



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

John King had just finished leading “God’s Glory Among the Nations,” a Bible study designed to explain the mission of God and how He purposes the people of God to join Him in His redemptive plan. The gathering of individuals interested in participating in God’s global enterprise had seemingly punctuated the Lord’s Day, so he prepared to make his way home. As John exited the building, he was met by a car that pulled up under the portico. A young man emerged from the vehicle and introduced himself as “J” John exchanged pleasantries with J, who posed a strange question: “Do you know how I can get in touch with Brian Spurlock and Brad Waller?” John affirmed that he knew them, and he invited J into the lobby as they continued their discussion. J indicated that he had been held in the Lincoln Parish Detention Center at some point and that Brian and Brad had ministered to him while he was there. He said something like, “They showed up every single week and taught the Bible to us. You have no idea how much of an encouragement that was that they cared enough to do that.” He wanted them to know that ever since he had gotten out—which was approximately seven years ago—he had been following Jesus. Indeed, he hoped to thank them for their influence upon him. That is why he had interrupted his trip from Dallas with a stop at Temple Baptist Church on this late Sunday evening. John took his phone number and sent it to Brian and Brad who both followed up with J.

When John related this moment to me, all I could do was stand in gratitude for Christ’s gracious work. I mean we all know that the Lord is constantly fulfilling His plan and purpose all around us, but isn’t it awesome to hear such a personal story of influence and transformation? You see, J reminds us that our kingdom investments do not fail even though we might not see immediate returns. As demonstrated many times, God allows us to plant a gospel seed that later sprouts and ultimately grows into a more mature plant. So, I say, “Thank you.” Thank you for stepping up to serve and to share God’s love and mercy.

Even this past weekend on campus, I was keenly aware of your willingness to go above and beyond. As I arrived at the church on Saturday morning, there was a flurry of activity. The TempleTech Choir Reunion participants were rehearsing in the Sanctuary, the Choir Room, and the Youth Room. People were preparing food in Fellowship Hall. Upward Basketball players, coaches, and refs streamed through the halls, the Family Life Center, and the gym. And of course, the TempleTech Choir led our Sunday worship services, and we baptized sixteen people that morning. Praise be to the Lord! Thank you especially to Shayla Blake for her diligent preparation to make the reunion and the worship services happen!

Think about the many service hours behind the entire past weekend. You coached, you cooked, you sang, you refereed (bless your heart!), you provided devotionals, you played instruments, you taught, you ran audio/video, you encouraged, and you did so much more. Even consider for a moment those who were baptized. Based on the individual’s own stories, they came to faith because of your work in Vacation Bible School, Princess/Warrior Weekend, Sunday School, Bible studies on college campus, or even personal discipleship of your own children. What a microcosm of God’s activity! My friends, you are making a difference—in the Detention Center, on our church campus, at the universities, in the workplace, and in your own home. I’ll say it again, “Thank you.”

Do you believe it is kind of ironic that John had just led a study on God’s glory among the nations, and then he walked out to see how God continues to express His glory as we are faithful to the mission around us? I believe it is. The Lord begins in our “Jerusalem” and moves us out to the nations. So, let’s be faithful. Know that I am praying specifically for you as you serve in our Men’s Retreat and in Queen’s Celebration this upcoming weekend. May He continue to transform men and women into His likeness! Thank you for being who you are! Love you guys, and see you Sunday!

Minister of Community Engagement

George Lee, IV

As Temple celebrates 100 years of God's faithfulness, our nation also marks 100 years of what began in 1926 as Negro History Week—an observance established by educator, author, and historian Dr. Carter G. Woodson to highlight the contributions of African Americans to our country. What began as a week became Black History Month, a reminder that history matters and that stories of perseverance, faith, and progress are worth remembering.

In God's providence, I find myself reflecting on another "first"—the privilege of serving as the first African American minister on staff at Temple. I joined the ministerial team in a full-time capacity in January 2018. From the moment I arrived, I was embraced by my co-laborers in the gospel and by our church family. What could have felt historic or weighty instead felt deeply relational and Spirit-led. I was not made to feel like a headline. I was made to feel like family.

And not just me—my family. CiCi and our children were loved well from day one. Our kids have gained honorary grandparents within our church family—men and women who pray for them, encourage them, and speak life into them. My bride has gained sisters she would go to war for—and I am confident they would go to war for her. What began as a ministry assignment has become a shared life.

I have also been blessed to serve under a pastor who is a true shepherd—one who models what it looks like to love people well, lead with humility, and keep the gospel central. That kind of leadership sets the tone for a church culture where unity is not forced, but fostered.

That does not mean the journey has been without weight. Like many, I have felt burdened at times by the racial tension and division that mark our culture—and sometimes even ripple into our community. There are moments when headlines are heavy and conversations are hard. Yet in those very moments, I have experienced the healing balm of gospel-centered community right here at Temple. I have seen brothers and sisters listen, pray, learn, and walk together. I have witnessed the kind of love that refuses to let differences divide what Christ has already united.

Serving at The Springs and at Temple has reminded me that the local church, at its best, is a preview of something greater. Revelation 7:9 gives us a breathtaking vision: a multitude from every nation, tribe, people, and language standing before the throne and before the Lamb, worshiping together. That is not just a future hope—it is a present direction. Every time we gather across generational, cultural, and ethnic lines to lift high the name of Jesus, we are rehearsing for eternity.

I do not write this as a declaration of personal achievement, but as a testimony of God's grace and a celebration of our church's faithfulness. Being the first African American minister on staff is not ultimately about me. It is about what the Lord is doing in and through a church willing to reflect the beauty of His kingdom.

As we celebrate 100 years of Temple, my prayer is that we continue to be a church where families are embraced, where leaders shepherd well, where hard conversations are met with gospel hope, and where our community catches a glimpse of the multiethnic, multigenerational worship around the throne of God.



Daylight Saving Time
Spring Forward
Sunday, March 8
Remember to set your clocks one hour forward before bed on Saturday, March 7.



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

Welcome to the Family!



Carson Williams
(Baptism)



Cooper Walsworth
(Baptism)



Hannah Howell
(Baptism)



Mitchell Grant
Maxwell (Baptism)



Stella Myers
(Baptism)



JD Mitchell
(Baptism)



Kendal, Hilary, & Sawyer Guillot
(Letter | Baptism)



Jason Turner
(Baptism)

Sloane Young
(Baptism)



the family of **Brigette Watson Fitzgerald**,
sister of Candace (Jeff) Cooper.

MOMS CONNECT

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 9 | 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)

Missions Market 2026!

FUNDRAISER OF
CONCORD UNION BAPTIST ASSOCIATION WMU/WOM



SATURDAY, MARCH 21 | 8 A.M. - 2 P.M.

TEMPLE BAPTIST CHURCH FELLOWSHIP HALL, RUSTON, LA

Shop handcrafted items, baked goods, and more at Missions Market 2026, supporting local missions through the Concord Union Baptist Association WMU/WOM.

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

From the Minister of Contemporary Worship Zach Husser

For the past few weeks, I have been walking our Sunday School leaders through **eight “signposts” of discipleship** that came out of in-depth research from Lifeway. As they studied believers who were actively growing in their faith, they identified eight clear markers that consistently show up in the life of someone following Jesus. **Those signposts are Bible engagement, obeying God and denying self, serving God and others, sharing Christ, exercising faith, seeking God, building relationships, and being unashamed of your faith.** This is not an exhaustive list, but it gives us a helpful framework for evaluating spiritual growth in our own lives and in the lives of those we lead.

I would encourage you to slowly walk through that list and ask yourself where you have seen growth over the years and where the Lord may be inviting you to depend on Him more fully. Then consider the people you mentor, teach, or influence. Do you see these markers developing in them? Discipleship becomes clearer when we know what we are looking for. If you would like more in-depth thoughts on each of these signposts, I would love to share them with you. Just reach out and I will get you connected!

Annie
Armstrong
Easter
Offering

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Label here

WEEK OF PRAYER FOR NORTH AMERICAN MISSIONS

March 1-8

Church Goal of \$87,000

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 1

- 9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life;
Sunday School for all ages
- 10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship | Baptism (Sanctuary); livestream at
live.temple.life; Sunday School for all ages
- 4 p.m. - Bible Drill (JPMR)
- 5 p.m. - The Springs Worship (The Springs)
- 4:45 p.m. - God's Glory Among the Nations (Rm 216)
- 5:30 p.m. - The Chapel (Chapel)

Monday, March 2

- 6:30 p.m. - Choir Festival (Sanctuary)

Wednesday, March 4

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8,
\$15 max/family; Menu: Balance Brought Forward)
- 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study (Rm 270)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Women's Bible Study - When You
Pray (Rm 275); Children's M3 (JP); Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH);
Coed Bible Study - Judges (FLC Glass Classroom)
- 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm); Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal
(Choir Rm); Mexico GO (Construction) Interest Meeting (Rm 76)

Thursday, March 5

- 5 p.m. - Senior Adult Game Night (FH)



LEARN MORE AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE



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.