

The TABC Journal

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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
Rick Hale, Bass Guitar
Susan Cox, Organist
Maston Creger, Percussion
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



Recently, I found myself in a very bad place concerning someone very close to me. It was not good. Then, I heard the Lord say, "You are snared by the words of your mouth." I knew it was straight scripture; Proverbs 6:2 to be exact. As I tracked my behavior and my journal the previous days, it was true. I had become emotional about a situation and I had said some things about that person that was exactly what the enemy wanted me to say. That's called spiritual warfare. The enemy is working overtime to get people to take on his

perspective so that we will speak his words. If he can do that, he can create the hellish world that he loves.

As humans created in God's image, we forget too often that *"Death and life are in the power of the tongue, and those who love it will eat its fruits."* (Proverbs 18:21 ESV). Our words shape the world, our words shape the people around us, our words shape our church and its effectiveness. It becomes critical that we are speaking true words.

Have you ever stopped to think about where your thoughts are coming from?

At one point in my life, I had a pastor who I really

looked up to. I thought I was so fortunate to be in his presence. I gave him a trust that I should not have given him but at the time, I didn't know it. I listened to this man talk about everything and everyone. He had an opinion about everything. I allowed him to shape my views about so many things. By the time I figured out that this man did not deserve my trust and that I shouldn't be listening to him about everything, the damage was already done. There are still things to this day that I run into that I can track back to this man's words. He poisoned everything and everyone in my environment.

Continued on Page 2

It was a very hard lesson to learn and one that I am still suffering from. However, it taught me to always ask myself, "Who told you that; where did that idea, thought, or statement come from?" When the enemy is involved, that question must be asked. In Genesis 3:11a (ESV), God asked Adam and Eve that question: "Who told you that...?" And so I ask you, brother and sister, concerning our church: who told you that? Where did it come from? Is it true? Have you double checked your information, or are you being careless with your words? We all get caught up in bad information from time to time.

It is such a wild thought that there is a real spiritual darkness that is at work manipulating and influencing all of us to speak and act in ways that allow hell to grow. However, I get so excited when I think about God's sons and daughters choosing His words and ways and creating heaven on earth. It's going to happen right here at TABC.

Repentance is one of the greatest gifts we have in the church. To let go of a lie and exchange it for a truth. When God spoke to me and told me I was snared by the words of my mouth, I saw it. I saw the enemy's words, I saw why I chose them. I immedi-

ately began to pray, Father I break agreement with these words I have spoken, I choose Your words. I choose to confess Your words. Imagine our church and the environment that we can produce if we set a guard over our mouths and choose our Father's words of life. We would find heaven on earth.

Believing for God's best at TABC.

In Christ, praying Malachi 4:5-6,

Bro. Paul

Associate Pastor of

Discipleship



Life After the Resurrection: A Church Transformed

When we think of Easter, our minds often focus on the powerful moment of Jesus rising from the dead. And rightly so—the **resurrection of Jesus is the cornerstone of our faith**. But sometimes, in the joy and celebration of Easter Sunday, we may be tempted to overlook one of the most amazing parts of the story: **what happened after the resurrection**.

The Gospels tell us that Jesus didn't ascend immediately to heaven. Instead, He spent **40 more days** walking among His disciples, teaching them, reassuring them, and preparing them for what would come next. During those days, lives were radically transformed. Men who had fled in fear would soon stand and preach with courage. Women who wept at the tomb became the first proclaimers of the Risen Christ. The scattered, confused followers of Jesus were knit together by one unshakable truth: **Jesus lives**.

Think about these moments:

- **Thomas**, full of doubt, found faith when Jesus invited him to touch the scars in His hands and side. His response? "My Lord and my God!"
- **Peter**, who had denied Christ three

times, was lovingly restored by Jesus over breakfast on the shore. Jesus didn't cast him aside—He called him to "Feed My sheep."

- On the **road to Emmaus**, two disciples who had lost all hope were reignited when Jesus opened the Scriptures and broke bread with them. They ran back to Jerusalem to share the good news.
- And in the **Upper Room**, the risen Christ appeared among His disciples with the words, "Peace be with you," and He breathed on them the Holy Spirit.

What changed? Everything. The Resurrection was not the end—it was the launching point for the church.

These men and women went from fear to faith, from hiding to heralding, from being followers to becoming leaders. And the same Jesus who changed their lives continues to change ours. **We are people of the Resurrection**. This truth isn't just for one Sunday—it's the heartbeat of who we are every day. He lives! And because He lives, we can face tomorrow with hope, purpose, and unshakable faith.

Reflecting on these truths, I want to share a **heartfelt thanks** to our amazing **choir members, musicians, and sound & media team**, who poured their hearts into the Good Friday Easter Musical. What a night of worship, reflection, and awe!

The music, the message, the story—it all pointed us to the cross and the empty tomb. And behind that evening were

countless hours of practice, rehearsals, and behind-the-scenes preparation. We know your ministry didn't begin on the platform—it began long before, in your homes, in quiet sacrifice, and in giving your time to the Lord. Thank you for allowing God to use your talents to speak to our hearts and to glorify His name.

You helped us experience the story of Easter not just with our minds, but with our hearts—and for that, we are deeply grateful.

Looking Ahead with Resurrection Hope

As we step into this new month, let's remember: the story isn't over. The same power that raised Jesus from the dead is at work in His church today. God is still transforming lives. He's still breathing peace over anxious hearts. He's still calling ordinary people to do extraordinary things.

Let us be like the early disciples—bold in our faith, rooted in His Word, filled with the Holy Spirit, and unafraid to live out the good news that **Jesus is alive**.

With love and resurrection joy,
Pastor Joey
Worship Pastor

"To whom He also presented Himself alive after His suffering by many infallible proofs, being seen by them during forty days and speaking of the things pertaining to the kingdom of God." – Acts 1:3 (NKJV)



The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith. (Acts 6:7 NASB)

This verse summarizes the effect of the early church being led by the Spirit; everything recorded in Acts is about the Spirit leading the early church. The Spirit led them to recognize they had an organizational problem that needed to be resolved. The solution the Spirit provided came through the plurality of Apostles asking the whole church to pick out a plurality of deacons to serve the needs of the church, allowing the plurality of Apostles to focus on prayer and preaching the word (Acts 6:1-6).

I would suggest that a similar work of the Spirit, to what happened in Jerusalem, has occurred at TABC. The Spirit has guided the leaders, and the congregation, to recognize there are problems with the established leadership and organizational structure at TABC. The decision was made to pause the immediate pursuit of another pastor and allow time for God to lead as He helped us identify our problem and seek a correction so we would not do what had been done before expecting different results. Through the Spirit revealing to the plurality of leaders the problems and providing a solution,

the leaders have offered this Spirit-led biblical solution for the church to agree to and begin to implement. The solution is, instead of leadership revolving around one individual, the leadership responsibilities are shared equally between a plurality of pastors/elders leading through a plurality of lead servants, deacons, to equip the church folks to do the ministries of the church. This model recognizes Jesus Christ as the Chief Shepherd of His church (1 Peter 5:4) and His Spirit as His indwelling presence with all of His people (John 14:16-17).

Over the course of the past few months, the biblical basis for this solution was shared from the pulpit and in the public preaching and teaching times. The congregation was strongly encouraged to seek out a TIM team member, deacon, or pastor to ask questions and engage in discussions. This solution was discussed in various Sunday school classes. There was a book given out for people to read. There is a bookmark with passages of the Bible verses shared encouraging folks to prayerfully read. There was a Q&A paper distributed with biblical passages shown for each answer for people to prayerfully read and study. There were two churchwide Q&A sessions offered for folks to attend, receive information, and ask their questions (April 6 and April 13). There have been many opportunities for those who have an interest in understanding this biblical teaching to have engaged.

The TIM team, deacons and pastors have called the congregation to affirm this direction at the end of the service on May 4, 2025. You are encouraged to continue to ask questions and engage with the TIM team, deacons, and pastors/elders. Each of

them will welcome your engagement. Remember, what is being presented is the plurality of pastors/elders' biblical model of leadership. There are many details that must be looked at and decisions made before implementation. The congregation will have opportunities to be involved in the details and their final affirmation.

It is the prayer of your leadership that the results of this change will be that we will witness the Spirit work at TABC just as the folks in the Jerusalem church witnessed His work of...

The word of God kept on spreading; and the number of the disciples continued to increase greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were becoming obedient to the faith.

Dr. Lee Childs
Minister of the Transitional Interim Ministry

TIM Update May 4, 2025 Affirmation

Thanks to everyone who attended the two Sunday evening churchwide Q&A sessions and thanks to each of you who are prayerfully seeking to know God's will for the proposed plurality of pastors/elders' leadership model for TABC. There will be an opportunity to affirm this direction at the called business session at the close of the morning service on May 4, 2025. Please continue praying for TABC to follow the leading of God.



Our Summer VBS is "MAGNIFIED!" This VBS will encourage kids to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim,

the greatness of God. God made us, cares about us, loves us, forgives us, and is faithful to keep all His promises to us. We can praise God together! We were made to magnify God! We always need LOTS of volunteers! Please come help and share the love of Jesus with lots of kids!



**JUNE
8-13**

6-8:30 PM

PLEASE SIGN UP IN THE VESTIBULE TO HELP!

the month of MAY

birthdays

1st

Babs Childs
Clay Gamble
Julia Lambert
Liz Thompson

2nd

Jess Carter
Mary Jo Leonard
Connie Messer

5th

Jill Hutchins
Jim Miller
Miranda Tittle
Sean Tuzzolino

6th

Rusty Cox

7th

Saundra Hillman
Jessica Sharrett

8th

Jeff Woods

9th

David Calhoun
Lee Childs
Nikki Stevens

12th

Chad Braswell
Billy Padgett

13th

Brick Gent
Mike Girtin

14th

Kara Stevens
Lauren Zimmerman

16th

Nick Blankenship
Michele Steadman

17th

Caleb Thompson

18th

Laura Dixon

19th

Ellie Koserski

21st

Makayla Smith

24th

Gail Guy
Billy Joe James

25th

Jane Perry
Carol Pierce

26th

Lauren Brown
Alyson Cole

28th

Peggy Jenkins

29th

Willetta Leonard

30th

Jake Blevins

HAPPY
Mother's
day

anniversaries

3rd

Jeff & Donna Morrell

7th

Larry & Diane Powers

9th

Allen & Donna Dixon

10th

Chris & Melanie Hutton

12th

Ronnie & Teresa Martin

16th

Kenny & Peggy Price

22nd

Fred & Hollie Ryan

24th

Jim & Lin Saunders

28th

Joey & Amanda Phipps
Randy & Brenda Wheeler

30th

Jeff & Diana Carter

Event Calendar

- 1st **TACA National Day of Prayer Service**
FLB 9:00 am
- 1st **Ladies' Community Bible Study**
TABC 9:15-11:20 am (Thursdays)
- 1st **Celebrate Recovery**
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
- 2nd **Senior Adult Breakfast**
IHOP-Volunteer Pkwy. 9:00 am
- 3rd **TACA Sports Banquet**
FLB 5:30 pm
- 4th **Church Business Meeting**
Sanctuary immediately following AM Service
- 4th **Children/Youth Dodgeball Tournament**
FLB 3:00-4:45 pm
- 4th **AWANA**
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
(Every Sunday)
- 4th **Youth Worship Service**
Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
- 6th **Transition Team Meeting**
Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm (Every Tuesday)
- 7th **TACA Parent Chapel**
Sanctuary 8:15 am
- 7th **Kidz Korner**
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
(Every Wednesday)
- 7th **Youth Worship Service**
Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
- 9th **TACA Art Fair**
FLB 6:00-8:30 pm
- 9th **TACA Drama**
Sanctuary 7:00 pm
- 10th **TACA Art Fair**
FLB 1:00-3:00 pm
- 10th **TACA Drama**
Sanctuary 2:00 pm
- 11th **MOTHER'S DAY**
*** No Evening Service ***
- 12th **TACA Awards Night**
Sanctuary 6:30 pm
- 13th **TACA K4/K5 Graduation**
Sanctuary 6:30 pm
- 15th **TACA Senior Awards Dinner**
FLB 6:00 pm
- 16th **TACA High School Graduation**
Sanctuary 7:00 pm
- 18th **Graduate Sunday**
Sanctuary 11:00 am
- 18th **AWANA Awards Night**
Sanctuary 6:00 pm
- 19th **Meals on Wheels**
- 19th **TACA Band Concert**
Sanctuary 6:30 pm
- 22nd **ECEC 2-3 Year-Old Program**
6:30 pm
- 27th **Widows Luncheon**
FH 12:00 noon

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Please accept our gratitude and appreciation for your 4/8/2025 gift of \$200. Your gift in honor of mothers at TABC is already being used to provide safe campus and foster homes for children across Tennessee.

Greg McCoy, President/Treasurer
Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes

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.

Happy Mothers Day

A donation has been made to Tennessee Baptist Children's Homes, a ministry of the Tennessee Baptist Mission Board, in honor of all our mothers for Mother's Day.

Welcome Baby!

Michael & Kristin Ghannam

Announce the birth of

Sutton Ruth Ghannam



She weighed 6 lbs. 9 oz.
And was 18.5" long



Born
Tuesday, April 8, 2025



Proud Big Brother:
Lincoln



Proud Grandparents:
Johnny & Jill Hutchins
Proud Aunt: Alivia Hutchins
Proud Uncle: Isaac Hutchins

CONGRATULATIONS!

TABC FINANCES

Tithes & Offerings

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

03/30/2025 Offering	\$ 12,934.00
04/06/2025 Offering	\$ 14,469.38
04/13/2025 Offering	\$ 8,480.00
04/20/2025 Offering	\$ 9,803.00
On-line Giving 3/25-4/20/25	\$ 7,282.46
Period Giving Total	\$ 52,968.84
Total 2025 offering YTD:	\$ 213,109.80

Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$ 846,984.22
General Account	\$ 199,604.99
Designated Account	\$ 42,897.13
Daycare / Academy	\$ 40,643.51
Money Market	\$ 128,716.84

High School & College GRADUATE RECOGNITION SUNDAY



If you have a 2025 graduate you would like to recognize, please email mrsdebbie@tabaptist.org name, photo, school, & degree earned no later than **Wednesday, May 7th.**

SUNDAY MAY 18 11 AM

Summer SAVE-THE-DATE!

Revival

JUNE 22-25

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

Celebrating
35 years
of Revival
with



Evangelist Rick Coram

Childcare provided for Infants through Pre-Schoolers.



TACA Sword & Shield

MAY 2025

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

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). For those of you who have graciously sponsored a student, please plan to attend the events that link with your sponsor student. See for yourself what God is doing in the lives of our students at Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy.

Crusader Campaign/ Scholarship Fund Update

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, technology, or equipment.

Our Lord has been very faithful to provide for our academy through the 2024-2025 Crusader Campaign.

If you have not had the opportunity, please consider helping TACA with your gift. You can help "close the gap" with a donation of any size. We appreciate everyone who has invested in the future of Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy. God has used each of you in a mighty way.

As each has received a gift, use it to serve one another, as good stewards of God's varied grace" 1 Peter 4:10

Cindy Beal
Administrator

TENNESSEE AVENUE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY DATES TO REMEMBER

MAY 2025

05
MAY

DOLLYWOOD

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS
LEAVING CAMPUS AT 7:30 AM AND RETURNING AT 6:00 PM

14
MAY

SENIOR WALK

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

09
MAY

BOOSTERTHON

9:00-1:00-STEELE'S CREEK
PARENTS ARE WELCOME
\$5 PER PERSON
HOT DOGS, CHIPS, DRINK AND COOKIE

15
MAY

SENIOR AWARDS DINNER

6PM IN THE GYM
TICKETS FOR THE MEAL ARE \$25 EACH

9/10
MAY

TACA DRAMA TEAM CHARLOTTE'S WEB

FRIDAY AT 7:00PM
SATURDAY AT 2:00
TICKETS ARE \$5 AT THE DOOR

16
MAY

SENIOR GRADUATION

TABC SANCTUARY
7:00 PM

12
MAY

ELEMENTARY, MS, HS AWARDS

ELEMENTARY 6:00PM
MS AT 6:30PM
HS AT 7:00PM

19
MAY

TABC MS/HS/ BAND CONCERT

TABC SANCTUARY
6:30 PM

13
MAY

K4 PICNIC
PARENTS ARE WELCOME
\$5 PER PERSON
HOT DOGS, CHIPS, DRINK AND COOKIE

21
MAY

LAST DAY OF SCHOOL
DISMISSAL AS
FOLLOWS
ELEMENTARY 11:15
MS/HS 11:30

MAY 8-ART FAIR
K-5TH GRADES

MAY 23
REPORT CARD PICK UP 10-12:00



TACA Sword & Shield

MAY 2025

Tennessee Avenue Early Childhood Education



Families,

What a crazy time of year it is for us at the ECEC! Even though we are open year-round, toward the end of the academy's school year, we get super busy with end of year activities. Also, preparations for K4 Summer and Camp Joy Summer Camp are already rolling right along. Even though it is a busy time of year, it is one of my favorite times of the year. I love spring and summer! Everything seems so fresh and new; the days are longer and brighter, and honestly, people are happier during this time of the year. And of course, the warmer weather means more outside time for the kids, and that makes everyone happy!

We are so thankful for the families that allow us to care for their children... the children here at the center, as well as the kids that come just for the summer programs. I always remind our workers that we are laying a foundation for Christ in these little (and not so little) humans we get to work with. I have said it before, and will say it 100 more times I'm sure, but there is nothing better than seeing one of these kids outside of the campus and hearing their excitement in telling everyone who you are, or what they have been taught. I love when the kids bust with excitement over learning a new song about Jesus, or when they have memorized one of their bible verses. This is the very definition of our theme verse in Proverbs 22:6, *"Train up a child in the way he should go: and when he is old, he will not depart from it."* (KJV).

Please continue to lift our Center and Summer programs in your prayers... the children, the families, and our staff.

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett, Director
Early Childhood Education Center

CAMP JOY

Tennessee Avenue Summer Day camp

1 CORINTHIANS 10:31

WHATEVER YOU DO, DO ALL TO THE GLORY OF GOD

Registration Fee Includes a COOL Camp T-Shirt!

May 27 - August 1, 2025
Weekdays from 6:30am until 5:30pm
For children who have completed Kindergarten through Sixth Grade!

FOR MORE INFORMATION
or a registration packet:
423-989-4343 or
sharrettj@tabaptist.org



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

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

*"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)

104 Cypress St., Bristol, TN 37620 · 423-989-4325 · tabaptist.org

*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)