feel awkward, or feel unequipped? Maybe they just don't feel like spiritual conversations are a real expectation on them as parents? There's probably a multitude of excuses, but it's time to overcome the excuses and start the conversations.

Don't ask questions that can be answered with one word! Don't ask "How was church?" Do better! Here are some questions to try out as you begin deeper spiritual conversations with teenagers:

- If you could ask God anything and get an immediate direct answer, what would you ask?
- When do you feel closest to God?
- What is one thing you are proud of and one thing you regret?
- Where do you see a need for God's love in the world right now?
- How can I pray for you today?
- What has God been teaching you lately?
- Where do you sense God may be leading you?
- What do you feel like God is asking you to do next?

Use car rides and meal times. Be vulnerable first and share some of your answers, but it's always better to listen more than you talk if you want to hear from a teenager. Focus on understanding before you focus on what your response should be.

The first few spiritual conversations will be awkward, but that goes away. Be a parent that talks about God and how relationship with Him applies to real life with your students.



Welcome to the Family!



Jackson Estess  
(Watchcare)

**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.

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



the family of **John McKay**,  
brother of Jon Anne (Charles) Winstead.

**Charlotte Mabry Women on Mission**

Monday, April 27 | 5:30 p.m.  
Hostess: Jan Murphy

**HONDURAS**  
GO TEAM (CONSTRUCTION)  
INTEREST MEETING

WEDNESDAY, MAY 6 | 7 P.M. | RM 82

COME LEARN ABOUT OUR TRIP PLANNED FOR  
SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 5 – SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12.

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

**Tiny Trekkers**

**SUMMER CAMPS**

AGES  
9 Months -  
Completed Kindergarten  
(As of June 2026)

Brochures can be picked up  
in the Journey Place,  
with registration beginning April 1.

For more information, contact  
Marsha Hammons at [marsha@temple.life](mailto:marsha@temple.life) or 255-9606.

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**MINISTER OF WORSHIP**  
Jeremy Asher

*“Oh sing to the Lord a new song; sing to the Lord, all the earth!  
Sing to the Lord, bless his name; tell of his salvation from day to day.”*

Psalm 96:1-2

One of my favorite truths about leading worship at Temple is that what I do or, more correctly, what *we do together* as we sing in worship is biblical. It is commanded in scripture that we sing together! Not only that we sing, but that we sing new songs *to the Lord*. What a joy to get to sing and bless the Lord with my voice, joined with your voices and the instruments of praise that our orchestra play. The point that I’m hoping to emphasize is that what we do together in worship is scripturally sound and brings joy to our Heavenly Father! I know that as we gather each week, there are many burdens and concerns that we bring with us. But when those sorrows are turned to songs of praise, God is honored. He is glorified as we worship through the weaknesses we have. And He is praised as we profess His name in our pain. God is good, all the time! Let’s continue to sing to the Lord on every day that He gives us.



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## Week-at-a-Glance

**April 12-26 - Lost and Found Table (Hallway by Church Office)**

### Sunday, April 26

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life);  
Life Groups for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life);  
Life Groups for all ages
- 4 p.m. - Bible Drill Celebration (JPMP)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs);  
Temple College Girls Event (Youth Room)
- 5:30 p.m. - The Chapel (Chapel)

### Wednesday, April 29

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,  
\$15 max/family; Menu: Cheesy Chicken and Spaghetti);  
Mexico GO Team (Medical) Interest Meeting (Rm 82)
- 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study (Rm 270)
- 5:45 p.m. - Women's Bible Study (Rm 275); Children's M3 (JP);  
Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Men's Bible Study (Rm 264)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); Men's Bible Study (Rm 261)
- 6:30 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)
- 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm);  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
- 8 p.m. - Temple College Midweek (Sanctuary)

**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.

