

# The TABC Journal

July 2025  
Volume 34, Issue 7

## YOUR TABC STAFF

### Pastoral Staff

Joey Cole, Worship Pastor  
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

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### JUNE RECAP: FAITH IN ACTION & A HOPEFUL FUTURE

What a powerful month we've just experienced together! As we look back on June, our hearts are filled with gratitude—for the laughter of children during Vacation Bible School, for the stirring work of God during our revival services, and for the continued spiritual growth we've found through our study in the book of James.

God has been moving in our midst, and we have every reason to give thanks and press forward with hope.



### VBS: A Week of Joy, Service, and Gospel Seeds

Vacation Bible School this year was truly a highlight of our summer—and possibly of the whole year! From beginning to end, it was clear that God had His hand on every detail.

We want to offer a huge thank-you to all who made the week a success:

- To those who led crafts, thank you for helping young hearts create reminders of God's truth through glitter, glue, and imagination.
- To our group leaders, thank you for guiding little ones from place to place with patience, warmth, and joy.

- To our kitchen crew, your meals and snacks were a ministry in themselves—serving both body and spirit with love.
- To those who taught Bible lessons, thank you for faithfully planting the gospel into eager minds and hearts.
- To those who led games and activities, your energy and enthusiasm brought excitement and connection that helped these children build friendships and memories wrapped in God's love.

A special note of celebration goes to our incredible teens and preteens who stepped up into servant-



(continued from page 1)

leadership roles this year. Whether they were helping in classrooms, running games, or assisting with younger kids, their joy and maturity were inspiring. What a beautiful picture of the future of the Church—young people learning to lead by serving. We thank God for you, and we encourage you to keep growing into the leaders God is shaping you to be.

And of course, at the heart of it all was April Casaday, our phenomenal Children's Ministry Director. April, your quiet strength, tireless planning, and Christ-centered heart are the reason VBS runs so smoothly and so powerfully. You go above and beyond—not just in what's seen, but in all the behind-the-scenes moments that make the week possible. We are incredibly blessed by your leadership, your love for these children, and your deep desire to see them come to know Jesus.

#### Revival: The Flame Has Been Lit

Thank you also to everyone who attended our recent revival services. What a time of refreshing, repentance, and renewal we experienced together! The messages reminded us that revival doesn't come from hype or events—it comes from the Holy Spirit igniting hearts that are hungry for Him. And it always begins with the individual. True revival starts when each of us says, "Lord, have Your way in me." As we move forward, let's keep that fire alive—

not just for a week, but for a lifetime. May our church be known not just for hosting revivals but for living revived.

#### James: A Word for Right Now

As we approach the end of our sermon series through the book of James, we recognize just how timely and powerful this little book is—especially for a church navigating a season of transition. James is not a letter filled with theory; it's a call to practical, working faith—the kind of faith that holds up in real life, and in uncertain seasons.

Here are some of the core themes we've explored, and how they apply right now:

- Faith in Action: James reminds us that faith isn't just something we say—it's something we do. In times of change, we're called to live out our trust in God with service, unity, and boldness.
- Wisdom from Above: Transitions require wisdom. James 3:17 describes the wisdom from heaven as pure, peaceable, gentle... full of mercy. May that kind of wisdom guide our leadership and decisions.
- Endurance in Trials: James opens with a call to "count it all joy" when facing trials. Why? Because endurance is being built. Whatever uncertainty lies ahead, we know that God is shaping us for greater maturity.
- Guarding Our Words: James calls us to be "slow to speak, slow to anger," and

to use our words to build up, not tear down. In seasons of transition, gracious speech and active listening are more important than ever.

- Drawing Near to God: In James 4, we're told to "draw near to God, and He will draw near to you." What a promise! In changing times, God doesn't move away—He comes closer.
- Being Doers of the Word: James challenges us not just to hear sermons or read Scripture, but to live it. What better way to honor this season than by walking in obedience—together, faithfully, one step at a time?

Church family, the Lord has not brought us this far to leave us now. He is at work—in our children, in our youth, in our hearts, and in our church. June reminded us that the Church is alive, active, and filled with purpose. Let's carry that spirit forward. We may be in transition, but we are not in turmoil. God is faithful, and we trust Him to guide every step. As James teaches us, we're not just waiting for things to happen—we're stepping out in faith, speaking truth in love, and doing the good work He's set before us.

Let's walk forward, full of gratitude for what God has done and full of hope for what He will do next.

With love and thankfulness,

Joey Cole  
Worship Pastor

*First, I would like to say a big thank you for your continued support of the Widows ministry! Although we don't always talk about being Widows, nor do we talk about the grief associated with that, we all have a bond and an understanding of what each other has lived through with the loss of our spouse. This camaraderie is so very important to all of us! We've had quite a variety of programs this year, including some great entertainment this past month by the drama team from Tri-Cities homeschool co-op. We all enjoyed these energetic, entertaining teenagers so very much! We've also had some great devotions and are looking forward to a time of testimony this coming month. Last month we had 61 Widows from a wide variety of churches in our area. I'm so blessed to lead this ministry, which would be nothing without the great team of volunteers that help prepare lunch! God is continuing to bless! Please continue to pray for this ministry as we move forward to glorify the Lord through the care of his Widows!!*

*Kathy Sharp*



Widows  
Ministry



# *the month of* JULY

## *birthdays*

1<sup>st</sup>

Donna Dixon

3<sup>rd</sup>

Eli Dunavent

4<sup>th</sup>

Cadence Dixon

Margot Sary

5<sup>th</sup>

Ernie Fleenor

7<sup>th</sup>

Peggy Price

8<sup>th</sup>

Chris Blevins

Bobbie Lewis

Hollie Ryan

9<sup>th</sup>

Linda Douberly

Eddie Guy

10<sup>th</sup>

Zane Sary

11<sup>th</sup>

Pamela Stanton

13<sup>th</sup>

Tom Murray

14<sup>th</sup>

Lauren Spence

15<sup>th</sup>

Cooper Moore

16<sup>th</sup>

Courtney Gent

17<sup>th</sup>

Linda Altizer

Jessica Carter

Clay Jackson

Vivian Spence

19<sup>th</sup>

Anson Cole

22<sup>nd</sup>

Connie Stipes

Donna Whisman

23<sup>rd</sup>

Marvin Feagins

24<sup>th</sup>

Drew Brush

25<sup>th</sup>

Sherry Zimmerman

27<sup>th</sup>

David Hunt

29<sup>th</sup>

Nancy Chapman

30<sup>th</sup>

Doris Gordon

31<sup>st</sup>

Adelayde Gott

Tarver Gott

## *Event Calendar*

1<sup>st</sup>

### **Transition Team Meeting**

Fellowship Hall 6:00 PM (Every Tuesday)

2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Kidz Korner**

Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm  
(Every Wednesday)

2<sup>nd</sup>

### **Youth Worship Service**

TABC 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)

3<sup>rd</sup>

### **Celebrate Recovery**

Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)

4<sup>th</sup>

### **Independence Day Holiday**

Church Office, Academy & Early  
Childhood Education Center Closed

4<sup>th</sup>

### **Senior Adult Breakfast**

Fiddler's Restaurant, Abingdon 9:00 am

6<sup>th</sup>

### **Children's Summer Program**

Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm  
(Every Sunday)

6<sup>th</sup>

### **Youth Worship Service**

Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)

17<sup>th</sup>-20<sup>th</sup>

### **TACS Pre-School Conference**

19<sup>th</sup>

### **SON Golf League**

Graysburg Hills Golf Course 8:00 am

21<sup>st</sup>

### **Meals on Wheels**

25<sup>th</sup>

### **Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting**

8:00 pm-12:00 am

28<sup>th</sup>

### **Widows Luncheon**

FH 12:00 noon

31<sup>st</sup>

### **Finance Team Meeting**

TABC 6:00 pm

# *God Bless* **AMERICA**

## *anniversaries*

10<sup>th</sup>

Keith & Debbie Boyd

David & Sarah Hunt

14<sup>th</sup>

Rick & Carol Hale

16<sup>th</sup>

Tim & Vonda Beavers

19<sup>th</sup>

Chris & Kathy Koserski

22<sup>nd</sup>

Paul & Donna Whisman

23<sup>rd</sup>

Caleb & Lindsey Boyd

24<sup>th</sup>

Wayne & Pamela Stanton



# dear CHURCH family

## THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for praying for me during this time, and for all the cards and calls. You don't know what it means to be a part of such a praying church. Love in Christ,  
**Lois Nixon**

Thank you for your support during this difficult time. The flowers and food were appreciated.  
**The Hillmans**

How grateful and thankful I am for being a part of TABC. Your prayers for me were definitely answered and I thank you for the phone calls, beautiful flowers, cards, and a special visit by Bro. Joey at Encompass. Love in Christ,  
**Joan Calhoun**

## Welcome Baby!



**Zane & Chelsea Sary**  
Announce the birth of



**Juniper Roam Sary**

She weighed 7 lbs. 6 oz.  
And was 19.75" long



Born

Saturday, March 29, 2025



Proud Grandparents:  
Sam & Connie Messer

**CONGRATULATIONS!**

## SON League Christian Golf League 2025 Remaining Tournaments

July 19<sup>th</sup>  
Graysburg Hills Golf Course  
Aug. 16<sup>th</sup>  
Twin Creeks Golf  
Sept. 20<sup>th</sup>  
Elizabethton Golf Course  
Oct. 4<sup>th</sup>  
Meadowview Cattails Golf Course

Please contact Keith Boyd:  
423-383-3657 or email  
[keith@empirelabelpromo.com](mailto:keith@empirelabelpromo.com)

**Online GIVING**

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



Text  
**JOYPLACE**  
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**73256**  
to give via  
text  
message.

## TABC FINANCES

### Tithes & Offerings

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

06/01/2025 Offering	\$ 16,499.00
06/08/2025 Offering	\$ 9,756.00
06/15/2025 Offering	\$ 5,534.00
06/22/2025 Offering	\$ 10,843.00
On-line Giving 5/28-6/23/25	\$ 7,203.38
Period Giving Total	\$ 49,835.38
Total 2025 offering YTD:	\$328,371.96

### Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$ 834,087.79
General Account	\$ 185,583.64
Designated Account	\$ 73,603.02
Daycare / Academy	\$ 37,389.02
Money Market	\$ 129,446.73



## SENIOR ADULT BREAKFAST

Senior Adults,  
join us at  
Fiddler's Restaurant  
in Abingdon, VA  
for great food and fun  
fellowship!

**July 4<sup>th</sup> 9 AM**

# SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH

**SAVE  
THE  
DATE!**

# CHURCH PICNIC

**beginning at 3 PM**

**Steele Creek Park, Shelter G**





# TACA Sword & Shield

JULY 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!*

## THANKFUL!

God has granted us a great vision at Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy to provide an exceptional Christ-centered education that is not only affordable but also treasures the word of God above all. Through the tremendous dreams and sacrifices of Brother Joe Hudson and the members of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church, we have served hundreds of children through the Early Childhood Education Center and Academy. We're thankful to be part of the East Tennessee community and dedicated to educating every child in a Christ-centered environment of excellence unlike anywhere else. TACA continues to offer one of the lowest tuitions in the region.

It is important to note that Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy has satisfactorily met or exceeded the requirements of Tennessee Association of Christian Schools and the American Association of Christian Schools, and is recognized by both entities as a SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE. Every faculty member on staff has been reviewed and approved by the Tennessee Association of Christian Schools. I think it is very fitting that in our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year, Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy is seeking accreditation by Tennessee Association of Christian Schools and the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools.

God truly has great things in store for this school, and I believe His blessings are so abundant because of the goodness of the Father and the faithfulness of the members of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

Thank you for your constant, faithful, loving support of TACA.

I am forever grateful for the opportunity to serve.

Cindy Beal  
Administrator

## SATURDAY WORKDAY

We are thankful for the army of volunteers that came for Saturday Workday! Thank you! From spreading mulch on the Early Education Center and Elementary playgrounds to Phase 2 of our renovation project, the campus was buzzing with workers.





# TACA Sword & Shield

JULY 2025

## ALUMNI UPDATE

Following is an Update from Amelia Harkleroad:

“Week 1 update! I have already been blessed with so many opportunities! I have made new friends and new memories, and I have gotten to see old and familiar faces! God has already been working in my life, and I am so thankful for that! I love all the people here and I love my teammates so much! Thank you all for your prayers, and I just want to ask that you keep praying for my teammates, me, and Hope Alive church as we continue through this month!”

“My full 3<sup>rd</sup> week has been so good! Delicious food, hanging out with friends, going to a Lions baseball game, and having the opportunity to worship on the praise team and talk at Hope Alive church! I have been so thankful for these opportunities... thank you Lord for the opportunities that are still to come with my remaining time here!”



Hope Alive Church



Teaching Children's Church



Street ministry "Let's Speak English"





Tennessee Avenue  
Early Childhood Education



# TACA Sword & Shield

JULY 2025

Families,

Happy July! Summer is in full swing here on campus. We've had a busy few weeks in the center and with Camp! Camp has already been on several field trips (see pictures below) and have been learning about people in the Bible who did everything for the glory of God (1 Corinthians 10:31). They've already learned about Noah, Moses, Abraham, and Joseph, and have many more to go. What is even more great about it is that each week they have memory verses to learn that go along with the lesson, and we have had several that have been able to recite them by the end of the week. What an amazing way to start their foundation in Christ!

Our theme verse, mentioned above, is about making sure that everything we do, we do for the glory of God. I think sometimes that is something that is easily forgotten. We forget that everything we do as Christians should give glory and honor to God. Instead, we often want to take all the credit or get mad if someone doesn't recognize a "job well done". When instead we should not be worried about getting the credit or boasting. We should be worried about if we did it for the right reasons. What glory does God get when all you hear is someone talking about what they did, and how great it was? Or even better, when we see or hear someone get mad because they did something, but think they didn't get the proper recognition or thanks? How does that give glory to God?

Matthew 5:14-16 (NKJV) says: *"You are the light of the world. A city that is set on a hill cannot be hidden. Nor do they light a lamp and put it under a basket, but on a lampstand, and it gives light to all who are in the house. Let your light so shine before men, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven."* To me, this is saying it's not about our individual "light", but about the "light" that we share. It's not about what we get out of doing something good; it is about what good we are doing for others. It's not about "tootin' our own horns"; it is about giving the glory to God.

So, the next time you get upset because someone didn't thank you, or because you didn't get the recognition you think you deserve, remember, why did you do it in the first place? Did you do it for your own glory? Or, are you doing it for the glory of God? You may not ever get recognized while on earth for something you did, but if you have done all that you can for His honor and His glory, then the rewards will be waiting when we get to eternity!

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



## DATES TO REMEMBER:

Friday, July 4<sup>th</sup>:

Closed (including K4 & Camp Joy)

Thursday, July 17<sup>th</sup>

Closing at 2pm for Conference (including K4;  
Camp Joy will close at regular time)

Friday, July 18<sup>th</sup>

Closed (Center & K4 Closed due to conference,  
Summer Camp closed due to paving project)

*Return Service Requested*

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

## Prayer Prompter

*As we celebrate the day of our  
independence from a tyrannical King,  
Let us also declare our dependence on  
The King of ALL Kings  
by starting everyday in prayer.*

*See Psalm 5:3*

## COME JOIN US!

### SUNDAYS

Sunday School	9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship Service	11:00 a.m.
Evening Worship Service	6:00 p.m.
Children's Summer Program	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)*