



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

Over the past couple of weeks, forty-one of us were overseas to follow the “Footsteps of Paul.” Specifically, we retraced his steps through Greece, with quick stops in Ephesus, Crete, etc. Paul carried many titles: the apostle, the missionary, the theologian, the preacher, and the pastor. But more importantly, he made a lasting impact upon the kingdom of God. No doubt, Paul’s passion for the gospel and his love for the church were unmatched. No place he traveled could escape the apostle’s reasoned, empowered message of Christ. Every place I stood, I could sense how the gospel was the power of God unto salvation. Take Athens for example. Athens was named for the Greek goddess Athena, whose “world-renowned temple, the Parthenon, stood on top of the Acropolis in the heart of the town.” Known as the center of classical studies in philosophy and literature in the ancient world, the city exemplified Hellenistic culture. Poets, philosophers, authors, sculptors, and architects all found expression in Athens. Even Paul was familiar with Greek poets and utilized their words in his testimony to the Athenians (Acts 17:28). Yet, by the time of the New Testament, Athens was a shadow of its former self. Other cities like Antioch of Syria, Ephesus, and even Corinth had surpassed it in importance. McRay describes Athens in this time as “a provincial backwater, a small university town of about twenty-five thousand people, more concerned with ideas than commerce, and living in the memories of its glorious history.”

Paul entered Athens and confronted the philosophical as well as the relativistic systems before him. He was particularly moved by all the idolatry that he saw. Images of Greek and Roman gods decorated the landscape, only to be accented by profiles of deified emperors. Tragically, it is said that “it was easier to find a god than a man in Athens.” From the agora (the marketplace) to the Areopagus (the municipal council), Paul proclaimed his radical, monotheistic faith in Jesus Christ. And while there was rejection of the gospel among many in the council itself, “some people joined him and believed, including Dionysius the Areopagite, a woman named Damaris, and others with them” (Acts 17:34).

So many cities in our nation today reflect the Athenian character of religious pluralism, pseudo-intellectualism, and philosophical musings. They have sought more understanding, only to embrace foolishness. The answer? Yep, you guessed it . . . the gospel! Jesus is the only remedy for such idolatry and immorality we see in our cities today. Unfortunately, many individuals may reject this good news, but I am encouraged that some will accept it. The same power that energized Paul is the same resource we have today! We must simply be faithful to proclaim Christ.

Thanks for praying for us as we were gone. I’m proud to be back in the United States of America, and I’m grateful that I can partner with you for His work! See you Sunday!

From The Minister of Pastoral Care

Dale Oden

After a journey of 12,764 (round trip) miles over eleven days, all forty-one folks made it safely back to the United States! And what a trip it was! I am so thankful for the privilege making the journey following the “Footsteps of Paul.” It was a delightful experience to visit the centuries-old cities and areas that we read about in the book of Acts, and then to know that the Apostle Paul visited cities like Athens, Corinth, Ephesus and other major cities proclaiming the “good news” to any and all who would listen.

Thank you for your prayers for our group as we made this trip. It was also special to celebrate my birthday while in Greece. I was able to have ice cream four times on May 28. I am sure that any of the forty-one folks on the trip would be happy to share pictures and stories with you,.

Sadel and I are now looking forward to the Scotland/Ireland trip that the church gave us for our fifty years of service here at Temple Baptist Church. We will fly to London on Tuesday, June 16 and board the Norwegian Sky cruise ship a couple of days later for the ten-day cruise around different ports in Scotland and Ireland. It’s exciting to think of the opportunity to make two international trips in just over a month.

We will not be having our Senior Adult luncheons in June or July. But get ready for two luncheons in August as a part of our annual Senior Adult Summer Bible Study. Dr. Argile Smith will be back to lead us in a study of the “I Am” statements of Jesus. Please put the dates of August 16-19 on your calendar for these special days of Bible study.

I hope to have brochures available soon on a couple of trips planned for later this year. One will be to Pigeon Forge to attend the Celebrators Conference and another trip to Branson. I hope to include a side trip to visit the Ark Encounter on the Branson trip. Be watching for the brochures and get your name on the list to travel with us.



2026 BEACH RETREAT

AUGUST 16 - 20 | GULF SHORES BEACH RETREAT

Meet people before you start classes in the Fall, create lasting memories and friendships, and connect with a local church in Ruston before beginning the school year!

LEARN MORE AT BEACH.TEMPLECOLLEGE.LIFE



Discover Temple

Sunday, July 12 | 9 A.M. | RM 216

Learn more about Temple Baptist Church, what we believe, and how you can take your next step here.

Register at events.temple.life

Growing in Christ | Connecting in Community | Engaging in Mission



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

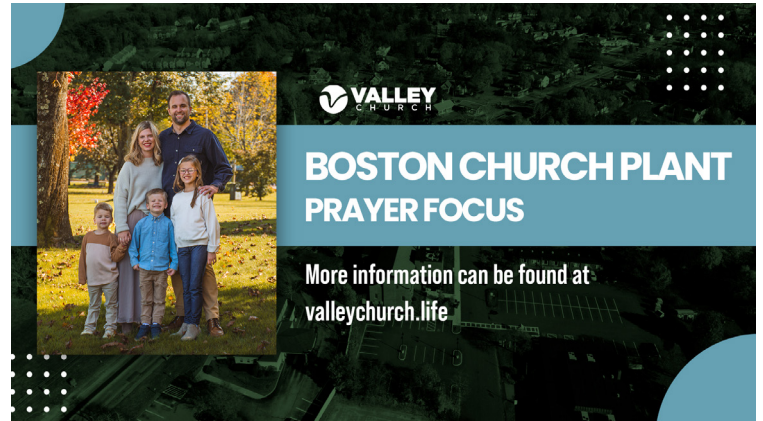


AMERICA 250

ANNUAL 29th CELEBRATION

Love Lincoln FREEDOM FEST

Celebrating 250 years of faith and freedom
Friday, July 3 | 7:30 P.M. | Temple Baptist Church Sanctuary



Minister of Community Engagement

George Lee, IV

A Sweet Opportunity to Serve: Several years ago, a pastor friend from another church remarked to me, “Temple is one of the friendliest churches in town.” I believe that reputation comes from the sweet spirit of fellowship, kindness, and generosity that has characterized our church family for many years.

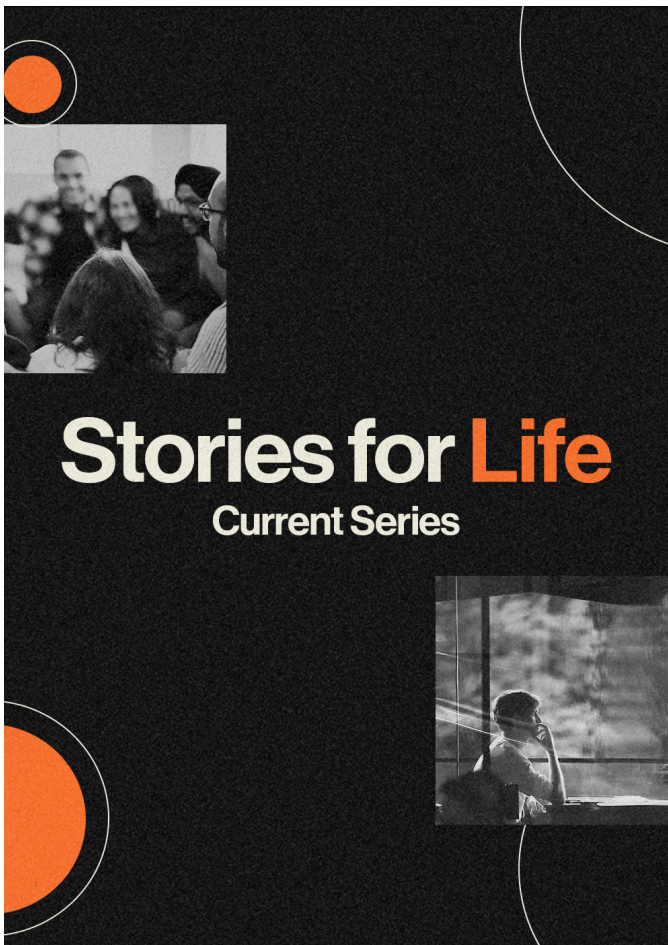
Christian Community Action (CCA), one of our valued ministry partners, has experienced a shortage of sugar in its food pantry. As churches across our area work together to help meet various needs, Temple has committed to collecting four-pound bags of sugar for CCA.

While sugar may seem like a small item, it is one of those everyday necessities that helps families prepare meals and care for their households. By providing this simple staple, we are helping CCA continue its ministry to individuals and families throughout our community.

You might say we have an opportunity to be a little “sweet” to our neighbors. More importantly, we have an opportunity to demonstrate the love of Christ in a practical way. Jesus reminds us that when we serve others, we serve Him. Small acts of kindness can become powerful expressions of God’s love.

If you would like to participate, please bring a four-pound bag of sugar to the church office. Together, we can help meet a tangible need and continue showing the sweet spirit of Christ to our community.

Thank you for your generosity and for being a church that continually seeks to love God and love people well!



Stories for Life

Current Series

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Week-at-a-Glance

June 3-14 - Pacific Rim Mission Trip

June 9-11 - Tiny Trekker Summer Camp (JP)

June 13-19 - High School Mission Trip (Miami)

Sunday, June 7

- 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
- 11:30 a.m. - High School Mission Trip Training (Youth Room)
- 3 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Springs)
- 5:30 p.m. - The Chapel (FLC)

Monday, June 8

- 6 p.m. - Mary Martha Women on Mission
- 6:30 p.m. - College Evangelism Study (Rm 216)

Tuesday, June 9

- 9:30 a.m. - Senior Adult Ladies Bible Study (Rm 216)
- 12 p.m. - Jr. High Lunch with John (FLC)

Wednesday, June 10

- 5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8, \$15 max/family;
Menu: Balance Brought Forward); College Summer Bible Study (Rm 216)
- 5:30 p.m. - Women's Bible Study (Rm 270)
- 5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Women's Bible Study (Rm 275);
Junior High Worship (Youth Rm)
- 6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); Children's Summer Sontastics (JP);
Coed Bible Study (FLC Glass Classroom)
- 7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm); Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

Thursday, June 11

- 12 p.m. - High School Lunch with John (FLC); Myrtle King Lunch Bunch (FH)

Friday, June 12

Church Offices Closed for Fire Sprinkler Inspection

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.

SENIOR ADULT

LADIES BIBLE STUDY

TUESDAYS, BEGINNING JUNE 9 | 9:30 A.M. | RM 216

Study guides and books will be available for \$25 as a bundle.

LEARN MORE AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE

LUNCH WITH JOHN

Meeting in the Family Life Center

Junior High - Tuesdays at Noon
 Senior High - Thursdays at Noon