

The TABU Journal



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

Keith Grindstaff, Finance Director

Brenda Wheeler, Financial Secretary

Peggy Phipps, Church Secretary

Debbie Boyd, Ministry Support

April Casaday, Children's Ministry Director

Kim Hutton, Pre-School Director

Phyllis Humphrey, Pianist

Kent Peters, Housekeeping

Benny James, Maintenance

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

Tara Milhorn, Asst. Director

Inside this Issue:

Ministry Information	1-3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
January Events	4
Dear Church Family	5
TACA Sword & Shield	6-7
Early Education Center	7



THE JOY PLACE
Tennessee Avenue
BAPTIST CHURCH

January 2024
Volume 33, Issue 1

Being Good, or Walking with Christ

Isaiah 55:7 (NKJV)

"Let the wicked forsake his way, And the unrighteous man his thoughts; Let him return to the Lord, And He will have mercy on him; And to our God, For He will abundantly pardon."

John 10:10 (NKJV)

"The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly."

Abundance... having more than enough. This is a blessing that is repeated in Scripture in reference to God's care for His people. Whether in the Old or New Testaments, God speaks of His blessings as ABUNDANT for those who love and follow after Him. This is a promise / blessing that I am convinced applies in any time or era... especially

for today in the modern Church. No, I am not saying that believers are to be the richest of people in the things and materialism of this present age. Loving the things of this world would put us at odds with the clear teaching of Scripture, not to mention that we would be dealing with self-created idols that would compete for our allegiance to God! But... the Scripture is clear that God does intend to take care of His people and shower them in His TRUE blessings. Yes, there is an abundant life that God intends for His people... a life greater than some Christians have allowed themselves to know or experience.

Where we often get things mixed up is when we mistake the abundant life for simply being good or obedient. Now before someone misunderstands what I am

saying, yes, we are to live holy/righteous lives. We are to walk in obedience. Jesus taught us that if we truly loved Him, we would keep His commandments. So, yes, these things are a major part of the Christian life. But what I am saying is that simply being good, or behaving in a civil manner is not all that Christ has called us to. It is not about just doing a little better than the day before. That is nice, but it is not the goal of our lives. If this does happen, it should be the result of something greater that is happening in our lives – a true and vibrant relationship with Jesus our Lord. Please let me explain. In my own Christian walk (so I am speaking from my own experience) I have found myself, in various seasons of my life, losing some of my spiritual vigor (my spiritual drive) and I begin to

Being Good, or Walking with Christ

Continued from Page 1

think that as long as I am “behaving” or doing “good works” then I am right where God wants me to be... and sadly this is not the case. Yes, Christians can, in a time of spiritual dryness, go through the motions and feel that they are doing and being what God desires as long as their actions are deemed good/acceptable.

The problem is that just being good is not what Jesus called us to. As a matter of spiritual truth, outside of Christ, there is no “just being good” as we cannot be “good.” If we could be good, as the Bible explains, Jesus would not have had to come and die for our sins. It is precisely because we could not be “good” and that we were condemned to hell that Jesus came so He could take our punishment and give His righteousness to us! So, what are you saying pastor? What I am saying is that if we truly want to be what Christ gave His life for us to be, then we are to stop trying to fix ourselves on our own, and come to Him, follow Him, fellowship/commune with Him, and worship Him... then His life will flow into us and by His own transforming work... cause us to live like/through Him. Then it’s not about being good, ... it’s about loving and living through Jesus. You see, then we are not trying to earn anything... but rather, we are living through Him in the power of His Spirit! This is what is called ABUNDANT LIFE!!! Don’t just seek to be good, seek to love, know, and walk with Him... soon, you will begin acting like Him... and He is GOOD!

Maranatha,
Pastor Shane



Dear Family,

When I think about the New Year, Scriptures flood my mind. Some of my favorites:

Revelation 21:5a (NASB20) *“And He who sits on the throne said, ‘Behold, I am making all things new.’”*

II Corinthians 5:17 (NKJV) *“Therefore if anyone is in Christ, he is a new creation; old things have passed away; behold, all things have become new.”*

Isaiah 43:19 (NASB95) *“Behold, I will do something new, now it will spring forth; will you not be aware of it? I will even make a roadway in the wilderness, Rivers in the desert.”*

Rivers in the desert?

God is inviting us into experiencing a River, THE River of God’s spirit; and everything the river touches turns to life.

Friends, we are image bearers to God Almighty, which means our capacity for growth is unlimited. I want to challenge us all this new year to do what Joshua did before he led God’s people into the promised land. Meditate on the word of God night and day until we perceive the new things that God has determined for us to bring forth. I believe that the land that Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church sits upon has been set apart to house a well of worship. When we surrender in faith to the river of new things, it will change Bristol. Imagine it, the River of God flowing unquenched, ungrieved and bringing everything that it touches to life. Let’s read the Bible for the first time again and stir one another up towards love and good works. Remember, we walk by faith and not by sight. Perceive the new things of our Almighty God.

Behold, in 2024, all things are become new.

In Christ,

Brother Paul
Associate Pastor of Discipleship

Embracing the Winter Darkness: Reflection on the Hope of Light

As the days grow shorter and the nights longer, a blanket of darkness descends upon the world, casting its shadow across the landscape. Winter, with its chill and stillness, can often feel like a time of introspection and quietude. In the midst of this season, we as believers can find ourselves drawn to reflect on the profound spiritual lessons that the darkness of winter can teach us.

In the natural world, winter may symbolize a time of dormancy and hibernation, as nature takes a rest and prepares for the eventual rebirth of spring. Similarly, as Christians, we recognize the significance of embracing the metaphorical winter seasons in our lives—times of challenges, uncertainties, and struggles. It is during these moments of darkness that our faith is put to the test, and we are called to seek the guiding light that leads us through the gloom.

The journey through the winter darkness is intrinsically tied to the message of hope found in the light of Christ. The Bible frequently uses the metaphor of light to symbolize God's presence, guidance, and salvation. In the Gospel of John, Jesus declares, *"...I am the light of the world. Whoever follows me will not walk in darkness, but will have the light of life."* (John 8:12, ESV). This powerful imagery reinforces the idea that even in the darkest moments of our lives, the light of Christ can guide us and provide the hope we desperately need.

As we navigate the challenges of winter, let us turn our hearts toward the promise of God's unwavering light. Just as the star led the wise men to the infant Jesus, so too does God's light illuminate our path through the darkness of winter. It is a light that brings warmth to our souls, dispels fear, and reminds us that, even in our tri-

als, we are not alone.

We are called to share this message of hope with those around us. In reaching out to others who may be experiencing their own winter seasons, we become beacons of God's love and compassion. By extending a helping hand, offering a word of encouragement, or simply being present in times of need, we can embody the transformative power of the light of Christ in the lives of those who may be feeling overwhelmed by the winter darkness.

In conclusion, let us embrace the winter darkness with faith and resilience, knowing that the hope of light awaits us. As Christians, we are called to be lights in the world, reflecting the radiant love of Christ and guiding others toward the warmth and assurance found in His eternal light.

Blessings,
Pastor Joey
Worship Pastor



Happy New Year! Welcome to 2024!

The Children's Ministry will be super busy this year. We will have new events, traditional events, and more! I hope that you will all be a part of the fun and excitement! Not only do we need your prayers and support, but we also need your talents. I would love to talk with you about all the ways you can help in the Children's Ministry. Just let me know if you are willing or if God has laid this ministry on your heart.

The first couple of months are going to be

busy for AWANA. Not only are the kids working hard on their verses, but we're also going to throw in some fun theme nights, and ways to prepare for OCC. Following is a calendar sample of what we have going on:

January 7: Naptime with Noah == The kids will wear pajamas, bring their favorite stuffed animal, and bring a small stuffed animal for OCC.

January 7: We will begin taking orders for AWANA Grand Prix Cars. Cars will be \$5 each (more information to come).

January 14: Tons of Tees == Wear as many t-shirts as you can. The child wearing the most will win \$20 AWANA Bucks.

January 21: Quarter Night == Clubbers will bring quarters to help with shipping costs of OCC boxes. The group with the most quarters will win a prize.

January 28: Jungle Jamboree == Clubbers will wear their favorite animal attire.

January 28: Final day accepting orders/ payment for Grand Prix cars

February 4: Camo Night == Clubbers will wear Camo.

February 11: Souper Bowl Night == Clubbers will bring canned soup with pop-tab tops to donate.

February 17: AWANA Grand Prix Pit Party (more information coming soon).

February 25: AWANA Grand Prix at First Baptist Church Blountville (more information coming soon).

As you can see, we have a lot going on the first couple of months of the year. Again, we can use your help!! I look forward to the New Year and can't wait to see what God has in store for this Ministry!

~Miss April~
Children's Ministry Director

the month of JANUARY

birthdays

3 rd	D.J. Ryan, Jr.	11 th	Keith Grindstaff	26 th	Andrea Haynes
4 th	Chelsea Vance		Jeannine Huff		Savanah Medaglia
6 th	Jeff Brunette	12 th	Brenden Keen	27 th	Eliana Waugh
	Jan Combs		Ruby Worley		Ricky Fleenor
	Jessica Correll	14 th	Jeff Trivett		Reva Mitchell
	Deion Graham	17 th	Amber Clark	28 th	Bonnie Munday
	Maleah Minor	19 th	Nian Koserski	29 th	Jeff Carter
	Matilda Minor	22 nd	Jonathan Smith		Herbert Dunn
7 th	Shaun Correll	23 rd	Sam Messer	30 th	Erica Jackson
8 th	Bob Davidson	24 th	Bryson Hernandez		Mike Blair
	Isabella Ellis	25 th	Katliah Hicks		Joe Milhorn
9 th	Bill Coleman			31 st	James Sproles
	Mara Dixon				Tyler Harmon
	Larry Peters				

Happy New Year!

anniversaries

1 st	John & Barbara Raymond	8 th	Larry & Doris Peters	13 th	John & Kathi Gentry
3 rd	Mike & Sheila Girten	12 th	Luke & Courtney Gent		Jimmy & Peggy Phipps
4 th	Ricky & Marie Fleenor		Benji & Tammy Lawson	14 th	Wayne & Vicky Ramsey

Event Calendar

1 st	HAPPY NEW YEAR!	Church Office, Academy & Early Ed Center Closed
3 rd	TACA Parent Chapel	Sanctuary 8:15 am
4 th	Ladies' Community Bible Study Re-sumes	TABC 9:15-11:20 am (Thursdays)
4 th	Celebrate Recovery	Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
5 th	Senior Adult Breakfast	Perkins—Exit 7 9:00 am
7 th	AWANA Naptime with Noah Night	Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
7 th	Youth Worship Service	TABC 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
10 th	Kidz Korner	Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
10 th	Youth Worship Service	TABC 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
13 th	TABC Children's Basketball Rec League	FLB 8:00 am-12:30 pm (Saturdays)
14 th	AWANA Tons of Tees Night	Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
15 th	TACA Home Basketball Games	FLB beginning 5:30 pm
21 st	AWANA Quarter Night	Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
25 th	TACA Home Basketball Games	FLB beginning 6:00 pm
28 th	AWANA Jungle Jamboree Night	Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Thank you everyone for the thoughts and prayers, and the basket of flowers from the church. Thank you, Bro. Paul, for the visit you made to Krystal. Please continue to pray for Krystal and her family during this difficult time. Love,

Krystal Malone, Laura Hampton, & Family

We are so grateful for the flowers and meal on the passing of Will's mother, Joyce Campbell. We appreciate it so much!

Will & Anna Campbell

Dear TABC family...thank you doesn't seem quite enough to express my gratitude for all the calls, cards, beautiful flowers, & visits while I was in the hospital and rehab...but

know from the bottom of my heart that I am grateful for every expression sent my way. Also, thank you to Bro. Paul for his visits & prayers...they meant a lot to us. God was with the surgeon's hands and I'm recovering well. Love to my TABC family,

Joan Calhoun

There are no words adequate enough to express our gratitude for the prayers lifted before our Heavenly Father before, during and after my surgery!! Our God is Faithful!! He heard and answered the prayers of His people!! Your encouraging words expressed through cards and texts were used to brighten the rough days!! We love our TABC Family!! Thank you for being the hands and feet of Jesus!!

Randy & Brenda Wheeler

Therefore
if any man be in
Christ,
He is a new creature:
old things are passed away;
Behold, New.
all things are become
2 Corinthians 5:17

Online GIVING

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



Text
JOYPLACE
to
73256
to give via
text message.

TABC FINANCES

Tithes & Offerings

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

12/03/2023 Offering	\$24,705.00
12/10/2023 Offering	\$14,009.00
12/17/2023 Offering	\$21,765.00
12/24/2023 Offering	\$83,471.00
On-line Giving 12/01-12/26/2023	\$7,624.11
Period Giving Total	\$151,574.11
Total 2023 offering YTD:	\$802,802.22

Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$1,066,502.38
General Account	\$316,584.05
Designated Account	\$23,642.86
Daycare / Academy	\$67,053.32
Money Market	\$51,551.83

A
CHRIST
CENTERED
Recovery
Program



A
Safe Place
to Find
Hope
& Healing

Celebrate Recovery
Thursdays at 6:30 pm

If you or someone you know needs healing from life's hurts, habits, & hang-ups, please join us / let them know.

TENNESSEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH
Fellowship Hall
423-989-4325 tabaptist.org



TACA Sword & Shield

JANUARY 2024

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!

THANK YOU FOR GIVING!

I am excited to see the support and response to the Third Annual Crusader Campaign. Many of you have asked me to share more specifics about how we will use this year's fundraising monies. I am sure most of you have received the beautiful Crusader Campaign catalog that describes the many ways your gifts will be used to advance kingdom learning at TACA. This project was completely sponsored by Window World of the Tri-Cities! From the printing, binding and postage, it was completely paid for by our generous sponsor! Mrs. Mandy Pottorf spent many hours creating this beautiful catalog that tells the story of TACA and shows you so many ways to get involved.

TACA has the lowest tuition rates in the East Tennessee region, but tuition alone does not cover the cost of operating a school. Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church has provided support for this ministry for many years. Because of TABC and the vision to have a school that teaches Jesus, multitudes of boys and girls and their families have received life changing blessings. Only God himself can know the many ways this ministry has touched lives through the years.

I believe God will continue to provide through the generosity of those who love this ministry. I decided long ago that I would not shy away from exposing the needs in advancing the cause of Christian education. **Every gift will help to advance kingdom learning and in so doing, students are trained to be the future Christian leaders in our communities!**

This year, our goal for the Crusader Campaign is \$100,000 and so far we have raised over \$35,000 of that goal! To God be the glory!

Thank you for giving!

Cindy Beal

TACA Administrator

From the Director of Development...

Since the kickoff of our 23-24 Crusader Campaign, we have received almost **\$36,000** in cash and pledges. Following are some of the projects that have been made possible by our donors:

- Financial Aid and Scholarship
- Updated Curriculum and Classroom Needs
- Additional Programs
- Security Tinting for Windows
- Updated campus communication systems
- Security radios
- Security training
- Currently making plans for a new fence line
- Playground installation
- Grading and fencing completion for early education playground
- Updated playground equipment for early education
- 10 new cafeteria tables
- 30 ThinkPads and 12 iPads for classroom technology

Numbers: Cash: \$34,931.37 In-Kind: \$670.92

Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy Gifts—1 st Semester 2023					
Fund Description	Gift Count	Cash	Outstnd Pledges	In-Kind	Total
Academy General Fund 23/24	2	\$1,500.00	\$0.00	\$400.00	\$1,900.00
Cafeteria Tables	12	\$9,060.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$9,060.00
Classroom Needs 23/24	16	\$3,073.77	\$0.00	\$11,254.95	\$14,328.72
Crusader Campaign 23/24	31	\$34,931.37	\$0.00	\$670.92	\$35,602.29
Scholarship Fund 23/24	29	\$13,056.44	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$13,056.44
Campus Security Fund 23/24	2	\$7,402.50	\$27,950.18	\$0.00	\$35,352.68
Grand Totals:		\$69,024.08	\$27,950.18	\$12,325.87	\$109,300.13
92 Gift(s) listed 34 Donor(s) listed *Totals underreported. Church donations to academy unknown.					

Academy Star Students

Mrs. Chanda and Mrs. Tereasa are excited to share with all of our parents the K-4 Star Students for the months of January....

Mrs. Chanda's Star Students

Ellison Watson January 8-12

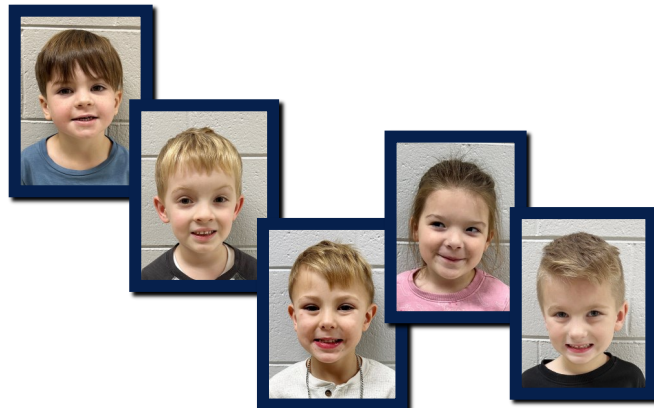
Skylar Justice January 15-19

Mrs. Tereasa's Star Students

Cash Glover January 8-12

Zuri Deel January 15-19

Ezekiel Milhorne January 22-26



Tennessee Avenue Early Childhood Education



Families,

Happy New Year! Just the thought of the New Year brings so much joy and excitement for so many. The idea of leaving the past year behind us is so comforting, especially if the past year has had any amount of hurt, turmoil, or disappointment. This time is such a great reminder of God's words to the Children of Israel in Isaiah. He says *"Do not remember the former things, Nor consider the things of old. Behold, I will do a new thing, Now it shall spring forth; Shall you not know it? I will even make a road in the wilderness And rivers in the desert."* (Isaiah 43:18-19 NKJV).

How amazing is it to know that our God will make a way where there seems like no way is possible? That hurt you are feeling, the grief you are going through, that plan that didn't work out... God is making a way for all of it to work out. In Romans, Paul tells us *"And we know that all things work together for good to those who love God, to those who are the called according to His purpose."* (Romans 8:28 NKJV). If we are doing what God has called us to do, and living our lives to glorify Him, He is going to take care of us! And that is something to celebrate, not just in the New Year, but in every season of our lives.

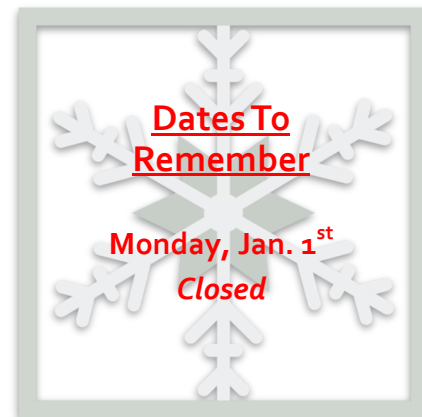
As we go into this new year, I ask that you continue to hold the Early Education Center, the Staff, and all the Families in our care in your prayers. You all will never know how much your support and prayers mean to all of us here.

Blessings In Christ,

Jessica Sharrett

Director

Early Childhood Education Center



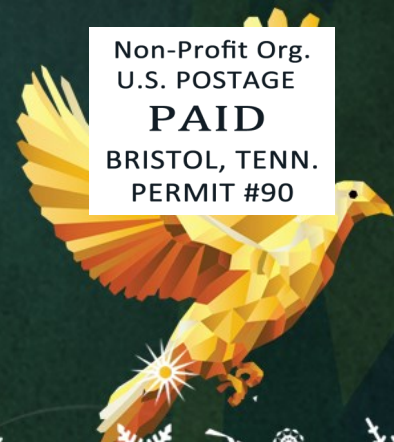
TACA **Sword & Shield**
JANUARY 2024

 **THE JOY PLACE**
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We're on the web!
www.tabaptist.org

Prayer Prompter

*"As you plan ways to
embrace the New Year,
consider abandoning
'The sin of prayerlessness'."*

*(See 1 Thessalonians 5:17
& Philippians 4:6)*

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
YouTube*

Boxcast App (on Apple TV, ROKU, Amazon Fire TV)