



temple
BAPTIST CHURCH

TIDINGS

A weekly newsletter for all active members of Temple Baptist Church

The Pastor's Perspective

Dr. Reggie Bridges

"I am proud to be an American. It is the land that I love. The rewards to me personally have been as boundless as the ocean," proclaimed Robert Solomon Magee. Hopefully, we add our voices to the preacher's declaration as we celebrate our nation's 250th birthday. No doubt, we ought to be thankful for the tremendous blessings that have been appropriated to us and to our country. For me personally, I have enjoyed immeasurable freedom and opportunity. The rewards truly have been as "boundless as the ocean."

A reflection upon our national history ought to move us to a more patriotic stance, and perhaps that is the purpose of the celebrations before us. Magee rightly remarked, "The rebirth of American gratitude should come through taking the backward look. In remembering the days of old, let us be grateful that we have a country. This we likely take for granted, but it is not an insured right. Israel learned this lesson through bitter chastisement. For years, the people of God inherited a choice land without recognizing their great fortune." The sovereign God above has appointed nations for their times in history, and He marked off the boundaries of their lands (Acts 17:26). Therefore, we should recognize Him as the gracious King who directed our forefathers to this continent and sustained them through the years. He alone allowed for the existence of and continuation of the United States of America. We praise Him for that! We exalt Him for His favor shown through 250 years of history.

This doesn't mean that our nation has been perfect. It wasn't then, and it certainly isn't now! Why? Because the nation is made up of people. And people? Well, we are all sinners! We fail! So, if a nation is composed of imperfect people, then I believe that it must be imperfect. Just as individuals find themselves on a journey of growth, so does the nation. Maybe that is why the framers of the Constitution included their intent so clearly in the document's

preamble: "We, the People of the United States, in Order to form a more perfect Union, establish Justice, insure domestic Tranquility, provide for the common defence, promote the general Welfare, and secure the Blessings of Liberty to ourselves and our Posterity, do ordain and establish this Constitution for the United States of America." Mistakes happen. Decisions are blown. Injustices exist. But we strive for a more perfect Union.

Speaking almost sixty years ago, Magee called for the nation to address such challenges with the careful skill and the gracious spirit necessary for the moment. He realized, "America suffers the pangs of a wounded spirit. In a day of unrivaled glory, our morale is at a low ebb. The spirit of doxology has been supplanted by the dirge of despondency. No other nation deals with its failings so harshly or recklessly. Only the gentle hand of the surgeon can inflict a redemptive wound. Those who lash out at America in thankless fury will sever the spirit from the body. What is a nation without morale?" The diagnosis and the prescription offered in the statement could apply just as well today as it did then. We can't solve much of anything—at least, we can't do it effectively—without a spirit of gratitude and wisdom.

I understand that my citizenship is ultimately in heaven (Philippians 3:20) and that I belong to a Kingdom much greater than the United States of America. I hope you do too! But I can still say that I am proud to be an American . . . It is the land that I love. Being a citizen of God's Kingdom and a citizen of the U.S. does not have to be contradictory. Instead, my belonging to Christ informs how I serve my country and my neighbor. My faith in the King drives me to appreciation for His placement of me right where I am! Let's celebrate the 250 years of our national history by giving glory to the One Who wrote our story. Indeed, let's demonstrate a spirit of doxology. See you Sunday!

MINISTER OF WORSHIP

Jeremy Asher

Hello, Temple family! I hope all is well with each of you as we make our way into the month of July. Which means it's time for our 29th annual **Patriotic program!** We will present the program on **Friday, July 3, at 7:30 p.m.** (with fireworks to follow, usually around 9 p.m.). You don't want to miss our program this year! As we approach America's semiquincentennial (say that five times as fast as you can!), we recognize how God has been faithful through every season of our history, and we hope to clearly convey that message in the program. I am so thankful for the many men and women who have served our country with valor, bravery, and integrity. We certainly want to thank our veterans, and we will have that opportunity during the program. **If you are either a veteran or active duty military,** we invite you to participate in our program this year. Please meet in Fellowship Hall at 7 p.m. on Friday, July 3, before the program to carry a flag. Our church family and our nation thank you for your service!



VOLUNTEERS NEEDED AT WINSHAPE

We still need volunteers to serve at Check Point (2 hour shifts at the greeting center). Let Sally or Sarah know if you are interested in serving.

It's not too late to join us for the **BEST.WEEK.EVER.**

Sign up online at www.winshapecamps.org or show up Monday morning at 8:15 a.m.

Congratulations to:

Caleb and Maggie Kyle on the birth of their daughter, **Caroline Margaret.**

Proud sisters are Kendall and Mallory.

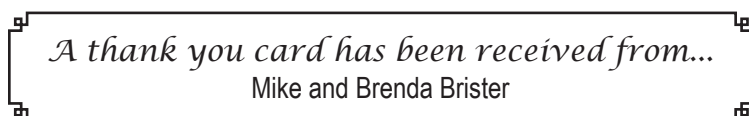
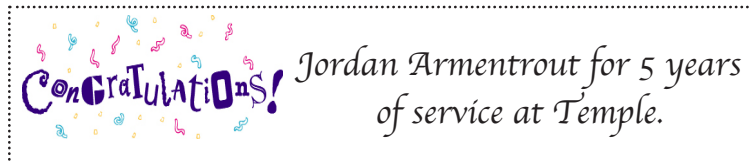
Grandparents are Doug and Rene Davidson.



2026 National Pinewood Derby Car Champion

Campbell is the son of Sam and Kelly Hodge. Campbell won this award during the Southern Baptist Convention held in Orlando after his win in Alexandria. Campbell represented Temple Baptist Church and our state well. Congratulations, Campbell!





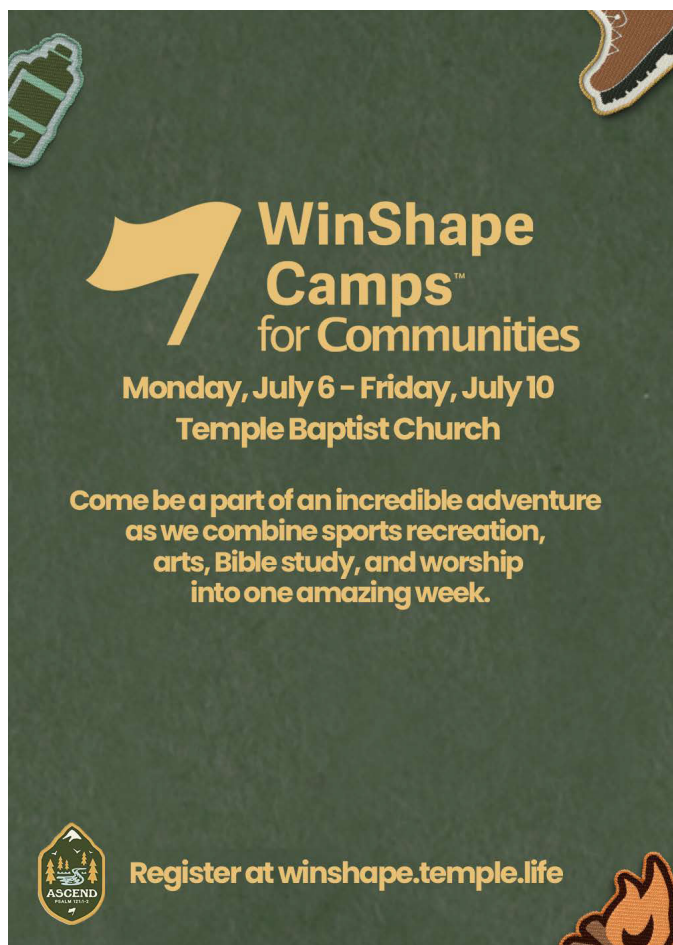
Youth Ministry

John Nugent

High School Mission Trip Recap: We took sixty-two people to Miami, Florida to serve and work with three different church plants. The team serving with Gateway Baptist Church was able to help orchestrate a VBS with over 100 children registered! They taught music, recreation, Bible stories, and even helped serve lunch! The teams serving at New Hope Brazilian Baptist Church helped build up their youth ministry by serving with their youth group, participating in street evangelism, and hosting a youth worship service with around 200 people in attendance. The teams serving at The Brook Church not only cooked our meals, but they also renovated two bathrooms including demolition and did all the sheet rock work, laid vinyl flooring in their office suite, painted their conference room, lots of yard work, countless organizing jobs, and cleaned everything in sight. God worked clearly and mightily in and through every one of our students. Be sure to ask our high school students about their highlights from the trip!

I am extremely grateful for AJ Riels, Brandon Washam, Chad Newsom, Cory and Jennie Dawsey, Jennifer Patton, Leslie Bridges, and Tim McCarthy for leading and chaperoning with us. This kind of mission trip with so many locations and projects is absolutely impossible without amazing chaperones. Be sure to thank them for their leadership when you see them!

Next up is **Junior High Mission trip to New Orleans July 5-10**. Check out nola.templebestudents.org for all the details on packing and getting ready to go!



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Week-at-a-Glance

July 5-10 - Junior High Mission Trip (Mission Lab New Orleans)

July 6-10 - WinShape

Sunday, July 5

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

1 p.m. - WinShape Volunteer Meeting (FH)

3 p.m. - The Springs Worship Service (The Springs)

Monday, July 6

6:30 p.m. - College Evangelism Study (Rm 216)

Tuesday, July 7

9:30 a.m. - Senior Adult Ladies Bible Study (Rm 216)

Wednesday, July 8

6 p.m. - Prayer Meeting/Bible Study (Chapel)



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.