

# The TABC Journal



THE JOY PLACE  
**Tennessee Avenue**  
BAPTIST CHURCH

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March 2023

Volume 32, Issue 3

## YOUR TABC STAFF

### Pastoral Staff

Shane Phillips, Senior Pastor  
Paul Thompson, Associate Pastor of Discipleship  
Joey Cole, Worship Pastor  
Saúl 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

## Perseverance and Expectation

### John 16:5-8

*5 "But now I go away to Him who sent Me, and none of you asks Me, 'Where are You going?' 6 But because I have said these things to you, sorrow has filled your heart. 7 Nevertheless I tell you the truth. It is to your advantage that I go away; for if I do not go away, the Helper will not come to you; but if I depart, I will send Him to you. 8 And when He has come, He will convict the world of sin, and of righteousness, and of judgment..."*

Alright, so... The most sacred of all Christian holy days is fast approaching – Easter... Resurrection Sunday! This should not only fill our hearts with awe of the holiness, graciousness, and mercy of God, but it should remind us of an

opportunity – an opportunity to reach “our” world for Christ. I say “our” because we have been entrusted with “our” community (our sphere of influence) to be faithful in sharing/revealing the living Christ. Yes, some may say this is always our responsibility... and they are correct; however, this time of year will bring people to Church (for a variety of reasons... whether good or out of a sense of obligation) that normally do not come. We cannot afford to miss this opportunity... or better yet, we cannot afford to miss our responsibility to reveal and share Jesus.

It is important to remember that Easter is not about filling pews and simply having a “great crowd” for

a Sunday service. Actually, this should never be our goal... because it certainly is not the mission that Jesus gave us in the Great Commission. Ours is to “make disciples”... that is, to see that people sincerely come to Christ and are nurtured and challenged in their faith so that they will become fully mature and capable followers of Christ. You see... then this whole cycle can be repeated for future generations. Now, that being said and understood, our culture does seem pretty hard-hearted when it comes to the truth of Christ. In some ways, I have experienced this callousness for myself; however, that does not mean that humanity as a whole is not interested. Jesus did say that He was sending us out as “sheep in the midst

Continued on Page 2

## Perseverance and Expectation (Continued from Page 1)

of wolves.” (Matt 10:16) But... Jesus also informed us that we need not wait for the coming of the harvest, but that the fields (our world) were already “white” and ready to be harvested. (John 4:35)

In looking at this, what we should recognize is yes... there will be resistance... the devil has not given up (though defeated in the Cross); however, we have (as shared in the scripture above) the Holy

Spirit – our great and Living God inside of us. So... no matter who or what we face, through the power of God’s Holy Spirit, we always will have the victory! So as you can see in the scripture above, even though we have hardship and sometimes discouragement (as Jesus told the disciples that He would be going away for a while and they were sorrowful), He also promised that they would not be left alone, but that He send them the Holy

Spirit to help and empower them... and soon (their sorrow would be turned to Joy) – They would see Jesus Again in all His Glory. So, do not “stumble”, but persevere with the knowledge and expectation that our Savior has got this! Resurrection Sunday is on the way!

Maranatha,  
Pastor Shane  
Senior Pastor



### Living a Life of Worship

We do not think of ourselves as a idolatrous culture, but I think if we exam our behavior we may find the results astonishing! Consider our weekly gatherings of over 10,000 frenzied fans observing a ceremony of men dressed in strange garb acting out a violent drama of territorial conquest. Others stay at home and join in by way of a small glowing shrine set up in in the family room. Fans of professional

football are probably not even aware that their behavior could be described as *worship*. Or consider the way thousands of young people scream and throw themselves at the stage where their rock-star idols are performing. Human beings were created to worship!

To worship is to ascribe ultimate value to an object, person, or God - and then to revere, adore, pay homage to, and obey, ordering the priorities of our lives around that which we worship. The Bible teaches that God alone is worthy of our worship.

So what does worshiping God involve?

Psalm 96:4 tells us that our Lord is Great! He is most worthy of praise! He is to be

revered above all the gods. We worship God alone because He alone is worthy of our utmost devotion. We should worship God out of a genuine love for Him; God wants a heartfelt response from us!

Whether our worship is somber, serious, or joyous and celebratory, we are called in Psalm 95: 1-7 to Sing unto the Lord, kneeling before the Lord our maker!

Let us live a life of Worship unto our God and Savior!

Blessings,  
Pastor Joey  
Worship Pastor



Dear Family,

I’ve recently completed Celebrate Recovery’s Step Study. Myself and two other men have been meeting every Tuesday morning for about an hour and a half for the last nine months or so. This has been the most powerful and impactful thing that I’ve ever done in my spiritual life. The reason? Because the study is designed to take the gospel of Jesus Christ and apply it to your life in the midst of family exactly as our Father prescribed it. It has become painfully obvious to me that the church as a whole has forgotten

how to apply the work of Jesus Christ to our lives within the context of relationship. I found it terribly easy to follow through with confessing my sins to God and be forgiven as 1 John 1:9 tells us to do. However, when it came to what James 5:16 tells us to do, which is to confess your sins to one another and be prayed for, that wasn’t something I was doing. The Step Study began to open my eyes to the path that Jesus Christ has laid before us. If you have made Jesus your Lord and Savior, then this is the pathway of the Gospel. There is no other path.

As I share with many wonderful people all around me, I hear the same things over and over. They will say, “I have things in my past I’m ashamed of and I’m

still carrying it with me. I don’t want to share those things. Too much shame, too much pain, too much fear.” It has become obvious to me that the enemy is playing the exact same trick on all of us at the same time. I’ve thought many times, what if God’s church just opened up to one another and began to pray the healing presence of Jesus over one another? Our church would explode with God’s presence and power. Friend, the sins of your past and present do not define you, Jesus does. It’s time we learn to embody the Gospel and speak that into each other’s lives. But for that to happen, you’ve got to open up your life and share. God help us to walk out the life-transforming power of Your Gospel.

(Continued from Page 2)

I'm so excited about the fact that we have several new step study groups already started in our church! God is calling us into the power of the Gospel in the midst of community. Please family, find someone you think you can trust and begin to open your life up to them. If done according to God's direction, it will transform your life. Be encouraged, God is at work!

Praying Malachi 4:5-6 over us all,

In Christ,

Bro. Paul Thompson

Associate Pastor of Discipleship



Happy March! The Children's Department has so many fun and exciting things happening in the coming months! Just to give you a few dates to remember:

**March 19:** **Easter Egg Hunt Meeting** taking place at the front of the Sanctuary immediately following the morning service. At this meeting we will discuss what the Egg Hunt will look like, and what each person is responsible for that day.

**March 24:** **VBS Prep Night** from 6pm-8pm. We will be finishing up a couple of projects that were started the first night, and painting some of the props. We will meet in the Children's Area.

**April 16:** **VBS Meeting** immediately following the morning service in the Family Life Building. Lunch will be provided. We will be discussing VBS week, the theme, the lessons, and placing people in their volunteer spot.

Thank you so much in advance for all of your help, prayers, and encouragement!

As we are in the "Lucky" season, please remember that as Christians we are not lucky, we are given Grace!

Miss April  
Children's Ministry Director

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

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

Tennessee Avenue  
Early Childhood Education



Families,

How exciting is it that it is almost Spring? We are so ready for the warmer weather. A building full of children that can't go outside makes for some very crazy days! Often though, we must stop and remind ourselves that we are blessed, even in the dark dreary days of Winter (even when the kids and teachers are

going stir crazy!).

We are told in Ecclesiastes 3 that there is a time for everything. As a matter of fact, the very first verse of that chapter says, "To everything there is a season, A time for every purpose under heaven." (NKJV). Seasons come and go, whether it is the seasons of the year or the seasons of our lives. Everything happens for a reason, and that reason does not have to be known to us. It should be enough to know that God knows, and He is in control of the seasons. It is so hard sometimes though! I don't know that there is a single person who can say they haven't struggled understanding a season that they've been faced with. I know that I have. And it seems then that I can hear that still small voice telling us everything is Ok. The very same voice that came to Elijah. God's voice didn't come to Elijah in the wind, the earthquake or the fire. It came to him afterward (1 Kings 19:11-12).

So, hold on my friend. The seasons are changing, and if you can be still for just a minute longer, you will also be able to hear His voice of reassurance and peace.

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett  
Early Education Center Director

**Dates to Remember:**

**April 7<sup>th</sup>: Closed—Good Friday**

# the month of MARCH

## birthdays

1 <sup>st</sup>	Arvella Williams	13 <sup>th</sup>	Linda Simcox	27 <sup>th</sup>	Lakyn Boroughs
2 <sup>nd</sup>	Mack Moore	14 <sup>th</sup>	Kenny Price	29 <sup>th</sup>	Vicky Ramsey
	Wayne Ramsey	17 <sup>th</sup>	Helen Grindstaff	30 <sup>th</sup>	Sandra Jones
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Kyle Hillman	18 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Ware		Eric Ringley
4 <sup>th</sup>	Phyllis Humphrey	19 <sup>th</sup>	Daniel Hagy	31 <sup>st</sup>	Carl Wolfenbarger
7 <sup>th</sup>	Diana Carter		Bonnie Rein		Devon Medaglia
9 <sup>th</sup>	Mia Gardner	24 <sup>th</sup>	Rob Trivett		Margie Wallace
12 <sup>th</sup>	Madison Hensley	26 <sup>th</sup>	Jody Keys		

## Upcoming Events

- 1<sup>st</sup>- Celebrate Recovery Ladies' Step Study  
Ladies' SS Classroom 8:00 am  
(Wednesdays)
- 1<sup>st</sup>- TACA Parent Chapel  
Sanctuary 8:15 am
- 1<sup>st</sup>- Youth Ministry Wednesday Worship  
TABC 6:00 pm (Wednesdays)
- 1<sup>st</sup>- Kidz Korner  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm  
(Wednesdays)
- 1<sup>st</sup>- Celebration Choir Rehearsal  
Sanctuary 7:00 pm (Wednesdays)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Ladies' Community Bible Study  
TABC 9:15-11:30 am (Thursdays)
- 2<sup>nd</sup>- Celebrate Recovery  
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- TACA Open House  
TACA Campus 9:00 am - 5:00 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- Senior Adult Breakfast  
IHOP—Volunteer Pkwy 9:00 am
- 3<sup>rd</sup>- TACA Home B-Ball Games  
FLB 5:00 pm (Senior Night)
- 5<sup>th</sup>- AWANA King & Queen Night  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup>- Youth Ministry Sunday Worship  
TABC 6:00 pm (Sundays)
- 12<sup>th</sup>- Daylight Savings Time Begins
- 12<sup>th</sup>- AWANA Campfire Night  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 13<sup>th</sup>-17<sup>th</sup>- TACA Spring Break
- 20<sup>th</sup>- Ladies Bible Study Begins  
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Mondays)
- 19<sup>th</sup>- Easter Egg Hunt Meeting  
Sanctuary following AM Service
- 19<sup>th</sup>- AWANA Flying High Night  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 24<sup>th</sup>- VBS Décor Prep Night  
Children's Area 6:00-8:00 pm
- 26<sup>th</sup>- AWANA Drive-In Movie Night  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 27<sup>th</sup>- Widows Ministry Luncheon  
Fellowship Hall 12:00 pm
- 30<sup>th</sup>- TACA Easter Drama  
Sanctuary 6:30 pm



## anniversaries

5 <sup>th</sup>	Jeff & Alicia Brunette	13 <sup>th</sup>	Dennis & Kim Hutton	24 <sup>th</sup>	Nancy & Lewis Moody
10 <sup>th</sup>	Kent & Jodi Peters	14 <sup>th</sup>	Ron & Sandy Smallwood	31 <sup>st</sup>	Billy Joe & Charlotte James
11 <sup>th</sup>	Josh & Brittney Ellis	17 <sup>th</sup>	Eddie & Gail Guy		
	Tony & Tammie Harmon	18 <sup>th</sup>	Tony & Rhonda Slagle		
	Kevin & Jessica Sharrett				

# dear CHURCH family



## Thank You

Thank you for the phone call and the beautiful plant. We appreciate all that you've done for our family. We feel very blessed to have such a caring church! Love in Christ,  
**Paul & Lois Nixon**

Thank you TABC for thinking of me with beautiful spring flowers, when I had the eye procedure; they really brightened my day! Was so blessed by the many acts of kindness shown to my family and me during my recovery, but especially the messages that said, "Praying for you." So very thankful for our loving church family!  
**Sylvia Rowland**

Thanks to Pastor Shane and Brother Paul for their comforting words. Thanks also for the flower, but most of all thanks to all the members of TABC for being a friend and blessing to Harry. Your kindness is much appreciated. In Christ's Love,  
**Bob & Linda Sproles**

Thank you to everyone who offered to bring food or brought food, sent cards, called, texted, or otherwise ministered to our family during the loss of my sister-in-law, Deborah Sharp. I am so grateful to have my church, family and the support you always provide! God bless you!  
**Kathy Sharp**

Thank you for the flowers, cards, visits and mostly your prayers. Your expressions of love during my surgery and recovery have been priceless! Love in Christ,  
**Billy Joe James**

Visit [tabaptist.org](http://tabaptist.org) and select the 'Giving' tab ~OR~ Open the Mobile App, select "Church", then "Give".



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

### TABC FINANCES

### Tithes & Offerings

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

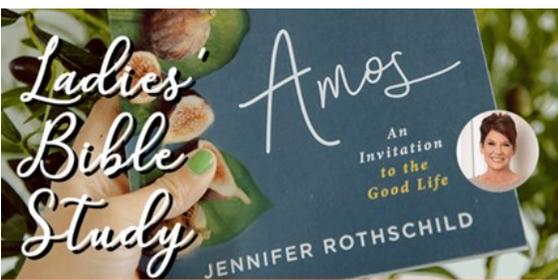
01/29/2023 Offering	\$6,995.00
02/05/2023 Offering	\$9,228.00
02/12/2023 Offering	\$10,995.00
02/19/2023 Offering	\$11,278.00
On-line Giving 1/25-2/21/23	\$14,142.00
Period Giving Total	\$52,638.00
Total 2023 offering YTD:	\$103,168.00

### Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$1,161,900.47
General Account	\$320,051.56
Designated Account	\$14,662.52
Daycare / Academy	\$98,352.66
Money Market	\$50,783.54



Many thanks to a kind donor for providing us with a banner and some business cards for our Widows Ministry. For those of you who have contributed financially, brought food, or offered your manual labor, we are very grateful. Our ministry is growing and we are reaching widows from multiple areas outside our church. I have received so many wonderful comments about this ministry that the Lord placed on my heart two years ago. All of us need to feel like someone cares, especially our widows! I am grateful to the volunteers who make this possible! Please see me if you want to be a part of this ministry!! It's all because of Him!!!  
Kathy Sharp  
1 Timothy 5:3 (KJV) "Honour widows that are widows indeed."



Join us for this 8-session Bible study!  
**MONDAYS AT 6:30 PM**  
beginning March 20<sup>th</sup>  
in the Fellowship Hall

Study books available for \$12. Sign up in the vestibule or in your Sunday School Class to reserve yours, or call the Church Office at 423-989-4325.

PLEASE JOIN US FOR A COMMUNITY  
**EASTER EGG HUNT**  
SATURDAY, APRIL 1, 2023  
1:00 TO 3:00 PM | TENNESSEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH  
104 CYPRESS STREET  
BRISTOL, TN 37620  
[tabaptist.org](http://tabaptist.org)

- FREE!
- PRIZE DRAWINGS!
- PRE-K - 6<sup>th</sup> GRADE
- SNACKS PROVIDED WHILE SUPPLIES LAST.

# TACA Sword & Shield

MARCH 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!

## OPEN ENROLLMENT TO BEGIN

The month of March is always exciting! It is the month that we open the doors of Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy and welcome new families to join our TACA family for the upcoming school year. We are busy updating enrollment requirements, tuition rates, pamphlets, plans for the new curriculum, course offerings, enrichment opportunities, and so much more. The days leading up to Open House are busy planning, preparing, and, most importantly, praying. We pray for those whom God will send to TACA. We pray for resources and provisions that will allow

those who may not be able to afford to come without financial aid. We pray for those attending our schools who are struggling with academic abilities, bullying issues, crowded classrooms, lack of guidance, LACK OF KINGDOM LEARNING, and those who only dream of what our students are privileged to enjoy.

When you consider the magnitude of what God has entrusted us with as administration, faculty, and staff, how could we not bathe every decision, every step forward, and every detail in prayer? Would you commit some time to pray for those who will come and for those of us who anxiously await?

I am so thankful for the opportunity to serve Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy and every student family. May we continue to offer a Christian education that will enable every boy and girl that passes through our campus to reach his or her full potential for the kingdom!

TO GOD BE ALL THE GLORY!

Cindy Beal  
Academy Administrator



**Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy**

**ABOUT US**

Centrally located in Bristol, TN, Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy is committed to achieving excellence in academics while striving to develop each student to their full potential in Christ. We offer a college preparatory program, by integrating faith and academics, as we are preparing our students to be the next generation of Christian leaders!

**Pre-K4**

**K5-5th Grade**

**6th-12th Grade**

We offer many opportunities for student involvement including sports, fine arts, international missions, service projects, and dual enrollment courses that allow students to obtain college credits while completing their high school requirements.

We are a member of the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools (TACS) and meet or exceed the standards set by TACS to be named a School of Excellence.

**2023 OPEN HOUSE MARCH 3 9am-5pm**

For more information  
423-989-4346 or email  
Cindy.beal@tabaptist.org

academy.tabaptist.org



## 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 month of March....

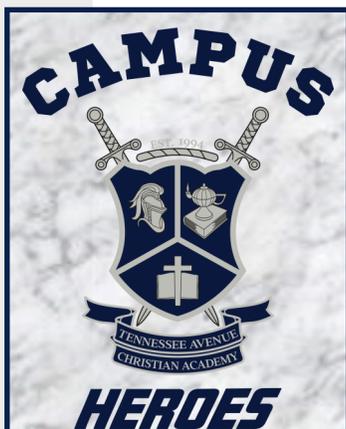
March 6-10 Bryson Hernandez

March 27-31 Otto Green



# TACA Sword & Shield

MARCH 2023



Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy would like to thank its latest campus heroes, Chuck Hutton and Allen Messer from TCS Security of Bluff City! These gentlemen always go above and beyond when it comes to ensuring our students and staff are safe and secure while on campus. They are "Johnny-on-the-spot" every time we call, and we call often! Allen has a son in our early education center and Chuck's mother attends TABC. If you see them on campus, give them a shout of thanks! God has truly blessed us with Chuck and Allen!



**1st** **Open Enrollment Begins**  
TACA welcomes all new student applications for enrollment.

**Parent Chapel 1st**

4th and 5th Grade Students will lead in worship.  
All parents are welcome to join us. 8:15 am

**3rd** **Open House**  
9:00 am-5 pm  
TACA welcomes all new families to visit our campus and take a tour.

**Spring Break 13-17th**  
School Closed- Early Education Center Open

**30th** **TACA Easter Drama**  
6:30 pm  
Please join us for the Easter Story presented by TACA High School Drama Team

**Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy**

FOR MORE INFORMATION 423-989-4346  
ACADEMY.TABAPTIST.ORG

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## **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.

## **Prayer Prompter**

*"Only when we pray  
will the winds of revival  
lift us to the highest  
blessings of heaven."*

*See II Chronicles 7:14*

*All our Worship Services can be viewed live, as well as viewing previously recorded services, by visiting [www.tabaptist.org](http://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)*