



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

The Preacher, King Solomon, declared that there is a season for everything: "A time to give birth, and a time to die; A time to plant, and a time to uproot what is planted. A time to kill, and a time to heal; A time to tear down, and a time to build up. A time to weep, and a time to laugh; A time to mourn, and a time to dance. . . ." (Ecclesiastes 3:2-4 NAS). What an accurate description of life! Our human experience certainly confirms the biblical witness. Some days, we celebrate the victories we achieve, while at other times, we lament over the brokenness around us. Ups and downs create the moving rhythm of life.

Note the past week. We had a wonderful day as a church last Sunday. Not only did we have individuals come down the aisle, profess their faith in Christ, and join the church during the morning services, but we also had a wonderful celebration of baptism. The stirred baptismal waters punctuated the day with an exclamation of the joy we felt. If I had not been bound by my historic Baptist traditions, I might have even proclaimed the moment as a "time to dance"!

We also introduced to you two ministry residents, Hannah Jones and Ben Turner, who are working with us this year. As you read about them in last week's Tidings, you noticed that they are recent Tech graduates who have committed themselves to us for the next few months. They are getting ministry experience, attending seminary classes through our Temple School of Ministry and Missions, and contributing to the work here. I'm excited that we continue to invest in our next generation as we develop leaders. What else? We had a vibrant crowd of college students worshipping with us before they left for Beach Retreat. They were brimming with energy and God's grace . . . and I hate to tell you, but some of them got close to dancing!

By Sunday afternoon though, my attention had changed a bit. My neighbor was taken into surgery to repair a fractured femur and broken arm/shoulder she sustained during a fall. I went over to Shreveport not only to see her, but also others who were experiencing medical issues: one who is fighting tough brain lesions/tumors, another who is recovering from surgery for a removal of a brain mass, and yet another who has suffered a brain aneurysm. It was a tough afternoon.

Yet, there was the blessing of Senior Adult Bible Study that Sunday evening. As Argile opened the Bible and shared with us about the "I AM," I was encouraged. Donuts and heavenly manna—i.e., God's Word—were distributed daily! And our spirits feasted on the Bread of Life!

Monday brought its own challenges though. I traveled down to Zachary, Louisiana, to participate in a funeral for a dear friend. Tommy was one who supported me, my family, and my ministry in so many ways. He always had my back and served the church with humility. It was grievous to recognize his death, but with confidence in Christ's victory, I rejoiced in his homegoing.

As I moved to Tuesday, grief again settled into my soul as I officiated the memorial service for another friend, Steven. Our kids have grown up together, we have celebrated milestones together, our lives have been intertwined. Like Tommy's service the day before, Steven's service was met with intense sorrow and assured hope. At times, it seemed appropriate to both mourn and laugh in the same setting. How strange that such attitudes and activities could be intermingled!

As I reflect on these past few days, I am reminded pastoral ministry can bring a roller coaster of emotion and ministry. (To be honest, I didn't relate so many other feelings such as my excitement about the fall ministry, the fulfillment of preaching God's Word, the frustration of traffic on the Service Road and Tech Drive, etc.) Such ups and downs are normative for all of us. Yep, us! Many of you reading this article can testify to similar joys and struggles. Perhaps, you have even been a bit overwhelmed as Barbara Johnson's frazzled cartoon character: "I try to take just one day at a time . . . but lately several days have attacked me at once." If you sense that your emotions are bouncing from high to low erratically, remember that Jesus Christ is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He doesn't change, and He is right there with you through it all. He is faithful always! And He will get us through the times to mourn as well as the times to laugh! Don't take my word for it. Take His (Psalm 91; Hebrews 13:5; et al)! Love you all and see you Sunday!

MINISTER OF YOUNG ADULTS

Andrew Thompson

Hello Temple Family! We are quickly approaching the end of summer, which means there are all kinds of exciting things happening in the life of our church! We have Wednesday night kickoffs for our youth and children's ministries, new LIFE Groups beginning, college students returning for the fall, and lots of new faces visiting Temple.

This fall is shaping up to be one of the biggest seasons we've ever had. Every year, August and September bring some of our highest attendance in corporate worship, with many guests who are new to our community and looking for a church home!

This gives us an incredible opportunity to be the kind of church that welcomes people well and invites them to plant roots here as we pursue the work God has called Temple Baptist Church to do. We want people who walk through our doors to experience not only a warm welcome, but a church family that genuinely wants them to be a part of what God is doing in our midst.

So, can I encourage you to be on the lookout for new faces in the coming weeks? Introduce yourself to someone you don't recognize. Invite a new family to lunch. Help someone find their class or navigate our campus. Most importantly, be intentional about making the people around you feel seen and welcomed.

Would you join me in helping Temple be an engaging, warm, and welcoming church to everyone who walks through our doors this fall? Thank you for helping make Temple a place where people can find a church family and grow together in Christ!



Welcome to the Family!



Madelyn (Maddy) Neuman
(Letter)



Jared & Emilee Allement
Camille Reichardt
(Baptism | Letter)
Also pictured: Madeline, Stevie,
Ella Kate, & Lydia



Bill, Jennifer, Brady,
Hannah & James Best
(Letter)



the family of **Jimmie Martin**,
father of Jenn (Andy) Carter,
grandfather of Evelyn and Nathan.

rightnow MEDIA

Our church's Bible study library is now digital...

AND GIGANTIC.

Over 20,000 discipleship videos for kids, youth, and adults.

android chromecast iPhone & iPad Roku Apple TV firetv

Text **TempleRNM** to **49775**

THE GOSPEL OF
LUKE
PART ONE

CO-ED BIBLE STUDY
Wednesdays 6-7pm
Family Life Center
Glass Classroom

more info at events.temple.life

From the Minister of Creative Arts & Discipleship Zach Husser

We are so thankful for everyone who attended the ReGroup Conference here at Temple! It was a joy to spend the day learning alongside so many people who faithfully serve our church. We had phenomenal breakout sessions designed specifically for our Life Group (Sunday School) leaders, and my prayer is that this conference served as a spark to kick off a great year of Life Group ministry as we begin a new school year.

As we look ahead, let's remember the purpose of our Life Groups. We use the acronym **LIFE** to remind us of what we're called to do together. **Learn and obey God's Word, Invite others to become disciples, Form deep relationships, and Engage in acts of service together.** Whether you lead a group or faithfully participate each week, let's make these priorities our aim this year. I'm praying the Lord uses our groups to make disciples, strengthen our church, and reach new people with the gospel. As always, if you have any questions, or if you or someone you know would like to get connected to a Life Group, please don't hesitate to reach out!



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

Sunday, August 23

9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at *live.temple.life*;
 Contemporary Worship (GS); Life Groups for all ages
 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary);
 livestream at *live.temple.life*; Life Groups for all ages
 3 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Gathering Space at Temple)
 5:30 p.m. - The Chapel (Connections Corner/Chapel)

Wednesday, August 26

5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,
 \$15 max/family; Menu: Fried Catfish); College Summer Bible
 Study (Rm 216)
 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study (Rm 281)
 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Women's Bible Study (Rm 275);
 Children's M3 (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH)
 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm); Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
 (Choir Rm)

Thursday, August 27-Saturday, August 29 - Men's 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.

