

The JOY Journal

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April 2024

Volume 33, Issue 4

YOUR TABC STAFF

Pastoral Staff

Shane Phillips, Senior Pastor

Paul Thompson, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

Joey Cole, Worship Pastor

Saúl Delgado, Hispanic Pastor

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Brenda Wheeler, Financial Secretary

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Debbie Boyd, Ministry Support

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Kim Hutton, Pre-School Director

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Kent Peters, Housekeeping

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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

Is God's Blessing Enough?

*⁷ Then Nathan said to David, "You are the man! Thus says the Lord God of Israel: 'I anointed you king over Israel, and I delivered you from the hand of Saul. ⁸ I gave you your master's house and your master's wives into your keeping, and gave you the house of Israel and Judah. **And if that had been too little, I also would have given you much more!**' ⁹ Why have you despised the commandment of the Lord, to do evil in His sight? You have killed Uriah the Hittite with the sword; you have taken his wife to be your wife, and have killed him with the sword of the people of Ammon. - 2 Samuel 12:7-9*

One thing that is hard to deny is that the American people (not to mention many peoples and cultures) are very blessed and fortunate. Even our poor often

are better off and have access to "helps and programs" that other countries do not. For the most part, it's not that we have too little, but rather we have so much that we lose perspective on what it really means to have "want or need." I recall many years of law enforcement service where even those who appeared to be struggling with just about everything still had cell phones... and often times nicer phones than I had. Believe it or not, they regularly had food, and at times had enough to share with others. This is not so much a complaint as I am pleased to hear that we are caring for each other. The point is simply to show that we live in a country that has been blessed by the graciousness of God and the idea of legitimate suffering

often gets skewed.

To illustrate, there has been a story told of a young boy who loved the holidays and especially Christmas. With great anticipation he looked forward to receiving all of his Christmas gifts. The problem was... as the boy got older... the gifts started becoming more and more expensive. His list was always long, and this particular Christmas was no exception. His list had exactly 15 items and all of them were fairly expensive. Any one of the gifts would have made a fine gift, but he wanted them all. When Christmas came and the gifts were open, the young boy was so happy until he realized that he was missing one gift from the list. No, it was not the most expensive, but it was on the

Is God's Blessing Enough?

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list. He thought that there must have been a mistake and confronted his parents to be sure. Upon finding out that this was no mistake, and being told that he had more than enough, the young boy threw a tantrum and refused to play with any of the other gifts – a very pitiful Christmas was endured.

But... Is this not how we are sometimes? We have been given so much, but because we do not receive something that we want, or feel we deserve, we become bit-

ter and pout. We forget (or at least refuse to acknowledge) how much we do have. In our anger we miss and neglect the kindness and gifts that God has put right before us. The scripture above reveals this very trait in King David. Having been blessed to be the King of Israel, having received all the treasures and wives/concubines of King Saul, David still chooses to take a married woman. Nathan the prophet explains all of this and shows David's folly by telling David that not only

was He blessed, but if God felt that it was not enough, ... God would have given him "much" more. Don't look to what you don't have, look at what God has blessed you with... more than enough!

Maranatha,
Pastor Shane



Never Quit

One of my favorite southern gospel songs growing up was "I'm Not Giving Up" by Gold City. As a youngster, when riding with my Dad, when this song came on the radio, he would always sing along with those low bass parts, (if you know you know) and I thought that Dad was the stuff being able to hit those notes with ease! What I didn't realize was that the melody I loved to hear my dad sing would help bring the lyrics back to my mind in some of the darkest days that I have faced. "I'm not giving up, I'm not turning 'round... I'll keep holding on, to that nail scarred hand..." are some of the lyrics found in the chorus.

We all get there, we all have had times when we feel like we can't go on. Jeremiah did too. He was a man of unyielding faith who faced tremendous trials yet remained steadfast in his commitment to God's calling. In Jeremiah 20, we witness the

prophet's struggle as he endured persecution and ridicule for speaking God's truth to a rebellious nation. Despite the hardships he faced, Jeremiah refused to give up, trusting in the Lord's promises and remaining obedient to His will.

Just as Jeremiah faced opposition from those who sought to silence him, we too may encounter resistance when we stand firm in our faith and speak out for righteousness. But let us take heart from Jeremiah's example and remember that God is with us, empowering us to overcome every obstacle in our path.

Like Jeremiah, we may experience moments of doubt and despair, questioning whether our efforts are in vain. Yet, even in our darkest hours, God remains faithful, His love sustaining us and His grace sufficient to see us through. As Jeremiah declared in verse 11a, "But the Lord is with

me like a mighty warrior; so my persecutors will stumble and not prevail." (NIV)

Let us take hold of this promise and cling to it in times of trial. Though the road may be long and the journey arduous, we are not alone. The same God who sustained Jeremiah will uphold us, His strength made perfect in our weakness.

Just as Jeremiah remained obedient to God's calling despite the cost, so too are we called to persevere in our faith, trusting in the Lord's faithfulness and obeying His commands. Let us not be discouraged by the challenges we face, but rather let us be emboldened by the knowledge that God is for us, and if He is for us, who can be against us?

Blessings,
Pastor Joey
Worship Pastor



TABC
FAMILY
Ministries

Dear Family of God,

1 Peter 1:23 says that we have been born again not of seed which is perishable but imperishable. Born again of the seed of God. John 1:12-13 says that if we receive Jesus that we become the children of God, born not of blood, or flesh, but born of God! Wow! I think sometimes we become so familiar with these passages that they lose their power; we are divine beings! 2 Peter 1:4 tells us that through God's words that have been given to us as promises that we might become "*partakers of the divine nature, having escaped the corruption that is in the world through lust.*" (NKJV) Escaped? It seems like everywhere I look, all I see is corruption. How have I escaped it? I even see it in myself a lot of the time.

That is the war that we are battling in this hour. We were born into a world at war. We must be awakened. Ephesians 5:14 says, "*Awake, O sleeper, and arise from the dead, and Christ will shine on you.*" (ESV) We must wake up and get into the light. The light of Christ exposes the work of the enemy. The enemy's work is done by deception. He tricks us into thinking and feeling certain ways and he is so good at what he does. We must wake up, get in the light and fight! Read God's word, speak God's word, believe God's words. God's word is light and truth. It is powerful.

The Apostle Paul teaches us in 2 Corinthians 10:4-5 that "*the weapons of our warfare are not of the flesh, but divinely powerful for the destruction of fortresses.*" (NASB20) Paul is speaking about what's in our minds. What we are thinking, imagining, speculating about. This is where the war is fought and won or lost.

Our very real and present enemy works in darkness and deception. That's the only power he has to wield. Our Lord Jesus, who has already finished the work, is light and truth. We, God's image bearers, are the ones who must choose. When we choose God's thoughts, found in God's words, light enters our minds. When we speak it out, light shoots out our mouth, like a sword of the spirit.

So, what's got you down today? Wake up, let Christ's words shine on you and start declaring God's truth. Your life will become filled with light that penetrates the darkness. John 12:36, Jesus tells us, "*While you have the light, believe in the light, that you may become sons of light.*" (ESV)

Step into the light today. Remember, we've already won.

In Christ,
Brother Paul
Associate Pastor of Discipleship



First, let me say thanks to each of you who has been a part this ministry since its inception 2 1/2 years ago! Whether you have prayed, donated food, decorated, prepared food, served food, cleaned the kitchen, provided door prizes, been a speaker, or given financial support - your part in this ministry is invaluable!

Let me tell you about this Ministry and why it is important. When I became a widow, three years ago, I realized that Widowhood and the changes it brings to our lives is not understood by anyone but another Widow. The social, financial, emotional, psychological, and sometimes spiritual changes are not well understood by those who are not Widows. God moved my heart to minister to these needs. At our monthly meeting there is a camaraderie and a level of unspoken understanding between the attendees, many of whom are from other churches in our area. Sometimes the program focuses on a devotion, and sometimes it's fun events, like movies, singing, games, or discussions pertaining to the aspects of widowhood. At this time we are averaging 40 attendees at each meeting, but we have more than 60 on the roster, and newcomers every month. Each month lunch is provided free of charge and the discussions around the lunch tables are inspiring, uplifting, and comforting. The sense of belonging in this group is beyond words!

One of my great joys is being able to organize this ministry! One of my greatest blessings is the army of volunteers who make it all happen! I would ask that you continue to pray for God's guidance and provision! If you are interested in helping, please contact me. And as always, your monetary donations are so appreciated! Be sure to designate your contribution to the Widows ministry on your gift envelope or check. May you be blessed!

Love in Christ,
Kathy Sharp

the month of APRIL

Event Calendar

birthdays

2 nd		13 th		22 nd
Danny Lewis		Anne Haynes		Carmen Frazier
Jimmy Phipps, Jr.		Katie Belle Phipps		Jim Saunders
3 rd		Zachery Strouth		23 rd
Aaron Cole		15 th		Jason Carter
Max Minor		Emma Padgett		24 th
4 th		Jennie Sutherland		Roger Cox
Joshua Thompson		16 th		25 th
5 th		Jet Cornelius		Don Rowland
Jerry Feathers		17 th		26 th
Chris Koserski		Hannah Moore		Makayla Blair
Sylvia Rowland		Cade Stevens		Terry Ryan
Taylor Ryan		Stuart Sutherland		27 th
6 th		18 th		Paul Thompson
Janet Coker		David Price		28 th
Ben Cornelius		Samuel Worley		Jonathan Keen
Cathy Wolfenbarger		20 th		30 th
7 th		Benny James		Ronnie Martin
Celesta Jenkins				

2 nd	Finance Team Meeting Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
3 rd	TACA Parent Chapel Sanctuary 8:15 am
3 rd	Kidz Korner Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
3 rd	Youth Worship Service TABC 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
4 th	Ladies' Community Bible Study TABC 9:15-11:20 am (Thursdays)
4 th	Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
5 th	Senior Adult Breakfast Fiddler's Restaurant-Abingdon 9:00 am
6 th	Fathers / Sons Ministry Target Shooting Stevens Property 9:00 am—12:00 noon
6 th	TACA Sports Banquet Family Life Building 5:30 pm
7 th	AWANA Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
7 th	Youth Worship Service TABC 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
12 th	TACA Junior / Senior Formal 620 State 6:00 pm
14 th - 19 th	TACA Senior Class Trip Universal Studios, Orlando, FL
14 th	AWANA Dodgeball Tournament FLB 4:30 pm
20 th	SON Golf League Clear Creek Golf Course
21 st	AWANA Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
22 nd	Widows Luncheon FH 12:00 noon
25 th	TACA Elementary Program Sanctuary 6:30 pm
26 th	TACA Mexican Mercado FLB 8:00 am—3:00 pm
28 th	VBS Volunteer Meeting FLB 12:30 pm
30 th	TACA Crusader Band Concert Sanctuary 6:30 pm



anniversaries

4 th		10 th		30 th
Johnny & Jill Hutchins		Jim & Clara Melvin		Frankie & Becky Hunt
6 th		17 th		Jim & Bambi Rush
Kyle & Sandra Hillman		Marc & Debra Perry		
		29 th		
		Cody & Olivia Cornelius		

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Many thanks for all your thoughts and prayers, phone calls, texts, cards, offers of help, and the lovely plant during the illness and home going of my sister, Sarah Lane, what a blessing you are to me. For you who know her son Tony Lane, He sends his thanks also.

Nancy Dotson

Thank you for supporting us during the passing of Sean's mother, Linda Tuzzolino.

The Tuzzolinos

We wish we could find the perfect way to thank each one of you for your thoughtfulness. Your love, and most of all your prayers, for us while Doug was in the hospital, the food, flowers, and all the cards he received were such a blessing to us. You all brighten our days with such love, care and support and we are sure you are not even aware of what it means to us. We could not make it without God on our side and knowing that you, our church family, uplifts us every day to the Good Lord. Please continue to pray for Doug as the battle has begun. We love each one of you so very much and are so thankful that God put you in our lives. Blessings,

Doug & Linda Altizer



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	
<i>Lithes & Offerings</i>	
"...try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts... See Malachi 3:10	
3/03/2024 Offering	\$ 115,285.00
3/10/2024 Offering	\$ 9,376.00
3/17/2024 Offering	\$ 7,735.00
3/24/2024 Offering	\$ 11,033.00
On-line Giving 2/27-3/24/2024	\$ 8,731.56
Period Giving Total	\$ 152,160.56
Total 2024 offering YTD:	\$ 262,598.58
Bank Balances	
Current Loan Balance	\$ 955,271.20
General Account	\$ 381,897.16
Designated Account	\$ 28,250.25
Daycare / Academy	\$ 111,303.54
Money Market	\$ 51,826.98

SAVE THE DATE!



SUMMER VBS

Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP *Psalm 56:3*

ADVENTURE WITH GOD

JUNE 9 - 14 **6-8:30 PM**

TACA Sword & Shield

APRIL 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!

CRUSADER CAMPAIGN UPDATE

Romans 15:5-7 (NIV) says, "May the God who gives endurance and encouragement give you the same attitude of mind toward each other that Christ Jesus had, so that with one mind and one voice you may glorify the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ. Accept one another, then, just as Christ accepted you, in order to bring praise to God."

God has done great things on our campus this school year. It is our prayer that Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy will come together as a school community to live courageously for the Lord and for our school to be a beacon of hope to all we encounter. Our world desperately needs to see people who are not discouraged or afraid; may we use that testimony to point others to Christ. Our heart is to never be satisfied with where we are as a school but to continue to seek all that God has for us in the future.

We have exceeded the goal of \$100,000 (see financial update)! You have made this possible with your faithful gift to the 2023-24 Crusader Campaign. By investing above and beyond, you have ensured TACA can continue to teach and train with excellence and equip our young people for Kingdom living!

To God be all the glory!

Blessings,
Cindy Beal
TACA Administrator



April Upcoming Events

3rd	Parent Chapel Everyone invited! 8:15 6th-8th Grades will lead special music.
	Athletic Banquet 5:30pm in the gym
6th	
12th	Junior/Senior Formal 6:00pm 620 State St
	Mexican Mercado 3rd-6th Grades will create a mexican market to sell their wares. Proceeds will benefit Miss Amelia Harkleroad, TACA Alumni, in preparation for the mission field.
26th	
25th	Elementary Spring Program 6:30pm 1st-5th Grades Everyone Invited-

Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy
806 Tennessee Avenue
Bristol, TN 37620
423-989-4346



A Note from
Mandi Pottorf,
Director of Development:

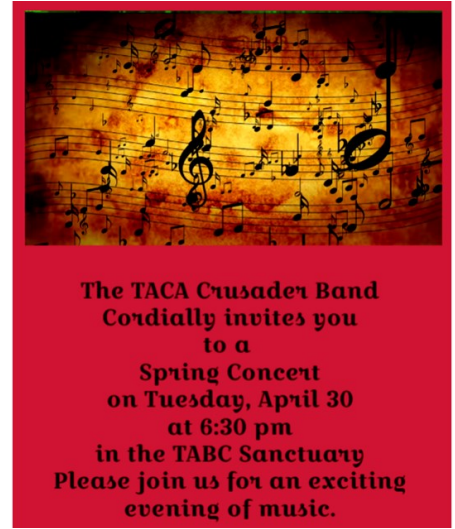
God has been so faithful to provide for our Academy! As of March 15th, He surpassed our goal of \$100,000 for our Annual Crusader Campaign, and we have received \$116,821 in cash gifts!! Please join us in giving Him thanks for this tremendous blessing!!

"Now unto Him that is able to do exceedingly abundantly above all that we ask or think, according to the power that worketh in us, unto Him be glory in the church by Jesus Christ throughout all ages, world without end. Amen."
Ephesians 3:20-21



TACA Sword & Shield

APRIL 2024



Tennessee Avenue Early Childhood Education



Families,

Spring is finally here! And I feel like it is not a minute too soon. Being able to get the kids outside in the fresh air and sunshine makes all the difference in our days over here. When you have a classroom full of children from 1 to 3 years old, things can get very crazy when your stuck in the room all day! But our teachers do an amazing job every day at not only teaching, but at entertaining, comforting, loving, and providing the best possible atmosphere for the children in our care. Even on the days when it seems like the odds are not in our favor!

I think that explanation can be used for a lot of our own personal lives as well. Life gets so chaotic sometimes, and we often just need to step out and get a bit of fresh air, or even better, we just need to stop and remember what a mighty God we serve. Life is hard. From

dealing with family, to finances, to our own personal well being, even sometimes making what should be simple decisions can take a toll on us. We get into our own heads and start to try to figure out everything based on what we think needs to be done or what needs to happen and sometimes we forget that we are supposed to rely on God.

Isaiah 40:28 says: "Have you not known? Have you not heard? The everlasting God, the Lord, The Creator of the ends of the earth, neither faints nor is weary. His understanding is unsearchable." (NKJV) While we grow tired and get overwhelmed with the chaos of life, God is standing firm. He does not grow tired, frustrated, or confused. He is always "on call" for us. Further, we are reminded in Proverbs 3:5-6 to "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In all your ways acknowledge Him, And He shall direct your paths." (NKJV) So even when we are amid all the chaos, whether it is in a room full of rowdy kids, or in your own sweet families, remember to trust God in the midst of it all. There's a reason for whatever chaos you may be facing, and soon, we will see the relief of the SON break through!

Blessings In Christ,
Jessica Sharrett
Director
Early Childhood Education Center

DATES TO REMEMBER:
**Summer Camp and Summer K4 Registration-
now open!**
April 9th/10th: Spring Pictures

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

Prayer Prompter

*Prayer is to our countenance
like sunshine and rain
to spring blossoms.
Got Glow?"*

See Exodus 34:29-33

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)