

# The TABC Journal

## YOUR TABC STAFF

### Pastoral Staff

Paul Thompson, Associate Pastor of Discipleship  
Joey Cole, Worship Pastor  
Dr. Lee Childs, Minister of the Transitional  
Interim Ministry  
Saúl Delgado, Hispanic Pastor

### Ministry Support

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  
Benny James, Maintenance

### Academy Staff

Cindy Beal, Administrator  
Melinda Widener, Principal  
Angie Williams, Director of Student Accounts/Office

### Early Education Center Staff

Jessica Sharrett, Director

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### Never Truly "Home Alone"

As Christmas approaches, many of us embrace traditions that make the season special—decorating the tree, baking cookies, and revisiting favorite holiday movies. In fact, it's not Christmas at our house until we watch the film *Home Alone*. You may get a kick out of this to learn that *Home Alone* is so beloved by Alyson that when she walked down the aisle as my bride, she did not do so to "Here Comes the Bride", but to *Home Alone's* theme song "Somewhere In My Memory". It isn't greenery which is the centerpiece of our living room for Christmas, instead it is a 4000 piece Lego replica of Kevin McCallister's home! To say that she's a fan is an understatement! In fairness, it's simply a humorous and heartfelt story of Kevin McCallister fending off burglars, but it also offers surprising nuggets of truth! As I was listening to the soundtrack of the movie to "get in the Christmas spirit", I thought I'd share a message of hope that is found in one of my family's favorite Christmas movies!

At its core, *Home Alone* highlights the pain of separation. Kevin's frustration

with his family leads to harsh words, and he wakes up wishing they were gone. However, he soon realizes that being separated from those he loves is more painful than he imagined.

This mirrors our spiritual reality. The Bible says, "For all have sinned and fall short of the glory of God." (Romans 3:23, NKJV) Sin creates a chasm between us and our Heavenly Father. Like Kevin, we often act out of selfishness, causing separation in our relationships—both earthly and divine.

But Christmas reminds us that God did not leave us alone in our brokenness. Through the birth of Jesus, Emmanuel - "God with us" (Matthew 1:23, NKJV) - God came to bridge the gap, offering us reconciliation and the joy of restored relationship.

One of the most touching moments in *Home Alone* is when Kevin befriends his elderly neighbor, Mr. Marley. Kevin learns of Marley's estranged relationship with his son and encourages him to take a step toward reconciliation. By the film's end, we witness the joy of forgiveness and restored relationship.

This beautifully echoes the Gospel message of grace. Scripture reminds us,

(continued on page 2)





## Never Truly "Home Alone" (continued from page 1)

*"bearing with one another, and forgiving one another, if anyone has a complaint against another; even as Christ forgave you, so you also must do."* (Colossians 3:13, NKJV) At Christmas, we celebrate that God took the ultimate step toward us, offering forgiveness through His Son. And just as we have been forgiven, we are called to extend forgiveness to others.

Kevin's journey in *Home Alone* is one of transformation. He begins as selfish and self-centered but matures when left on his own. He prays for his family, decorates the tree, and even risks his safety

to protect his home. Kevin learned through his character arc to sacrifice.

Philippians 2:5-7 reminds us: *"Let this mind be in you which was also in Christ Jesus, who, being in the form of God, did not consider it robbery to be equal with God, but made Himself of no reputation, taking the form of a bondservant, and coming in the likeness of men."* (NKJV) Jesus gave up the glory of heaven to rescue us, the ultimate act of sacrificial love. This is the heart of the Christmas story.

This holiday season, as you watch *Home Alone* or other Christmas classics, take

time to reflect on the deeper themes they offer. Just as Kevin learns the importance of family, forgiveness, and love, we can celebrate the joy of reconciliation and redemption found in Christ.

And remember: no matter where you are or how alone you might feel, you are never truly "home alone." Through Jesus, Emmanuel, God is always with you.

Merry Christmas and.... Have some fun!

Blessings,

Joey Cole  
Worship Pastor



In 1 John chapter 15, Jesus shares with his disciples that He is like a vine and His followers are like branches. I love how Jesus shares spiritual truth in ways that we can understand. All of us have seen a healthy tree or a healthy grape vine. We understand how it's all connected and how the miracle of life within the plant produces beautiful fruit and foliage. It's truly an amazing thing that the Creator of the universe is teaching us that we can be just like a branch, attached to God Almighty, the vine, and that we

can have the very life of God as our source of power and wisdom and love.

Sometimes, I think we've been in church too long; we've become so familiar with some of these concepts that they are "old news." "I already knew that," we say. But do we?

Lord Jesus, help us to read our Bibles for the first time again; awaken us to the potential and the capacity of all You want to do in us and through us.

Church family, I have this knowing deep inside me that keeps growing. I just know that I know that I know that we are going to see the glory of God poured out. God has been so real with me personally and I am so clear on what I desire. Psalm 27:4 (NASB) says it perfectly: *"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."* Amen. I want more Jesus in my life at any cost. I'm telling you guys, nothing can stop the new thing that God is pouring out on this campus. May God be glorified in us and through us.

I pray you all have a wonderful Thanksgiving holiday. I can't wait to see what's next.

Praying Malachi 4:5-6,

Brother Paul  
Associate Pastor of Discipleship





Matt 28:19-20

*19 "Go therefore and make disciples of all the nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit, 20 teaching them to observe all things that I have commanded you; and lo, I am with you always, even to the end of the age." Amen.*

### Make disciples who make disciples for Christ D2D

We call this passage the Great Commission as it is the charge Jesus gave His disciples before He ascended to heaven. In this command to action, His disciples were to, as they went about their daily lives, make disciples or introduce people to Jesus so they would receive His salvation; and then disciple those who were saved to do the same thing Jesus had instructed them to do... as they go, make disciples.

The statement "make disciples who make disciples" is an accurate sum-

mary of the command Jesus gave the 11 disciples (Matt 28:16), and that He also gives to us as His disciples today. This statement was presented to the congregation at the TIM session on November 24, 2024, as the TIM team's recommendation for the mission statement for TABC. It has been shared with the deacons, and they too agree this statement represents what we at TABC must be about. On December 18, 2024, the TIM team will officially recommend this statement be affirmed by those attending our church business meeting as the mission statement for TABC. Also at this meeting, the 2025 budget for TABC will be presented for affirmation.

Beginning the end of October, we have shared the string of biblical values from Genesis to Revelation that supports this mission. You have heard teachings that started with man has been created by God in the image of God. That humankind is broken and fallen people reject the Lordship of God. God's solution to that brokenness is His Son, Jesus Christ, who came to earth as a babe, lived a sinless life and was betrayed, crucified, died, rose from the dead and then ascended to His Father. By receiving Him as our Savior and Lord, our brokenness is made righteousness in Him, and we

enter into a relationship with the Father through Him.

As disciples of Christ, we abide in Him, abide in His love and obey Him. Just as Jesus' goal was to glorify His Father by doing the work His Father gave Him to do, we too glorify Jesus and the Father by becoming His fruit bearers, living our lives accomplishing His work through us. The core of that work is to be a witness of Christ.

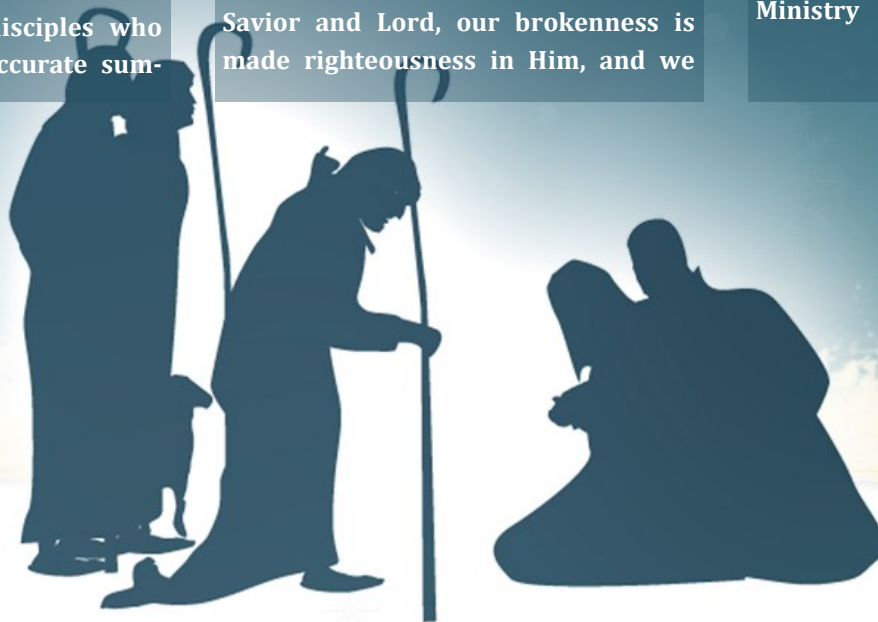
From our mission statement, the TIM team will begin leading TABC to develop a vision for what we should look like in the short future. Then the team will lead as we examine current ministries and explore other ministry opportunities to fulfill the vision that expresses our mission of making disciples that make disciples, D2D.

You see, not only did Jesus come to us as the Messiah to provide salvation but He modeled in His 3+ years of ministry, before going to the cross, discipling His disciples so they would change the world by making disciples who make disciples for Christ.

Grace,

Dr. Lee Childs

Minister of the Transitional Interim Ministry





# the month of DECEMBER

## birthdays

**1<sup>st</sup>**  
Logen Medaglia  
Lily Koserski

**2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Millie Clark  
George Jones

**3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Jerry Jenkins  
Jason Moody  
Debra Perry

**4<sup>th</sup>**  
Shelby Gamble  
Phil Kendrick

**5<sup>th</sup>**  
Benji Lawson  
Jill McKinney  
Diane Powers

**6<sup>th</sup>**  
McKenzie Lawson

**7<sup>th</sup>**  
Allen Dixon

**9<sup>th</sup>**  
Evan Vance

**10<sup>th</sup>**  
Caleb Hunt

**13<sup>th</sup>**  
John Depew  
Abby Sharrett  
Jade Yates

**14<sup>th</sup>**  
Adrian Padgett

**16<sup>th</sup>**  
David Minor

**17<sup>th</sup>**  
Meredith Corvin

**18<sup>th</sup>**  
Patty Blackwell  
Alex Spence

**19<sup>th</sup>**  
Shirley Sammons

**20<sup>th</sup>**  
Brian Clark  
Cole Zimmerman

*...and thou shalt  
call his name*



*And she shall bring  
forth a son, and thou shalt  
call his name JESUS, For he  
shall save his people from  
their sins. ~Matthew 1:21~*

## anniversaries

**5<sup>th</sup>**  
Danny & Bobbie Lewis

**9<sup>th</sup>**  
Joey & Alyson Cole

**12<sup>th</sup>**  
Randy & Patty Blackwell

**19<sup>th</sup>**  
Clarence & Melba Booher

**21<sup>st</sup>**  
Ronnie Blacklock  
Jonathan Dixon  
Clara Melvin  
Kathy Sharp

**22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Cody Cornelius

**24<sup>th</sup>**  
Velma Boyd  
Billie Skeens

**26<sup>th</sup>**  
Noah Wheeler  
Patti Wright

**27<sup>th</sup>**  
John Gentry  
Sharon Goodman  
Lewis Moody  
Peyton Vance

**28<sup>th</sup>**  
Michael McKinney

**29<sup>th</sup>**  
Braxton Smith  
Melinda Widener

**30<sup>th</sup>**  
Tim Beavers  
Keith Boyd

**31<sup>st</sup>**  
Daniel Dunnington

**22<sup>nd</sup>**  
Michael & Jill McKinney

**27<sup>th</sup>**  
Zane & Chelsea Sary

## Event Calendar

- 1<sup>st</sup>** Revival with Evangelist Rick Coram  
Sanctuary 11:00 am & 6:00 pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup>-4<sup>th</sup>** Revival with Evangelist Rick Coram  
Sanctuary 7:00 pm
- 3<sup>rd</sup>** TACA Parent Chapel  
Sanctuary 8:15 am
- 5<sup>th</sup>** Ladies' Community Bible Study  
TABC 9:15-11:15 am (Every Thursday)
- 5<sup>th</sup>** Celebrate Recovery  
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Every Thursday)
- 5<sup>th</sup>** TACA Band in Bristol Christmas Parade  
Downtown Bristol 7:00 pm
- 6<sup>th</sup>** TABC / TACA / ECEC Christmas Dinner  
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm
- 7<sup>th</sup>** Youth Ministry Christmas Party  
FLB 6:00-8:00 pm
- 8<sup>th</sup>** AWANA Christmas Store  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 8<sup>th</sup>** Youth Service  
TABC 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
- 10<sup>th</sup>** Transition Team Meeting  
Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- 11<sup>th</sup>** Children's Ministry Christmas Party  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
- 11<sup>th</sup>** Youth Service  
TABC 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
- 12<sup>th</sup>** TACA Elementary Christmas Program  
Sanctuary 6:30 pm
- 13<sup>th</sup>** Senior Adult Christmas Banquet  
Food City Banquet Hall 5:30 pm
- 15<sup>th</sup>** TABC Celebration Choir Christmas Musical  
Sanctuary 6:00 pm
- 16<sup>th</sup>** TACA Blood Drive  
TACA Campus 11:30 am-1:00 pm
- 17<sup>th</sup>** Early Childhood Education Center  
Christmas Program  
Sanctuary 6:30 pm
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** Children's Ministry Christmas Program  
Sanctuary 11:00 am
- 22<sup>nd</sup>** Candlelight Service  
Sanctuary 6:00 pm
- 24<sup>th</sup>-25<sup>th</sup>** Church Office, Academy & ECEC Closed  
for Christmas Holiday
- 31<sup>st</sup>** Church Office & Academy Closed for New  
Year's Holiday



# dear CHURCH family

## THANK YOU!

I want to say thank you to my church family for your prayers, cards, visits, and flowers during my recent time in the hospital. You are all so thoughtful and I am so blessed. Please continue to pray for me.

**Alice Thompson**

TABC Family, thank you so much for the beautiful flowers. Love in Christ,

**Kristy & Emily Wells**

Thank you so much for the flowers you sent after my surgery! But most of all thanks for the prayers for me!

**Karen Walls**

We are so blessed! Thank you, dear church family, for your outpouring of love and support. The flowers, food and your generosity are so much appreciated. The Lord is showing up in so many ways. From the bottom of our hearts, we thank you. Philippians 1:5

**Jimmy & Peggy Phipps**

**Online GIVING**

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

**Text TO 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

10/27/2024 Offering	\$ 8,511.00
11/03/2024 Offering	\$ 10,805.00
11/10/2024 Offering	\$ 9,447.00
11/17/2024 Offering	\$ 11,051.00
11/24/2024 Offering	\$ 11,015.00
On-line Giving 10/24-11/26 /2024	\$ 9,631.50
Period Giving Total	\$ 60,460.50
Total 2024 offering YTD:	\$ 747,655.52

### Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$ 887,928.20
General Account	\$ 184,286.39
Designated Account	\$ 22,256.97
Daycare / Academy	\$ 138,794.42
Money Market	\$ 153,821.87

**SIGN UP NOW!**

## Senior Adult Christmas Banquet

**FRIDAY DECEMBER 13**

Food City Banquet Hall, Euclid Ave, Bristol VA  
Gather at 5:00 PM, Dinner at 5:30 PM

### MENU:

Simple Mixed Salad w/dressing  
Turkey with Sage Dressing  
Apple Glazed Pork Tenderloin  
Rosemary Roasted Potatoes  
Green Beans Almondine  
Rolls and Beverages  
Country Fruit Cobbler

Please sign up in the vestibule.  
See Mrs. Peggy Phipps or Mrs. Sue Miller in the vestibule before/after services to make your payment.

**COST: \$10 per person**

## TENNESSEE AVENUE BAPTIST CHURCH

**MEDIA LIBRARY**

**RE-GRAND OPENING**

**SUNDAY DECEMBER 15TH**

Over 3,100 books, resources, commentaries, and study guides! CDs, cassettes and VHS also available. Mrs. Sandy Smallwood will be available in the library to assist with any requests as follows:

Sundays—10:30-10:55 am & 5:30-5:55 pm  
Wednesdays—5:30-5:55 pm

The library will be open weekdays during regular church office hours (9:00 a.m.—5:00 p.m.) for any who would like to come browse on your own. You may check out books by completing the card in the back of the book and leaving it on the desk in the library.

Come "check it out"!



Please join us as the  
**TABC Celebration Choir**  
presents it Christmas Musical  
**SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH**  
**6:00 pm**



# TACA Sword & Shield

DECEMBER 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!*

## MAKING A DIFFERENCE

As we approach the holiday season, I want to extend my heartfelt gratitude to our friends and families for your unwavering support and generosity. This Christmas, let us remember the spirit of giving and the impact we can make in the lives of our students, faculty and staff. Your support during the Crusader Campaign is not just a one-time gift but an investment in ongoing efforts to advance kingdom learning on our campus. By contributing now, you are helping to lay the foundation for the future of our beloved school. Together, we can create a lasting legacy of academic excellence taught from a biblical worldview, that inspires boys and girls to serve the Lord in all they do. May your holidays be filled with joy, love, and the warmth of knowing that together, we are making a difference.

Always Amazed at God's Grace!  
Cindy Beal  
TACA Administrator

## Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy BLOOD DRIVE

**Monday, December 16**  
**11:30AM-1:00PM**

Please call the Academy  
423-989-4346 to schedule  
an appointment. Walk-ins  
welcome.



**All donors earn  
this shirt & a snack.**

## 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 December....

December 2-6	Lena Jacobs
December 9-13	Wyatt Huntsman





# TACA Sword & Shield

DECEMBER 2024

## Tennessee Avenue Early Childhood Education



Families,

Christmas time is here! What an exciting time of year it is for all of us! It makes me wonder about the excitement that Mary must have been feeling leading to the birth of Jesus. Then, I started thinking, why Mary? Did God just look down and say "Hey, she looks like a good choice"? Of course not! God had a plan that was set in motion way before the birth of His Son (Luke 1:26-30). One article states it like this: "In essence, God chose Mary because she was of the right lineage, she was from Nazareth, she was engaged to a man whose lineage set up a trip to Bethlehem, she was a virgin, and she was a young woman of good character. Fleshing out these insights fosters not only appreciation for Mary, but also God's preparations for His Son's mission." (Wilson, *Why did God choose Mary to give*

*birth to Jesus?* 2021)

No wonder God found favor on Mary! She checked all the needed boxes for all the prophecies of the coming of a Savior. I would imagine meeting those criteria was hard back then, can you imagine if someone had to meet it now? Dare I say that would be impossible today! However, because of God's perfect plan, we have already been sent a Savior! And that is something to celebrate, indeed!

So, this Christmas season, remember to be thankful for God's perfect plan, His Favor on Mary, His love for mankind, and His Son that would save us all!

Blessings in Christ,  
Jessica Sharrett, Director  
Early Childhood Education Center

Reference: Wilson, D. (2021, December 13). *Why did God choose Mary to give birth to Jesus?*. Bible Study Tools. [https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/why-did-god-choose-mary-to-give-birth-to-jesus.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMlv9\\_Rw-fZiQMvUOQWBRou8yooEAAYASAAEglScfD\\_BwE](https://www.biblestudytools.com/bible-study/topical-studies/why-did-god-choose-mary-to-give-birth-to-jesus.html?gclid=EAlaIQobChMlv9_Rw-fZiQMvUOQWBRou8yooEAAYASAAEglScfD_BwE)

### ECEC DATES TO REMEMBER:

Tuesday, Dec. 17 <sup>th</sup> @ 6:30	Christmas Program (2- & 3-year-old classes)
Friday, Dec. 20 <sup>th</sup>	Classroom Christmas Parties
Tuesday, Dec. 24 <sup>th</sup>	Closed
Wednesday, Dec. 25 <sup>th</sup>	Closed
Wednesday, Jan. 1 <sup>st</sup>	Closed



We're on the web!  
[www.tabaptist.org](http://www.tabaptist.org)

## Prayer Prompter

*"To know through  
experience the true joys  
of spirit filled prayer,  
is to experience first-hand  
THE JOY OF CHRISTMAS."*

*(See Luke 2:25-38)*

## 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.

**104 Cypress St., Bristol, TN 37620 · 423-989-4325 · [tabaptist.org](http://tabaptist.org)**

*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  
YouTube*

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

