



*temple*  
BAPTIST CHURCH

# TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

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## *The Pastor's Perspective*

Dr. Reggie Bridges

Beginnings. We all come from somewhere; we all have a starting point. **Our Temple story specifically began in 1926 as some two hundred individuals came together to form a new church here in Ruston.** Within a few of weeks from that initial meeting, the number had increased to 247 believers who united as the charter members of the local body of Christ identified as Temple Baptist Church, and thus, began a century of ministry and mission in Lincoln Parish and beyond.

**The early motto for Temple was “a praying church, a tithing church, and a soul-winning church.”** Our spiritual forefathers and mothers desired to develop their relationship with the Lord, to give generously to His work, and to make Him known through personal evangelism and mission. That vision has not only informed our history, but it also set the trajectory for our future. You see, our heritage and vision go hand in hand.

Helen Keller once observed, “The only thing worse than being blind is having no vision.” Many people have physical sight, but they cannot seem to discern their purpose. In fact, there are even churches that lurch along without ever envisioning God’s greater agenda and opportunity. To not have vision in your personal or corporate life is, at best, disheartening, and at worst, disastrous. Thankfully, God’s Word clearly reveals a compelling aim for which we strive.

**Today, we continue to follow in the steps of those who have gone before us as we remain committed to biblical authority and the cosmic mission.** We want to be a praying, giving, and witnessing people. And our vision that persists as clearly as ever? Simply stated, **we exist to see every member growing in Christ, connecting in community, and engaging in mission.** One hundred years after our founding! And we are still about the same Father’s business!

As we move into our centennial anniversary, I pray that you will recommit yourself to that purpose and to your church family. **Throughout this year, you will hear me ask you three questions repeatedly: “How is your walk? Who are your people? Where are you going?”** In other words, “Are you growing in Christ? Are you connecting in community? Are you engaging in ministry?” We aren’t living in the faithfulness of the past! We are striving for faithfulness in the present! One hundred years from now (if the Lord tarries), my hope is that our spiritual descendants would read how we fulfilled the biblical vision.

Reflecting on Temple’s fiftieth anniversary, our former pastor, Dr. Robert Magee, rightly determined: “The beginning of any church is in a sense miraculous, for only God can call the church into being. . . . As we review the events of our past history, we are deeply convinced that God has ‘smiled on our beginnings’ and fostered our progress.” **The Lord indeed has been more than gracious to us! He orchestrated our beginning, and He has sustained us through the years.** No one can deny His blessing and favor upon our story.

But as I said earlier, the narrative is not complete! We have much more to do for His glory! **Let’s make our one hundredth year the greatest era of ministry, mission, and celebration that we have ever experienced.** Let’s claim Paul’s conviction as we press forward to goal for the prize of the upward call: “Being confident of this very thing, that He who has begun a good work in you will complete it until the day of Jesus Christ” (Philippians 1:6 NKJV). I’m grateful to get to do life with you at this significant juncture in our spiritual family’s journey. Love you, guys! See you Sunday!

# Neighbors and Nations

Dr. John King

One of the core aspects of our vision statement here at Temple is helping everyone in our church “engage in mission.” What does that mean? Well, I’m glad you asked! Engaging in mission is the overflow of a healthy relationship with God that leads us to care about the things that he cares about- particularly sharing the Good News of salvation with those who don’t know Christ. My job is to equip you to do that, both here in Ruston, but also around the world. We have several opportunities coming up for you to do that.

If you are looking to engage in mission locally, you can do that by welcoming in Tech and Grambling international students (many of whom have never heard the gospel) into your lives through **Friendship Families**. Or you could share a brief devotional for families at one of our Upward games. If you’re interested in either opportunity, just send me an email ([johnk@temple.life](mailto:johnk@temple.life)).

If you want to learn about what the Bible teaches about God’s mission and how you can be involved, come to **God’s Glory Among the Nations**, which starts on January 25. Will and Caroline Rockett will be helping me lead this discussion-oriented, five-week study focused on the biblical foundations for Christian missions. You can find more details and let us know you plan to join at: [events.temple.life](https://events.temple.life).

Finally, if you are looking for a way to engage in mission for a week or so somewhere else around the world you can join a **Temple Go Team**. In 2026 we have Go Teams headed to South Asia, Honduras, Canada, Boston, and South Louisiana to name a few. You can find more info about these different teams at: [missions.temple.life](https://missions.temple.life).

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## MOMS CONNECT

MONDAY, JANUARY 12 | 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)

## First Impressions – Golf Cart Volunteers

We’re looking for volunteers to help shuttle folks with the golf carts on Sunday mornings for 1 hour 45 minutes or on Wednesday evenings for 1 hour 15 minutes.

For more information, please call the Church Office at 318-255-3745 or email [helen@temple.life](mailto:helen@temple.life).

## TEMPLETECH CHOIR REUNION

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 21 - SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 22  
TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Who's ready to reunite with college friends, meet family members and step back into fun-filled choir rehearsals with Shayla?!

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

 church center

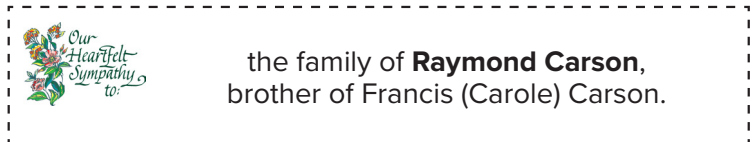
Scan the QR code to get started and connect with the life of your church.



*Congratulations to:*

David and Nancy Darland on the birth of their grandson,  
**Wilson Garrett Moorland.**

Dale & Sadel Oden and Gene & Brenda Smith  
on the birth of their great-grandson,  
**Beau Christian Oden.**



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## College Connection Casey Casady

As Louisiana Tech students begin the winter quarter and head into the holiday break, they step into a season of rest, transition, and reflection. This can be a meaningful moment for our church family to pause and pray intentionally for them.

Luke 2:52 reminds us, “And Jesus increased in wisdom and in stature and in favor with God and with people.” This verse gives us a simple and powerful way to pray for our college students as one quarter ends and a new year approaches.

**Pray for Wisdom:** Many students are thinking ahead to winter quarter—classes, majors, internships, and future plans. Pray that God would guide their decisions and give them clarity and trust in His direction.

**Pray for Stature:** After a demanding quarter, students need rest and renewal. Pray for physical health, emotional resilience, and good rhythms as they recover and prepare for the next season.

**Pray for Favor with God:** Time away from campus can either distract or deepen faith. Pray that students would grow spiritually over the break—seeking God personally and staying rooted in His Word.

**Pray for Favor with People:** Family time and old friendships can be both encouraging and challenging. Pray for grace, patience, and Christlike love in every conversation and relationship.

As a new year and the second part of winter quarter begin, let us pray with confidence that God is still shaping our students—often in quiet ways that produce lasting fruit.

Thank you, Temple Baptist Church, for faithfully praying for our college students. Your prayers help prepare them to return ready to grow, serve, and live out their faith in the year ahead.





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## Week-at-a-Glance

### Sunday, January 4

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at [live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life);  
 Contemporary Worship (GS); Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at  
[live.temple.life](http://live.temple.life); Sunday School for all ages
- 2:30 p.m. - Deacon Ordination Council (Chapel)
- 4 p.m. - Deacon Ordination (GS)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs)

### Wednesday, January 7

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,  
 \$15 max/family; Menu: Breakfast for Supper)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Children's M3 (JP);  
 Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH)
- 6:30 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)
- 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm);  
 Sanctuary Choir Rhearsal (Choir Rm)
- 8 p.m. - Temple College Misweek (Sanctuary)

### Thursday, January 8

- 12 p.m. - Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (FH)
- 5 p.m. - Senior Adult Game Night (FH)

rightnow MEDIA

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

## AND GIGANTIC.

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 COMMUNITY BY BRINGING IN  
 A BAG OF SUGAR!

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

**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.