

The JOY Journal

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YOUR TABC STAFF

Pastoral Staff

Paul Thompson, Associate Pastor of Discipleship
 Joey Cole, Worship Pastor
 Saül 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

May 2024

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We Serve An Unchanging God

I hope to share with you a message of encouragement during this transitional time. In 2015 and 2019, I was blessed to serve churches through transitions, and I find myself once again blessed to be here at this time. Blessed you may ask? Yes, we are blessed because through each change and challenge we get to learn a little bit more about the heart of God. We get to come together in unity for His purpose. Ministry, and

life for that matter, is marked by constant flux and uncertainty. It is indeed a profound comfort to know that we serve a God who remains steadfast and unwavering in His love, His promises, and His character.

When we face times of uncertainty, and even fear, let us draw sustenance from the resounding declaration found in Malachi 3:6a, where the Lord declares, "For I am the Lord, I change not..." (KJV) These words

resound throughout the ages, serving as an enduring testament of hope and assurance for all who place their trust in Him.

Let us find solace in the unchanging love of God. Despite our weaknesses, our failings, and our stumbling steps, His love remains constant and unwavering. The Apostle Paul reminds us in Romans 8:38-39 "that neither death nor life, neither angels nor demons,

We Serve An Unchanging God

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neither the present nor the future, nor any powers, neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord.” (NIV) It is a love that transcends human understanding, a love that knows no bounds, a love that endures through all trials and tribulations.

Let us take refuge in the unchanging promises of God. Throughout the tapestry of Scripture, we witness the unwavering faithfulness of God as He fulfills His promises to His people. From the covenant He established with Abraham to the assurance of salvation through His Son, Jesus Christ, every word that proceeds from His mouth is sure and steadfast. Indeed, every

promise of God finds its fulfillment in Christ (see 2 Corinthians 1:20).

Let us be emboldened by the unchanging character of God. In a world where moral standards shift like sand, we find our anchor in the unchanging holiness, righteousness, and faithfulness of our God. As the psalmist declares, *“Your word, Lord, is eternal; it stands firm in the heavens.”* (Psalm 119:89 - NIV) His character is the same yesterday, today, and forever (Hebrews 13:8). He is the Alpha and the Omega, the Beginning and the End, the One Who was, Who is, and Who is to come.

Therefore, let us take heart in the unchanging nature of our God. In a world filled with uncertainty and upheaval, He

remains our rock, our fortress, and our deliverer. As we journey through the trials and tribulations of life, let us cling to the unchanging love, promises, and character of our God, knowing that He is faithful to His word and will never leave us nor forsake us. May His unchanging nature be our strength and our shield, now and forevermore. Amen.

Alyson and I are praying for each of you. If there is anything we can do to encourage you please don't hesitate to reach out!

Sending love to our church family,

Pastor Joey
Worship Pastor



Dear Church Family,

This past Easter week I did something that I have never done, and it has impacted my life in some profound ways. It was the Wednesday before Easter Sunday. I woke up in this terrible funk. It was as if all positive feeling and perspective on life had been totally removed and replaced with darkness. I was having a bad day. Then I had this thought: What was Jesus doing on Wednesday before His weekend plans of hanging on a cross? So I looked it up. I

followed Jesus through His Wednesday and the His Thursday and then His Friday. I connected with Jesus on an emotional level this Easter season like I never have before. It helped me get perspective on my “bad day”, in comparison to what Jesus was staring down. Some deeper part of my heart awakened to the life that Jesus lived and the purpose of His coming, ending in death on a cross for me, but also the resurrection life that followed it. Three weeks out from Easter, I can't get the cross out of my mind and heart and I realize I'm not supposed to. I've been awakened to the profound truth that when I said yes to Jesus, that I gave Him my life. I also said yes to the cross, to take my soul to the cross. What that means to me is that I take what I would like and what I want in

life to the cross and I die to it. I give Jesus everything. I wake up to the reality that this is not my life so it doesn't matter what I want anymore. It matters what has been assigned for me to do. I'm understanding that there is no real pleasure in this life that isn't resurrection life, and the only way to get that is to surrender to the life that God has already written on my heart. What is written is written. What God has written is perfect; surrender to it. My desire for all of us at Tennessee Avenue is to surrender to the story, the workmanship, that has already been penned upon your heart. That will mean that all else must be sacrificed!

I've always loved World War II history, reading and watching movies about what

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Hello Church Family!

The Children's Ministry has so much going on for the summer! This is a fantastic time to plug in and have fun with the kids!

VBS will be next month, June 9-14. This year our theme is Camp Firelight. We need LOTS of help with everything from clean-up to teaching. This is an extremely fun week and gives us the opportunity to teach Salvation to so many kids! Please check out the sign-up sheets in the foyer or reach out to me. I'm happy to talk all things VBS with you!!

This year our VBS mission will be the same as last year. We will be taking food donations in conjunction with Community Baptist Church to feed the children in our area during the summer. All of the food needs to have child friendly packaging and contain items that children can fix for themselves. Some of these items include: Mac-n-cheese cups, Ramen Noodles, Soups with "pop tabs", Beanie Weenies, Tuna or chicken salad lunch kits, pop tarts. These are only a few options. For more ideas or questions, please contact me anytime! The containers for food collection will be in the Vestibule beginning the 1st Sunday in May, along with ideas of items needed.

Be on the lookout for Family Movie Night!! The Children's Ministry will be hosting a Family movie night in the summer. All you have to do is bring your own chair/blanket and leave the rest to us! More information will be coming soon!

Thank you for allowing me to love your children! I can't wait to be a part of all the amazing things happening!

~~Miss April
Children's Ministry Director



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those men did. I am amazed by it and I have always wondered if I would have had that kind of strength in me. When those bombs hit Pearl Harbor, millions of American lives changed. All of a sudden, whatever life they were living or working towards was set aside and sacrificed, for many sacrificed ultimately. It was that sacrifice across the board that allowed God to empower America to save the world alongside our other allies. How could I do any less when my time comes? I'm not suggesting war with brothers and sisters that ends in bloodshed, because the Bible tells me that flesh and blood is not my enemy. However, I am awakening to the fact that darkness will steal, kill and destroy everything that is not surrendered to the Commander of the Lord's Army. It's time to surrender to war. It's time to take up our cross and follow Jesus.

In Christ alone,
Bro. Paul
Associate Pastor of Discipleship

SAVE THE DATE!

SUMMER VBS

An illustration of a camp scene at night. A yellow firefly with large wings is on the left. In the center is a wooden cabin with a lit window. To the right is a campfire with a flame. The background shows a dark sky with a full moon and trees.

Camp Firelight

A SUMMER CAMP *Psalm 56:3*
ADVENTURE WITH GOD

JUNE 9 - 14 6-8:30 PM

the month of **MAY**

birthdays

1st	Babs Childs Clay Gamble Julia Lambert Liz Thompson	12th	Chad Braswell Billy Padgett	25th	Jane Perry Carol Pierce
2nd	Jess Carter Mary Jo Leonard Connie Messer	13th	Brick Gent Mike Girten	26th	Lauren Brown Alyson Cole
5th	Jill Hutchins Jim Miller	14th	Kara Stevens	28th	Peggy Jenkins
7th	Saundra Hillman Jessica Sharrett	16th	Nick Blankenship Michele Steadman	29th	Willetta Leonard
8th	John Raymond Jeff Woods	17th	Caleb Thompson	30th	Jake Blevins
9th	David Calhoun Lee Childs Nikki Stevens	18th	Laura Dixon		
		19th	Ellie Koserski		
		21st	Makayla Smith		
		24th	Gail Guy Billy Joe James		

HAPPY
Mother's Day

anniversaries

3rd	Jeff & Donna Morrell	12th	Ronnie & Teresa Martin	24th	Jim & Lin Saunders
7th	Larry & Diane Powers	16th	Kenny & Peggy Price	28th	Joey & Amanda Phipps Randy & Brenda Wheeler
9th	Allen & Donna Dixon	20th	Pastor Shane & Misty Phillips	30th	Jeff & Diana Carter
10th	Chris & Melanie Hutton	22nd	Fred & Hollie Ryan		

Event Calendar

1st	TACA Parent Chapel Sanctuary 8:15 am
1st	Kidz Korner Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
1st	Youth Worship Service TABC 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
2nd	TACA National Day of Prayer Service FLB
2nd	Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
3rd	Trip to Farmer's Daughter Restaurant Chuckey, TN Depart TABC 2:00 pm
5th	AWANA Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
5th	Youth Worship Service TABC 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
9th	TACA Awards Night Sanctuary 6:30 pm
12th	Mother's Day
14th	K4 Picnic Rec Area 12:00 noon
14th	K4 / K5 Graduation Sanctuary 6:30 pm
16th	TACA Senior Awards Dinner FLB 6:00 pm
17th	TACA Senior Walk TACA Campus 10:00 am
17th	TACA High School Graduation Sanctuary 7:00 pm
18th	SON Golf League Pine Oaks Golf Course
19th	Graduate Recognition Sanctuary 11:00 am Service
21st	Early Education Ctr 3-Year Old Program Sanctuary 7:00 pm
27th	Widows Luncheon FH 12:00 noon

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Thank you to all my dear church family for the flowers, and all the cards and prayers. I love you all my brothers and sisters in Christ. I apologize for my delay. We all need to pray for each other. Thanks,
Celesta Jenkins

Thank you for the beautiful quilt you sent on the passing of my husband, Eugene Bandy. May God richly bless each one of you!
Donna Bandy (sister of Keith Boyd)



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.

GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY



**Sunday, May 19th
11AM Service**

We will recognize our high school and college graduates during the 11:00 AM service on May 19th. If you or someone you know is a 2024 graduate and would like to be recognized, please email name, school, degree, & photo **by Wednesday, May 15th** to mrsdebbie@tabaptist.org.

TABC FINANCES

Tithes & Offerings

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

4/07/2024 Offering	\$ 26,002.00
4/14/2024 Offering	\$ 8,391.00
4/21/2024 Offering	\$ 6,825.00
On-line Giving 3/24-4/22/2024	\$ 8,191.11
Period Giving Total	\$ 49,409.11
Total 2024 offering YTD:	\$ 312,007.69

Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$ 946,957.18
General Account	\$ 360,154.25
Designated Account	\$ 29,112.15
Daycare / Academy	\$ 75,725.96
Money Market	\$ 51,908.57

SAVE-THE-DATE!

Summer Revival

Celebrating 34 years of Revival
with
Evangelist Rick Coram



AUGUST 4-7

Sunday: 11am & 6pm
Monday-Wednesday: 7pm

Childcare provided for
Infants through Pre-Schoolers.

TACA Sword & Shield

MAY 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!



Jam-Packed!

May is jam-packed with opportunities to celebrate our outstanding students and their accomplishments this academic year! We would be delighted to have you as our guest for any or all of the events listed on the May Dates to Remember (found on our webpage and below). We extend a special invitation to the members of "Strong In Grace" Sunday School Class, and for those who have graciously sponsored a student, please plan to attend the events that link with your sponsor student.

Come see for yourself what God is doing in the lives of our students at Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy.

Mrs. Cindy Beal- Administrator

Miss Melinda Widener- Principal

TENNESSEE AVENUE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 2024

06
MAY

DOLLYWOOD

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS LEAVING CAMPUS AT 8:15AM AND RETURNING AT 8:00PM

17
MAY

SENIOR WALK

JOIN US AT 10AM ON CAMPUS TO HONOR OUR SENIOR GRADUATES FOR THE SENIOR WALK!

09
MAY

AWARDS PROGRAM

6:30PM
K-11TH GRADES

17
MAY

SENIOR GRADUATION

7PM IN THE TENNESSEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH SANCTUARY

14
MAY

K-4 PICNIC

12:00 AT THE REC AREA PARENTS ARE WELCOME \$5 PER PERSON HOT DOGS, CHIPS, DRINK AND COOKIE

21
MAY

FIELD DAY

PLAN TO JOIN US FOR A FUN FILLED DAY ON CAMPUS! GAMES, FOOD, AND FELLOWSHIP. DETAILS Coming SOON

14
MAY

K-4 and KINDERGARTEN GRADUATION

6:30PM
K-4 PROGRAM INCLUDED FAMILY AND FRIENDS WELCOME

21
MAY

LAST DAY!

STUDENTS MAY LEAVE WITH PARENTS AFTER FIELD DAY!

16
MAY

SENIOR AWARDS DINNER

5PM
TACA GYMNASIUM
TICKETS AVAILABLE IN OFFICE \$25 PER PERSON

23
MAY

REPORT CARDS AVAILABLE

REPORT CARDS CAN BE PICKED UP 8:00-11:00

Annual Crusader Campaign Continues to Close the Gap

In an effort to provide an affordable Kingdom education to as many families as possible, Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy holds two fundraising events each year. These fundraisers help "close the gap" between a very low-cost tuition and the increasingly high cost of education. The first of these events, our Annual Crusader Campaign which kicks off every November, is held to support the general needs of the school. The second, a student crowd-funding event held every spring, typically funds a specific need for that year such as security or technology.

Our Lord has been very faithful to provide for our academy through the 2023-2024 Crusader Campaign. As of April, the campaign has raised over \$121,000 in cash gifts in addition to gifts from TABC, and saved over \$11,000 in labor through an in-kind donation by Coca-Cola Consolidated's Rapid Response Team. Because of this outstanding success, and in lieu of our annual spring event, we have decided to extend our promotion of the 2023-2024 Annual Crusader Campaign which will run through the end of our academic year on June 30, 2024.

If you have not had the opportunity, please consider helping us "close the gap" by contributing to the Crusader Campaign by going to academy.tabaptist.org/giving. We are so appreciative to everyone who has invested in our academy. God has used each of you in a mighty way!! Many blessings!!

Cindy Beal, Administrator

Mandy Pottorf, Director of Development



Tennessee Avenue Early Childhood Education



TACA Sword & Shield
MAY 2024

Families,

As I am sitting here writing this newsletter, my mind is filled with so much! Our family is getting ready to watch our daughter, Grace, graduate from Radford University; she will continue there to get her Masters. I am not sure when she grew up. One day she was running from me wanting her dad, and now she is one of the most self-sufficient adults that I know. God has blessed our family so much and I am so thankful. But as a mom, it is also bittersweet. It means there are more changes coming, more decisions to be made, more lessons to be learned.

Honestly, this feeling is not one that just us moms, dads, or caregivers have. At some point in every person's life, he / she must face change. The seasons change. Life changes. People come into our lives; people leave our lives. We get hurt, but we also love. We learn

to give grace when we are often not shown the same grace. And most importantly, in these times, we learn to put our faith and trust in God.

Ecclesiastes 3:1-22 says, *"To every thing there is a season, and a time to every purpose under the heaven: A time to be born, and a time to die; a time to plant, and a time to pluck up that which is planted; A time to kill, and a time to heal; a time to break down, and a time to build up; A time to weep, and a time to laugh; a time to mourn, and a time to dance; A time to cast away stones, and a time to gather stones together; a time to embrace, and a time to refrain from embracing; A time to get, and a time to lose; a time to keep, and a time to cast away; A time to rend, and a time to sew; a time to keep silence, and a time to speak; A time to love, and a time to hate; a time of war, and a time of peace."* (KJV) This is one of my favorite scriptures to turn to when I am in a season of change. I know I have said this, and used it often in my newsletters, but God ALWAYS, ALWAYS has a plan for us when we are in these seasons of change. He has a set time for everything that comes to be in our lives. Another great reminder of this is Jeremiah 29:11, another very popular verse. It says, *"For I know the plans I have for you," declares the LORD, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future."* (NIV) Even though we may not see it, or even understand the season we are in, God does, and He is already way ahead of us!

So, if you are facing a season of change in your life, take a minute and reflect on these verses, and think about all the past times that God has been there and made the way for you. I promise you friends, He will do it again!

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett
Director
Early Education Center

DATES TO REMEMBER:

Monday, May 13:	Muffins with Mom
Tuesday, May 21:	3-year old's Fantastic Finale!
Wednesday, May 22:	Camp Joy & K4 Summer begins for Academy Students
Monday, May 27:	Closed for Memorial Day
Tuesday, May 28:	Camp Joy/K4 Summer begins for everyone



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

Prayer Prompter

*"This time of year we like to
get outside and enjoy God's creation,
but don't fail to get inside
your prayer closet
and enjoy His presence!"*

(See 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

YouTube

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