

Inside this Issue:

| | |
|---------------------------|-----|
| Ministry Information | 1-3 |
| Early Ed Center News | 3 |
| Birthdays & Anniversaries | 4 |
| February Events | 4 |
| Dear Church Family | 5 |
| TACA Sword & Shield | 6-7 |

February 2023

Volume 32, Issue 2

YOUR TABC STAFF

Pastoral Staff

Shane Phillips, Senior Pastor
Paul Thompson, Associate Pastor of Discipleship
Joey Cole, Worship Pastor
Saül Delgado, Hispanic Pastor

Ministry Support

Beverly Estep, Financial Secretary
Peggy Phipps, Church Secretary
Debbie Boyd, Ministry Support
April Casaday, Children's Ministry Director
Kim Hutton, Pre-School Director
Phyllis Humphrey, Pianist
John Gentry, Maintenance
Kent Peters, Housekeeping

Academy Staff

Cindy Beal, Administrator
Melinda Widener, Principal
Adrian Padgett, Guidance Counselor
Angie Williams, Student Accounts Manager/
School Secretary
Amanda Pottorf, Director of Development

Early Education Center Staff

Jessica Sharrett, Director
Brittany Sheffield, Asst. Director

The Power of Words

⁴But He answered and said, "It is written, 'Man shall not live by bread alone, but by every word that proceeds from the mouth of God.'" (Matt 4:4 NKJV)

Words are very powerful. That is, they have the ability to accomplish great things – good or bad. They can encourage the broken, and they can cut us so sharply that we can do little but fall on our knees. You might have heard the saying, "sticks and stones may break my bones, but words will never hurt me." Yes, this may seem like a quick "come-back" for one who has just been slandered, but the reality is that words do hurt, and they can even scar the soul.

Why is it that words have so much power? I believe it is because words are often a conveyance of the

heart. Jesus said, *"out of the abundance of the heart the mouth speaks."* (Matt 12:34 and Luke 6:45) To say this another way, the secrets of the heart often find their way out of our mouths. Yes... we can not seem to keep our mouths shut. James said it this way, *"For we all stumble in many things. If anyone does not stumble in word, he is a perfect man, able also to bridle the whole body."* James 3:2 (NKJV) Saints, that is a powerful statement. Think about that... James explains that if we could control our tongues/ words, we would be "perfect", that is, everything else is easier by comparison.

This brings us to the point. If our words will impact lives in such a powerful way, why not use them for the good and

edification (building up) of others. It is an easy thing to hurt another person, but it shows great mercy, grace, and spiritual wisdom to build another person up. Think of it this way, it takes very little effort to strike another person (no great skill needed... most anyone can inflict injury), but those same hands can be the ones that clean and bandage wounds. Just like the story of the "Good Samaritan", it was no big feat for the bandits to hurt and steal from a man, but the Samaritan was willing to be inconvenienced, minister to another, and even share his money for the care of another... why... because he did not see a problem... but rather, he saw the worth and importance of another person hurting and in need!

The Power of Words (Continued from Page 1)

Most of the Christian life is about learning to see through the eyes of God and feel with His heart. Think of it, God thought you important enough to look past your faults, sins, and rebellion to what He knew you could and would become. No, I am not saying that it is always easy to get along with others... nor am I saying that we may not disagree. But as the saying goes, we can disagree without being disagreeable. That is, we can share our differences and stick to our convictions without hurting or tearing others down. God's Word is the best example. His words may convict and challenge, but they always offer hope, mercy, and grace. Eternal life and healing for our souls is found in God's Word. If we want to truly experience His presence and grace, then we must let His "Word" take root in us. Then we will learn to tame our words and "live" by every word that comes from the mouth of God.

Maranatha,
Pastor Shane
Senior Pastor



Love Lifted Me!

Some of my most favorite lyrics have been written in the beautiful hymn "Love Lifted Me". For I too am/was "...stained with sin, sinking to rise no more; but the Master of the sea, heard my despairing cry, From the waters lifted me, now safe am I."

This is the story of love that each believer can call their own, even though sometimes it's hard to wrap our heads around the how's and the why's of God's love. We can find some of the answers in how the Word of God describes what Love should be. The Bible does not confine love to sexuality, nor as primarily a feeling at all. The Bible teaches us that love is a commitment. As a commitment, love is not dependent upon good feelings, but rather on a consistent and courageous decision to extend oneself for the well-being of another. That commitment then produces the "feel goods" - not the other way around. John 15:13 tells us, "Greater love hath no man than this, that a man lay down his life for his friends." (KJV) Jesus became the perfect demonstration of God's unconditional love for us by laying down His life for our benefit. So in this season, commit yourselves one to another - be true, be faithful, and most of all Love!

"And now abide faith, hope, love, these three; but the greatest of these is love." 1 Corinthians 13:13 (NKJV)

Blessings,
Pastor Joey
Worship Pastor



Genesis 2:7 tells us that God formed man from the dust of the ground and breathed into his nostrils the breath of God, and man became a living soul. I love this passage of Scripture and the picture it gives me. I've made it a practice every morning to close my eyes and meditate on this Scripture. The wonderful thing about it is that as I'm sitting there with my eyes closed, the God-given need to take a breath keeps on coming and going and coming and going.

Psalm 150:6 says, "Let everything that has breath praise the Lord. Praise the Lord!" (NKJV) As I set aside time to focus on the God who gives me breath, I can't help but praise Him for it. It has become a powerful part of my day and probably my favorite part.

Practicing the presence of God means that you can get better at experiencing the presence, and that's my goal. I want to practice it so often that I can say what King David said in Psalm 16:8: "I have set the Lord continually before me; Because He is at my right hand, I will not be shaken." (NASB)

Imagine the effect it would have on your life if you knew that the God of the angel armies was at your right hand and you were under His command! I'm pretty sure it would change how you approach fear in life. I certainly haven't arrived yet, but... "One thing I have asked from the Lord, that I shall seek: That I may dwell in the house of the Lord all the days of my life, to behold the beauty of the Lord and to meditate in His temple." Psalm 27:4 (NASB)

As long as you are still alive, you've gotta breathe. Why not breathe with the breath of God, consciously, so often all day that you become overwhelmed with how present God really is. Help me bring Heaven to earth as long as we are still here.

Praying Malachi 4:5-6 over us all,
Bro. Paul Thompson
Associate Pastor of Discipleship



Happy Valentine's Day! What an amazing time of year, we just celebrated the birth of our Saviour and now we get to celebrate His love for us! Valentine's Day is such an amazing time that you and your families can reiterate to your children just how much God loves us and how BIG His love for us is. Did you know that hearts are mentioned in the Bible over 700 times?! There are so many verses that you and your family can read together to celebrate Valentine's Day (Romans 5:8, Matthew 22:37, Proverbs 3:5, just to name a few)! I certainly pray that each of you knows how much God loves you!

The Children's Ministry is busy busy busy this year! We are beginning to prepare for VBS. Everyone is invited to come paint, glue, staple, and color set decorations - we plan to have monthly workshops, watch your bulletin for the next date! We need your old Board Games/Card games for VBS décor props; please just drop them in the designated tote in the vestibule.

Also, for our upcoming Community Easter Egg Hunt on April 1st, we are in need of plastic Easter eggs, and items to fill eggs (candy, coins, toys, etc.). Please reach out to me if you have any questions!

Thank you in advance for your prayers and your help!

Miss April
Children's Ministry Director

Tennessee Avenue Early Childhood Education



Families,

Do you ever feel like you are in the middle of a storm being hit at every turn? Sickness, doubt, finances, hurt, the list can be never ending. Maybe, every time there's a break in the storm you are already dreading the next wave that you know is coming. Can you imagine what it must have felt like for the men who were on the boat with Jesus? A massive storm comes up, throwing them to and fro, and Jesus... well, He slept.

He slept. He wasn't worried about the waves overtaking the boat. I imagine that the men were scrambling left and right, grabbing onto anything that they could to keep their footing. Yet, Jesus slept. As a matter of fact, someone had to go and wake Him. I don't know about you, but I am not a storm person. I don't go out on my porch and watch the lightning, and I usually don't sleep through the storm either. If I am being completely honest, I almost go into a panic. Panic. Not just about a real weather storm, but about every "life" storm that comes my way. From something little like a drain being clogged, to the major thing of dealing with some form of illness that doesn't seem to have a happy outcome. But that is not what we have been told to do. We've been told to have faith.

In Matthew 8 after the panicking disciples have awakened Jesus from His sleep, He says in verse 26, "*You of little faith, why are you so afraid?*" (NIV); and then He calmed the storm. Sometime later He addresses the faith issue again after He had driven the demon out of the young boy. When the disciples questioned why they were unable to do it, His reply in Matthew 17 verse 20 was, "*Because you have so little faith. Truly I tell you, if you have faith as small as a mustard seed, you can say to this mountain, 'Move from here to there,' and it will move. Nothing will be impossible for you.*" (NIV) Both times they had a lack of faith. Maybe even no faith at all. But Jesus told them with faith nothing is impossible. Can you imagine having so much faith that you see a mountain move? It's hard to imagine. Especially when we are struggling, facing a storm that seems like is going to finally do us in. But it is then when we need to have the most faith. We need to remember that we have a God who can move mountains, who can calm the raging storm! We have to have faith, and know that we are going to get through our storms, with Jesus by our side!

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett
Director, Early Childhood Education Center



Dates to Remember:

April 1:
Community Easter Egg Hunt
1:00-3:00

June 11-16:
Vacation Bible School
6:00-8:30pm

the month of FEBRUARY

birthdays

| | | | | | |
|------------------|------------------------------|------------------|---|------------------|--|
| 1 st | Ricky Hall Frances Peters | 12 th | Monica Dixon Charlie Pearman Todd Slusher | 22 nd | Joan Calhoun Rose Feagins David Leab Larry Powers |
| 2 nd | Tammie Harmon | 13 th | Lisa Anderson | 23 rd | Beulah Beavers Stephen Smallwood |
| 3 rd | Chris Hutton | 14 th | VALENTINE'S DAY! Michelle Keen | 24 th | Wes Leonard |
| 4 th | Rick Hale | | Tyler Parker Harper Raymond | 25 th | Lexie Foran |
| 6 th | Kathi Gentry Libby Lane | 15 th | Bambi Rush | 26 th | Doug Altizer |
| 7 th | Johnny Hutchins | 16 th | Dick Gordon | 27 th | Donna Keene |
| 8 th | Michael Harmon | 17 th | Susan Cox Cathy Fleenor | 28 th | Laura Hampton |
| 10 th | Jim Rush | 18 th | Patti Trivett | | |
| 11 th | Larry Foran | 20 th | Wendy Barbrey Kevin Doss | | |

*And now abide Faith Hope Love
these three,
but the greatest of these is love.
1 Corinthians 13:13*

anniversaries

| | | | | | |
|-----------------|----------------------------|------------------|-------------------------|------------------|-------------------|
| 8 th | Stuart & Jennie Sutherland | 17 th | Randy & Mary Jo Leonard | 22 nd | Paul & Lois Nixon |
| | | 19 th | Jonathan & Monica Dixon | | |

Upcoming Events

- 1st- TACA Parent Chapel Sanctuary 8:15 am
- 1st- Kidz Korner Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Wednesdays)
- 1st- Youth Ministry Wednesday Worship TABC 6:00 pm (Wednesdays)
- 1st- Choir Rehearsal TABC 7:00 pm (Wednesdays)
- 2nd- Ladies' Community Bible Study TABC 9:15-11:30 am (Thursdays)
- 2nd- Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
- 3rd- Senior Adult Breakfast Shoney's-Abingdon 9:00 am
- 3rd- TACA Home B-Ball Games FLB beginning 6:00 pm
- 4th- TABC Children's Basketball League FLB beginning 8:30 am (Saturdays)
- 5th- Pre-School Valentine Tea Preschool Area 9:45 am
- 5th- AWANA Penny Night Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Sundays)
- 5th- Youth Ministry Worship TABC 6:00 pm (Sundays)
- 6th- TACA Home B-Ball Games FLB beginning 6:00 pm
- 9th- TACA Home B-Ball Game FLB beginning 5:00 pm
- 12th- Sweetheart Luncheon FLB 12:30 pm
- 12th- AWANA Super Bowl Night Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 13th- TACA Home B-Ball Games FLB beginning 6:00 pm
- 14th- Dinner at Shirley's Hampton, TN Dinner at 4:00 pm
- 19th- AWANA Potato Pet Night Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 22nd- TBMB Worship Specialist Dr. Scott Shepherd Sanctuary 6:00 pm
- 23rd- TACA Home B-Ball Games FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 26th- AWANA Neon Night Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 27th- Widows Ministry Luncheon Fellowship Hall 12:00 Noon

dear CHURCH family

Thank You

Thank you guys so much for the beautiful flowers you all sent me, they brightened my day! It means so much to me that you all reached out to see how I am doing after my surgery. Thank you for the love and support you gave me. I can feel all of your prayers; they helped me so much! I love you all very much!

Love,
Roni Coker

Many thanks to my church family for your prayers, flowers, cards, gifts, phone calls, service visits and many offers of help during the sudden death of my brother.

Nancy B. Dotson & family
Sarah B. Lane & family

Words are so inadequate when it comes to expressing just how much we appreciate our church family / staff, especially in times of need. We've sensed the prayers offered for David and are grateful there were no residual effects from the TIA. God is so good! Thank you, also, for the beautiful flowers... when we look at them, they sure help to cheer us up, knowing the loving thoughts that come from our TABC family.

David & Joan



Text
TABAPTIST
to
833-428-5456
to give via
text message.

Online GIVING
Visit tabaptist.org and select the 'Giving' tab ~OR~ Open the Mobile App, select "Church", then "Give".

TABC FINANCES

Tithes & Offerings

"...try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts... See Malachi 3:10

| | |
|---------------------------------|-------------|
| 01/01/2023 Offering | \$9,870.00 |
| 01/08/2023 Offering | \$16,165.00 |
| 01/15/2023 Offering | \$5,044.00 |
| 01/22/2023 Offering | \$9,177.00 |
| On-line Giving 12/22/22-1/24/23 | \$10,274.00 |
| Period Giving Total | \$50,530.00 |
| Total 2022 offering YTD: | \$50,530.00 |

Bank Balances

| | |
|----------------------|----------------|
| Current Loan Balance | \$1,178,510.24 |
| General Account | \$326,807.86 |
| Designated Account | \$13,243.51 |
| Daycare / Academy | \$128,846.72 |

Baked Spaghetti Luncheon

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 12TH

in the Family Life Building following the Morning Worship Service

Join us for a Spaghetti Luncheon Fundraiser to benefit Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church Youth on Sunday, February 12th in the Family Life Building immediately following the Morning Worship Service. The meal will include Baked Spaghetti, Salad, Bread, Drink and Dessert. Donations will be accepted at the door. This money will help to offset the cost of our Youth PowerLife Student Camp in St. Simons Island, GA in July. See a youth member or worker to get your ticket(s).

Dr. Scott Shepherd
TBMB Worship Specialist

will be leading our worship service on Wednesday evening, February 22nd at 6 PM
Please mark your calendars and plan to be here.

TACA Sword & Shield

FEBRUARY 2023

Please enjoy this edition of the Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy newsletter, to keep us all up-to-date on the latest news from our Academy!



WE ARE AMBASSADORS!

"Let no corrupt communication proceed out of your mouth, but that which is good to the use of edifying, that it may minister grace unto the hearers." Ephesians 4:29 KJV

Have you ever noticed someone's negative comments about others and thought how their comments had diminished their testimony? If we aren't careful, we can become calloused to those thoughts and lose our testimony, as well.

As Christians, I am convinced that God does hold us to a higher standard. Ephesians 4:29 is clear in telling us what kind of communication should come out from us. If we follow the truth of this verse, we can begin to communicate in a way that we can be assured that we will be heard.

First, we need to make sure that we do not allow anything unwholesome or harmful to come out of our mouth or in anything we post. I understand that we all get upset about certain situations and we want to be heard. However, this verse does not give us that option. It says, **"no corrupt communication"** and does not give an exception when we feel we have been wronged in some way. If we will speak the truth in love, we can begin to be heard.

Next, we are to use words that will edify others. What does it mean to edify? In the Christian context, it means to strengthen someone or be strengthened in relationship to God, the Christian walk, and holiness. We cannot say or post negative things about someone else and expect to edify at the same time. If we want to be heard, we must look to edify others.

Finally, we want to minister grace to the people who will hear what we have to say. How is grace defined? **"Grace may be defined as the unmerited or undeserving favor of God"**. Ephesians 4:29 is calling us to minister that same kind of unmerited favor to others when they speak. How do we do that? We do that by showing respect and honor to others in how we speak or post. We also do that by going directly to that person and not to others to talk about whatever the issue is. If we want to be heard, we must minister grace to others.

I pray often for the favor of God. Let us live our lives as ambassadors of God's grace and mercy, extending much grace to others whether they deserve it or not. Isn't that what God has done for us? And let us seek His favor as we live out our faith before a world that is watching.

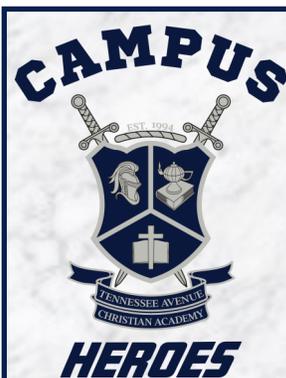
Amazed at His Grace,

Cindy Beal
Academy Administrator

FEBRUARY Save the Dates

| | | |
|---|--|--|
| Valentine -O- Grams Sales January 30-February 10 | Feb 1st PARENT CHAPEL @ 8:15 A.M. K-3rd GRADE WILL LEAD OUR SPECIAL MUSIC. | Feb 3rd PROGRESS REPORTS DISTRIBUTED |
| Feb 14th HAPPY VALENTINE'S DAY!!! | Feb 17th Parent/Teacher Conferences NO SCHOOL Childcare available. | |
| Feb 28th Last day to opt out of 23-24 academic year enrollment without penalty | March 1st PARENT CHAPEL @ 8:15 A.M. 4-5th GRADE WILL LEAD OUR SPECIAL MUSIC. | "For God so loved the world, that he gave his only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in him should not perish, but have everlasting life." JOHN 3:16 |

Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy



Campus heroes are always a blessing to TACA, and Joe Reece is no exception. Mr. Reece is the grandfather of Hailee Heinz, a seventh grade student at TACA. He recently retired and immediately offered to help on and around our campus. This past fall we were in need of some cubbies for our 2nd and 3rd grade classrooms. He gave his time and built these cubbies and did an excellent job. Thank you Mr. Reece for your investment in Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy!





TACA Sword & Shield

FEBRUARY 2023

K-4 Star Students

Mrs. Chanda's K-4 class is excited to share with all of our parents the K-4 Star Students for the months of January and February....

January

9-13 Maximus Moseley

16-20 Adley Lahr

23-27 Lane Jackson

30- Feb. 3 Walker Reynolds

February

6-10 Warren Sheffield

13-17 Indie Feathers

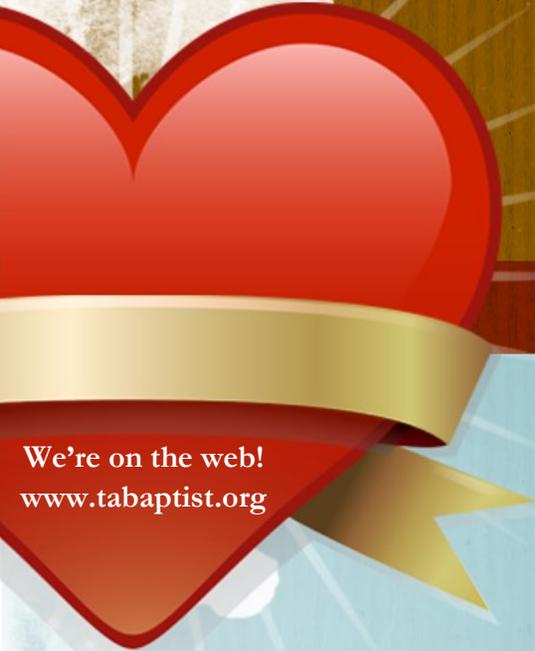
20-24 Otto Green



THE JOY PLACE
Tennessee Avenue
BAPTIST CHURCH
104 Cypress Street
Bristol, TN 37620

Return Service Requested

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRISTOL, TENN.
PERMIT #90



We're on the web!
www.tabaptist.org

Prayer Prompter

*"Love can only be cultivated
adequately in aloneness
with the one you love..."*

Joseph Carroll

Matthew 6:6

COME JOIN US!

SUNDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------|------------|
| Sunday School | 9:45 a.m. |
| Morning Worship Service | 11:00 a.m. |
| Evening Worship Service | 6:00 p.m. |
| AWANA | 6:00 p.m. |
| Youth Worship Service | 6:00 p.m. |

WEDNESDAYS

| | |
|-------------------------|-----------|
| Evening Worship Service | 6:00 p.m. |
| Kidz Korner | 6:00 p.m. |
| Youth Worship Service | 6:00 p.m. |

All our Worship Services can be viewed live, as well as viewing previously recorded services, by visiting www.tabaptist.org & selecting the 'Live Worship' tab.

Our services are also Live Streaming via:

*Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church FaceBook Live • TABC mobile app (Live Worship)
YouTube • Boxcast App (on Apple TV, ROKU, Amazon Fire TV)*