



temple TIDINGS

BAPTIST CHURCH

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

"I AM," Jesus declared (John 8:58 NKJV). The religious leaders' response? The apostle John relates, "Then they took up stones to throw at Him" (8:59 NKJV). You see, the Pharisees heard the echo of God's self-disclosure to Moses at the burning bush: "I AM WHO I AM. . . . Thus, you shall say to the children of Israel, 'I AM has sent me to you'" (Exodus 3:14 NKJV). Indeed, the Jews knew that Jesus had just claimed equality with Yahweh, Jehovah. Such apparent blasphemy called for death. Blasphemy is the concept of bringing God down to our level; moreover, it carries the idea that we place ourselves on the same footing as the universe's Architect. For any human to claim such equality with the Lord would be immoral and unholy . . . unless you are Jesus. **The Son of God was and is the great I AM.** For those who say that Jesus never proclaimed His deity, I ask you to hear His declaration again. He was the very One Who spoke from the burning bush, and as He walked upon Earth, He did so as the God-Man. Yes, my friends, Jesus is the I AM!

That title reminds us that Christ is from everlasting to everlasting. He did not begin in a manger of Bethlehem; rather, He has always been. There is no beginning nor end to Jesus. Moreover, the name underscores His self-existence. The Lord is not dependent upon anyone or anything else for His livelihood. He is simply "I AM", and He sustains all of creation.

Today, I take solace in knowing that the I AM is over my life situation. He rules. He directs. He delivers. He provides. He reigns. He is. He will cause to be what He will cause to be. The I AM never takes a day off from His duties. In fact, Jesus goes on to assure His disciples: "**I AM the bread of life. I AM the light of the world. I AM the gate of the sheep. I AM the good shepherd. I AM the resurrection and the life. I AM the way, the truth, and the life. I AM the true vine.**" I hope you know the reality and majesty of the great I AM, and I pray you live in His confidence daily. Furthermore, I encourage you to make Him known to others.

As we approach this coming weekend, I ask that you join me in asking the I AM to reveal Himself to our youth as they participate in one of the most impactful moments of the year—Princess/Warrior Weekend. Approximately 310

students/chaperones/leaders will be engaged in worship, study, and discussion at Southland Christian Camp. It is going to be incredible! John Nugent describes it like this:

We take our big youth group family and separate them by age and gender into lots of small Bible study groups led by absolutely amazing leaders. There's no featured speaker, no big-name band, no special lighting, and nothing really flashy at all, but the genuine time spent together in God's Word is like nothing else! Teenagers experience seven big sessions of Bible study honestly answering their real and difficult questions and have a chance to talk about tough issues they're going through. Teenagers LOVE it! They are more excited about this event than anything else we do! This is a retreat where teenagers get Biblical answers for their honest questions about dating, friendships, social media, peer pressure, self-image, absolute truth, doctrine, theology and much more.

I've watched students (including my children) return transformed from the time they spent with the I AM over the weekend. So, **would you intentionally ask the Lord to bring life change among those who are there?** Would you cry out to Him to save souls? Would you implore Him to refocus lives and draw them closer to Him. Intercede on their behalf. Prayer can do anything God can do! So, let's pray for Him to do what only He can.

In addition, pray for those who are participating in our Upward season. Approximately 190 children will be playing basketball and cheerleading every Saturday. That means there could be as many as 1000 people coming through our gym; and according to registrations, about one-fourth of those are not actively involved in a church. No doubt, we need to be praying for the I AM to impress Himself upon each family that is involved.

I am so excited about what God is doing in our worship services and in our everyday walk with Him. This past Sunday, we had right at 1500 in attendance! And more importantly, the Spirit was demonstrating His power. Hope to see you Sunday as we see the I AM in Colossians 1:15-23!

From The Minister of Pastoral Care

Dale Oden

Happy 2026! Where did last year go? It seems like it was just a few weeks ago that we were ringing in 2025. How time flies when you are having fun. We can look at the past year and be grateful for the blessings that have come our way from our Heavenly Father and His Son, Jesus Christ.

It was 28 years ago on January 11, 1998, that we held our first service in our facilities at 1515 South Service Road West. It seems hard to believe that we have been out here that long. But how we have been blessed in these years. I praise God for all the wonderful worship services, the Bible teaching, the music programs, the individuals and families who have become a part of our church family, and, the individuals and groups that have gone out on mission to areas in Louisiana, in the United States, and all over the world. I truly believe God will continue to bless our church as we remain faithful to proclaiming the Gospel and living it out in our community day by day.

Our **Senior Adult Luncheon** for January is scheduled for **Tuesday, January 20, at 11:45 a.m. in Fellowship Hall**. The program will feature the musical talents of Paul Ford of Monroe. Paul was with us a little over a year ago, and we were all impressed with his musical skills. Several folks have asked me from time to time if we could get him back for another program. So, come join us and enjoy the program as well as some delicious food along with the great fellowship.

Time is getting short to be able to sign up for our trip to follow the **“Footsteps of Paul.”** That would be Apostle Paul’s footsteps not Paul Ford, who is coming to entertain us at our luncheon next week! (ha) The trip to Greece is scheduled for **May 19-29**, and we are almost full. If you have an interest in the trip, please call the Church Office for a brochure.

Welcome to the Family!



Judy H. Noles
(Statement)



John & Denise McClendon
(Statement)



Faithlynn McDaniel
(Baptism)



Charlotte Mabry Women on Mission

Monday, January 26 | 5:30 p.m.
at the home of Jennifer Terzia (155 Shenandoah Dr., Dubach)
Mission Project: Boston Church Plant

GOD'S GLORY AMONG THE NATIONS BIBLE STUDY

BEGINNING SUNDAY, JANUARY 25
4:45 P.M. | RM 216

Discover God's mission and our role in His redemptive plan during this Bible study, designed to inspire and equip believers for the missionary task.

LEARN MORE AT MISSIONS.TEMPLE.LIFE

TEMPLE BAPTIST
Women's Retreat

THURSDAY, MARCH 26 - SATURDAY, MARCH 28
REGISTRATION OPENS MONDAY, JANUARY 26

The Temple Women's Retreat will be a powerful 3-day experience filled with opportunities to invest in your own faith journey, and build sisterhood with other women.

REGISTER AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE

DALE'S ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 1 | 5 P.M.
FELLOWSHIP HALL

Come help us celebrate Dale & Sadel Oden on 50 years of ministry here at Temple Baptist Church!

LEARN MORE AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE



Congratulations to:

AJ and Anna Barbiero on the birth
of their son, **Andrew Luke Barbiero**.

Proud grandparents are Richard and Donna Hood.

Ame Gray on the birth of her grandson,
Nathan Scott Richardson.

Roland and Kristi Tollett on the birth of their grandson,
Hyder Spence Jr.

David and Donna Hipp on the birth
of their granddaughters,

Savannah Kay Mourad and Scarlett Kate Rome.



the family of **Sadie Carson**,
sister of Joanne Barlow.

the family of **Mary Gene Rhodes**,
grandmother of Catherine (Jeremy) Asher,
great-grandmother of Anna, David, and Daniel.

the family of **Elder Ruth Brown**,
mother of Tammie (Jim) Oakes,
grandmother of John, Matt, and Ty.

the family of **Erma Hudson**,
grandmother of Tom (Leslea) Futrell,
great-grandmother of Hudson.

Freedom13 DONATIONS

DROP OFF THROUGH JANUARY 24

DONATION ITEMS NEEDED:

GENTLY USED PURSES/TOTES, JEWELRY, AND SCARVES.
UNOPENED BATH PRODUCTS, BODY WASH, LOTION AND SOAP.

LEARN MORE AT EVENTS.TEMPLE.LIFE

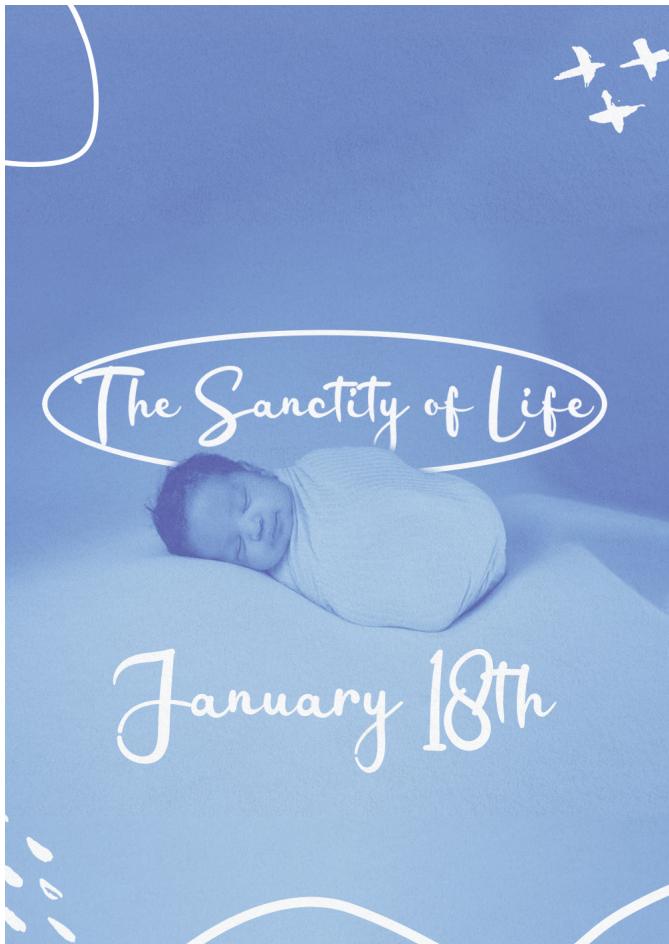
Minister of Community Engagement George Lee, IV

Freedom 13 & A Queen's Celebration 2026: As I sit at my desk to write this article, my eyes keep drifting to my Freedom 13 coffee mug on the bookshelf. I've had it for a while now and still haven't used it, but I love what it represents. I don't have many material treasures, but I do love a good coffee mug—especially ones that remind me of Scripture, people I love, and organizations that have made a Kingdom impact in my life and our community.

Freedom 13 is one of our local missions partners here at Temple. By God's grace, they continue to rebuild dignity in the lives of those they serve. Through their residential recovery program, prison ministry, and local school outreaches, the seeds of the gospel are being planted throughout Lincoln Parish and beyond.

Each year, Freedom 13 hosts one of its largest missional events, *A Queen's Celebration (AQC)*. AQC is a day dedicated to pouring out love, encouragement, and hope to women across our community through worship, Gospel-centered teaching, fellowship over a meal, and other meaningful activities. For several years now, our church has had the privilege of hosting this event. Women from all over our community gather to worship, respond to the gospel, and experience authentic community—and we get to be a part of that. Praise the Lord! This year's AQC will be held on **Saturday, January 24**. If you know a woman in our community who would benefit from attending, please visit freedom13ministries.com to register.

There are also opportunities to sponsor an attendee and to donate items for the AQC boutique. Boutique needs include gently used purses or totes, jewelry, scarves, and unopened bath products such as lotion, soap, socks, and blankets. Donations can be dropped off at **1831 N. Trenton St., Suite 3, Ruston**. Pickup is available for large donations—call **318-242-1300**. Let's continue to cover **AQC 2026** in prayer!



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Week-at-a-Glance

January 16-18 - Princess & Warrior Weekend

January 24-February 28 - Upward Games (FLC)

Sunday, January 18 (Sanctity of Life Sunday)

9 a.m. - Blended Worship (Sanctuary); livestream at live.temple.life;

Contemporary Worship (GS); Sunday School for all ages

10:30 a.m. - Contemporary Worship (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)

Monday, January 19

Church Offices Closed

Tuesday, January 20

11:45 a.m. - Senior Adult Luncheon (FH)

Wednesday, January 21

5 p.m. - Family Night Meal (FH; Cost: \$5/person, \$3/child under 8, \$15 max/family; Menu: Soup Bar)

5:15 p.m. - Boston Advocacy Prayer Time (Rm 76)

5:45 p.m. - Men's Bible Study (Rm 264); Children's M3 (JP);

Junior High Worship (Youth Rm); Women's Bible Study (Rm 275)

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (FH); Coed Bible Study - Judges (FLC Snack Area)

6:30 p.m. - Temple College Freshman Bible Study (Rm 216)

7 p.m. - High School Worship (Youth Rm);

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal (Choir Rm)

8 p.m. - Temple College Midweek (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.