



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

“And the ransomed of the LORD shall return, and come to Zion with singing, with everlasting joy on their heads. They shall obtain joy and gladness, and sorrow and sighing shall flee away” (Isaiah 35:10 NKJV). What a homecoming the people of God would experience! The prophet foretold how the LORD Himself would deliver His children from the Babylonian captivity and set them back in their own land. No more distant territories. No more feelings of isolation. No more exile. Joy and singing would mark their return home!

Many of us have experienced the gladness of a homecoming. Maybe your child returned from military service, your spouse completed his/her work travel, or an old friend finally came for a visit. Whatever the moment, your heart soared because of the personal reunion. I've seen that joy in the corporate setting for the church as well—even in what we officially called “Homecoming.” Through the years, I was in churches that annually celebrated their anniversaries by setting aside a specific Sunday to recognize God's faithfulness and welcome back past members. Preaching, praying, and singing would certainly be present on that day, but also there would be a lot of eating. You know I grew up Baptist! In fact, we would have “dinner on the grounds.” You could always sense the cheerfulness in the air—along with the aroma of casseroles, fried chicken, and banana pudding! People hugged, laughed, and enjoyed connecting with one another. Those were some wonderful opportunities simply to be glad together.

And while we have a lot of fellowship within our church, I am grateful that we will celebrate a homecoming in a couple of months. Specifically, our **Centennial Celebration will be November 7-8, 2026**. Now, I

didn't say we were going to serve casseroles, fried chicken, and banana pudding. Jesus can multiply loaves and fish, but I don't have the ability to replicate enough chicken legs to feed everybody we hope will be here that weekend. **What we are planning is a time of reception and fellowship for those who would like to connect on Saturday, November 7, from 2-5 p.m., and then a great morning of worship on Sunday, November 8, at both 9 a.m. and 10 a.m.** In addition, we hope the weekend will allow some of you all to visit through personal lunches, coffees, etc. Please help us reach out to former Templites and encourage them to be here for our 100th anniversary celebration. Soon, there will be social media posts that you can share, but there is nothing like extending a personal invitation to someone. Help us make November 7-8 a homecoming weekend filled with singing and everlasting joy!

The first gathering of the Temple family was actually on September 10, 1926. Some 195 individuals covenanted together to reach people for Christ. Their motto? “A praying church, a tithing church, and a soul-winning church.” From that humble beginning to today, God has used His people at Temple to accomplish big things for the kingdom. We want to celebrate that fact, and we hope to do that with many who were a part of the work through the years. And even more, we pray that the Lord would do even greater things in the days ahead! For we are “confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in [us] will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6 NKJV).

God has blessed us with a great past, but He has an even greater future ahead for us all! I'm excited to be able to celebrate it all with you! See you Sunday!

College Connection

Casey Casady

Thank You, Temple Baptist Church! What a week! As we return from Temple College Beach Retreat, our hearts are full of gratitude—not only for what God did at the beach, but also for the church family that helped make this week possible.

Temple Baptist Church, thank you. Thank you for believing in college students. Thank you for praying, giving, serving, encouraging, feeding, transporting, and investing in this generation. Beach Retreat is never simply a trip to the beach. It is an opportunity to get students away from the distractions of everyday life and create space for relationships to deepen, the gospel to be clearly proclaimed, and students to respond to the work of God in their lives.

And this year, **we saw God work!** We praise the Lord for **four students who made decisions to follow Jesus Christ** and for the incredible privilege of celebrating **three baptisms!** They represent lives being changed by the gospel and students taking steps of faith and obedience to Christ.

We also want to offer a special word of gratitude to some incredible people who gave of themselves to serve our students: **the Mabrys, the Hogans, the Murads, Rob Wilday, the Carvers, the Wards, the Felders, the Longs, Denise Cox, Dr. Galen Turner, and Kyle O'Neal.** Thank you for loving our students and helping us create an environment where they could encounter Christ, build meaningful relationships, and experience Christian community. But Beach Retreat doesn't end when we unpack the vans.

In many ways, **this is only the beginning.** A new school year is here, thousands of college students are returning to Ruston, and God has placed Temple Baptist Church in an incredible position to reach, disciple, and send this generation. The same church that prayed for Beach Retreat now has the opportunity to pray for what comes next.

Please pray that these **four new followers of Christ will become deeply rooted disciples**, that those who were baptized will continue walking boldly in obedience, and that every student who attended Beach Retreat will take another step toward Jesus.

Thank you, Temple, for being a church that doesn't simply have a college ministry, but **loves and invests in college students.** We can't wait to see what God does next. **To God be the glory!**



MOMS CONNECT

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 14 | 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)



**MAN UP!
CONFERENCE**

SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12
5 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL

**MEN OF EVERY AGE AND SONS ARE WELCOME.
COME FOR SOME ENCOURAGEMENT AND FELLOWSHIP!**

HELP US WITH A HEAD COUNT BY REGISTERING AT [EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE](https://events.temple.life)



SENIOR ADULT LUNCHEON

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 15 | 11:45 A.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL

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

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



LOUISIANA BAPTIST Children's Home
& FAMILY MINISTRIES

FALL FOOD ROUNDUP

**Sunday, September 6 -
Sunday, September 13**

Welcome to the Family!



Colton & Danielle Ballard
(Also pictured: Clara & Harper)
(Baptism | Letter)



Josh & Amanda May
(Also pictured: Jason & Morgan)
(Statement)



Greyson Colvin
(Baptism)



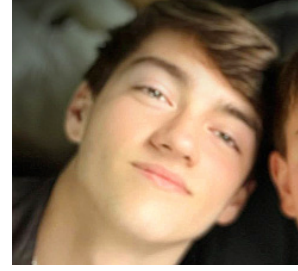
Brody Otwell
(Baptism)



Chaselyn Guillory
(College Beach Retreat -
Baptism)



Lauren Thomas
(College Beach Retreat -
Baptism)



Gabe Ryder
(College Beach Retreat -
Baptism)



Kolby & Haleigh Reeves
(Also pictured: Hudson & Landrie)
(Letter)

Charlotte Mabry Women on Mission

Monday, September 14 | 5:30 p.m.
Hostess: Jan Murphy (116 yellow Pine Dr, Ruston)



the family of **Calvin Layton**,
father of Jennifer (Patrick) Patton,
grandfather of Henry, Harper, and Olivia.

Neighbors and Nations *Dr. John King*

“Make disciples of all the nations.” That command of Jesus from Matthew 28 is a mandate for the church until He returns. So often we think of missions as something we cross time zones and borders to do. But what if there was a simple way to be involved in discipling the nations from right here in Lincoln Parish? Well, there is - welcoming international students!

Every year, hundreds of international students come to Louisiana Tech and Grambling from all over the world. What an incredible opportunity to share and show the love of Jesus! However, many of them never get invited into an American home. You can help fill this gap by getting matched with an international student in friendship families through Bridges International. **Friendship families** (who can also be individuals) commit to meet their student once a month (at home or anywhere in the community). If you want to learn more, please reach out to me at the church office (318-255-3745) or via email.

Another way we engage in missions is through prayer and finances. This Sunday we launch our **Week of Prayer for Louisiana Missions** from September 6-13. We're coming together with churches across the state to pray for the different ministries of the Louisiana Baptist Convention. Your prayer guide on Sunday will give you information about you can praise God for their impact and pray for their continued growth.

At the same time we are launching our **Georgia Barnette Louisiana Missions Offering**. Louisiana Baptist work together to support dozens of ministries through this offering every year - from Disaster Relief and prison ministry to camp ministry and church planting. Temple has set a goal this year of raising \$44,000 to fuel this work. Please be praying about how God is leading you to help us meet this goal. Think of all the ways Good News of Jesus will be shared through word and deed as we reach Louisiana together!



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Week-at-a-Glance

September 5-7 - Young Adult Conference (Dallas)
September 5-12 - Honduras GO Team Mission Trip
September 6-13 - Georgia Barnette Week of Prayer
September 6-13 - Louisiana Baptist Fall Food Round Up

Sunday, September 6

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)

Monday, September 7

Church Offices Closed (Labor Day)

Wednesday, September 9

5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8, \$15 max/family; Menu: Grilled Chicken)
 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); Germany HS GO Team Meeting (Rm 82)
 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); Co-Ed Bible Study (FLC Glass Classroom)
 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm); Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)
 8 p.m. - Temple College Midweek (Sanctuary)

Thursday, September 10

12 p.m. - Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (FH)
 6 p.m. - Temple College Shakes & Shenanigans (FLC)

Friday, September 11

Journey Place Closed - Floor Cleaning

Saturday, September 12

5 p.m. - Man Up Conference (FH | Sanctuary)



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.