

The TABL Journal

October 2025

Volume 34, Issue 10



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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



How Big is our Savior??? Bigger Than Any Storm

Dear Church Family,

As I sit down to write this, I do so with a heart overflowing with gratitude. I have always preached and sang about the faithfulness of God, but in these past weeks I have lived it in a way I never imagined. Life has a way of bringing storms that we never see coming. Sometimes they hit suddenly, and sometimes they build slowly on the horizon until they are right upon us. For me, that storm came in the form of open heart surgery.

I will be honest with you—there were moments when the weight of it all felt overwhelming. The hospital bed felt scary at times. The long nights and the uncertainty of what

recovery would look like had me questioning my own strength. Yet, in those lowest moments, the Lord whispered His Word to me. I remembered the promise of Isaiah 41:10 (NKJV), "Fear not, for I am with you; be not dismayed, for I am your God. I will strengthen you, yes, I will help you, I will uphold you with My righteous right hand."

And I can testify to you now—He did just that. His hand upheld me. By His grace, and in a way that defies explanation, I was released back to my regular duties in just three weeks and two days. When I consider how serious the surgery was, and how much longer recovery might have been, I can only say, "Great is Thy faithfulness, Lord unto me."

There were other scriptures that anchored me as well. Psalm 46:1 (NKJV) reminded me daily, "God is our refuge and strength, a very present help in trouble." On mornings when it felt difficult to

even think about taking the next step forward, I clung to Lamentations 3:22-23 (NKJV), "Through the Lord's mercies we are not consumed, because His compassions fail not. They are new every morning; great is Your faithfulness." And in the stillness of the night, I heard the words of John 14:27 (NKJV), "Peace I leave with you, My peace I give to you; not as the world gives do I give to you. Let not your heart be troubled, neither let it be afraid."

But I want to pause here and say this: God's faithfulness was not only shown to me through His Word, but also through His people—you, the Tennessee Avenue church family. I cannot thank you enough for the way you rallied around us. Every visit, every card, every text message, every meal that was dropped off, every call, every word of encouragement—it all reminded us that we are not alone. You embodied Galatians 6:2 (NKJV), "Bear one another's burdens, and so fulfill the law of

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Christ." When I think back on the prayers that were lifted up for me and for Alyson, I know that God heard and answered through your intercession.

And let me take a moment to speak of my wife. Church, you have a pastor's wife who is truly remarkable. Through this storm, she showed a strength that humbled me. She was my advocate when I could not speak for myself, my protector when I was at my weakest, and my constant encourager. She sat beside me when hours felt like days, and she never wavered in her care. Proverbs 31:10 (NKJV) asks, *"Who can find a virtuous wife? For her worth is far above rubies."* I can tell you, I have found one. I am so thankful that many of you loved on her during this time—encouraging her, checking on her, praying for her. The kindness you showed to her was one of the greatest gifts you could have given me.

As I reflect on what I have learned, one truth rises above all others: the storm itself is not what matters most—it is how we respond to it. Jesus never promised us a life without storms. In fact, He said

in John 16:33 (NKJV), *"In the world you will have tribulation; but be of good cheer, I have overcome the world."* What matters is whether we respond in fear or in faith, whether we allow the storm to shake us or whether we cling to the Rock who does not move.

This lesson is not just for me, but for all of us as a church family. Tennessee Avenue has faced storms before, and I know we will face them again. Some storms come in the form of personal trials—health, finances, loss. Some storms come as challenges to our church body—changes, difficulties, spiritual attacks. But what will define us is not the size of the storm, but the strength of our Savior.

When the disciples were in the boat in Matthew 8, the storm raged around them, and they were afraid. But Jesus was in the boat with them. He rose and spoke, and the winds and the waves obeyed Him. Church, I want to remind you—Jesus is in the boat with us. We do not weather these storms alone. And because of that, we can respond not with panic, but with prayer. Not with

fear, but with faith. Not with division, but with devotion to Christ and to one another.

So I encourage you, Tennessee Avenue: stay the course. Remain faithful. Keep your eyes fixed on Jesus. When storms come, let us love one another, stand together, and press forward in unity. Let us respond as Christ would have us respond—with patience, with grace, and with unwavering trust in His promises.

I will never forget what the Lord has taught me in this season, and I pray that my testimony can be an encouragement to you. Thank you again for every act of kindness you have shown to my family and me. You are a living example of the love of Christ, and I am honored to be your pastor.

May we stand strong together in every storm, confident that God is faithful to His Word, and that His promises never fail.

With deep love and gratitude,

Joey Cole
Worship Pastor



Children ages 2 through 5th grades, come join us for AWANA on Sunday Evenings at 6:00 p.m. We have lots of fun theme nights as we learn to hide God's Word in our hearts!



SNACKS
(WHILE SUPPLIES LAST)

GAMES

TREAT BAGS

PHOTO SPOT

GIVEAWAYS

PRIZES

CAKE WALK

SUNDAY
NOVEMBER

2
4-6 PM



Following is a list of ministries, compiled by our TIM Team, that Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church supports:

Meals on Wheels is an outreach that delivers meals to seniors, shut-ins, and people with disabilities who are unable to prepare food for themselves. TABC has been part of a community-wide program for over 30 years. We prepare and deliver 30-40 meals on the 3rd Monday of each month. The Lord has blessed our TABC Meals on Wheels ministry with dedicated volunteers who plan, prepare, and deliver the meals.

Celebrate Recovery is a biblically based approach to help achieve long-lasting recovery by healing our hurts, guiding us toward new healthy truths, and developing life-giving habits.

Widows Ministry is a ministry that invites widowed women both in and outside of our congregation to share in fellowship through regular events.

Music Ministry We desire to bring glory & honor to our Lord and Savior, Jesus, by offering up to Him our sacrifice of praise and worship through music.

"Rooted" Youth Ministry The purpose of the youth ministry of TABC is to reach people for Christ, make disciples, and serve together.

Casa de Restauración Mission Bristol
TABC shares our facilities with a sister Hispanic SBC church that meets in a

designated worship area.

Children's Ministry The Children's Ministry of TABC seeks to help children realize their potential in Christ.

Women's Community Bible Study
This ladies' Bible Study meets at TABC each Thursday for a 30-week Bible study. Currently studying the book of Psalms.

Holston Baptist Association This organization's mission is "Harnessing Kingdom Potential through Cooperating Churches". <https://holstonba.org>

Tennessee Baptist Mission Board This organization's mission is "Multiplying gospel leaders who advance God's kingdom"
<https://www.tnbaptist.org>

Southern Baptist Association SBC is a collection of like-minded churches working in cooperation with one another to impact the whole world with the Good News of Jesus Christ
<https://www.SBC.net>

Haven of Rest This organization's mission is to move precious people from the realm of human suffering to sustainable human flourishing through the power of the gospel of Jesus Christ.

Abuse Alternatives Abuse Alternatives, Inc. has 40 years of experience providing comprehensive, confidential services to survivors of relationship abuse/violence. Their 24/7 Hotline provides support and access to services with staff who specialize in dealing with relationship violence/abuse issues.

Tennessee Baptist Children's Home
TBCH provides Christ-centered homes for children in difficult situations across Tennessee through compassionate on-campus homes and foster families.

Missionaries Middle East Christian Network, Mike and Amy Martin with Wycliffe Bible Translators & the Vanderfords are our AWANA Missionaries.

Rick Coram Evangelism <https://www.rickcoramministries.com>

Recovery Soldier Ministries This recovery ministry provides men and women with a faith-based recovery program that promotes spiritual development through practical biblical teaching, and comprehensive life skills that release them from the bondage of addiction.

Run for the Son CMA is a ministry primarily, but not exclusively, to bikers. CMA's vision is changing the world, one heart at a time. With a strong belief in giving, we have looked for ways to touch the heart of God through personal outreach and by supporting other ministries with world-reaching potential.

Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy The mission of Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy is to provide an affordable, Christ-centered education that enriches the lives of students and families through the incorporation of Biblical principles, academic excellence, athletics, fine arts, and community outreach ministry.

Tennessee Avenue Early Childhood Education Center The mission of Tennessee Avenue Early Childhood Education Center is to provide a loving, caring, quality child-care facility focusing on the child's emotional, intellectual, and spiritual development; and to provide guidance that will enable every child to portray the love of Jesus in every aspect of their lives.

Our group has been dubbed the Bristol Community Widows, and I believe that is an accurate reflection, since widows from all around the community attend. Plus we have the great feeling of camaraderie and community as well. And isn't that what God intended for us? As I reflect on how God has blessed this ministry, I am amazed and overwhelmed - although I should not be!!! It gives a new perspective and understanding of the phrase 'beauty from ashes'. It is tremendously uplifting and satisfying to see new and long-time widows of all ages fellowshiping over food and enjoying the programs. The people God puts in my path to bless us with devotions, singing, and instruction is mind blowing!! Recently we had a presentation on phone, fb and internet scams from our local police which was very helpful and much appreciated. Last month we had Rebecca Reynolds, former TACA drama teacher and author of "The Lady and the Preacher", who was accompanied by her husband Brian and by the lady and the preacher that the book was based on - Pastor Tony and Cindy Collins. It was an anointed time in the Lord! We had a record crowd, serving 68 widows, 10 workers, and our office staff. God just keeps on providing and blessing and I am so thankful that He has allowed me to lead this ministry!! I must also thank all of you who pray, give designated gifts to support the ministry, and especially to the workers who make it happen and who are really the backbone of it all!!! If any of you are interested in helping please let me know! God Bless You All! Keep praying and expecting great things!

Kathy Sharp

Widows Ministry

the month of

OCTOBER

event calendar

birthdays

2 nd	Lydia Keys	8 th	Sheila Gamble	15 th	Marilyn Feathers
	Teresa Martin		Kent Peters	17 th	Melanie Hutton
	Betty Woosley	9 th	Sarah Hunt	20 th	Doug Cox
3 rd	Beth Haynes	12 th	June Cornelius	22 nd	Ava Fuller
	Erin Kirk		Teresa Hart	27 th	Brookelyn Bouton
4 th	Jim Rush, Jr.	13 th	Alivia Hutchins		Bettye Gilreath
	Amanda Phipps		Judy Watkins	28 th	Chelsea Sary
6 th	Lee Jackson		Paul Whisman	30 th	Sandee Tallman
	Jared Leonard	14 th	Randy Leonard		Patty Borja
7 th	Linda Kendrick		Peggy Phipps		Holston Cornelius

1 st	TACA Parent Chapel Sanctuary 8:15 am
1 st	Kidz Korner Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
1 st	Youth Service Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
2 nd	Ladies' Community Bible Study TABC 9:15—11:15 am (Thursdays)
2 nd	Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
3 rd	Senior Adult Breakfast Cracker Barrel, Exit 7 9:00 am
3 rd	TACA Home Volleyball Matches FLB beginning 5:30 pm
4 th	SON Golf League Tournament Meadowview Cattails Golf Course
5 th	Churchwide Picnic Steele Creek Park, Shelter G 3:00 pm
6 th	TACA Home Volleyball Matches FLB beginning 5:30 pm
7 th	TACA Home Volleyball Matches FLB beginning 5:30 pm
9 th	Finance Team Meeting Church Office 6:00 pm
12 th	AWANA Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
12 th	Youth Service Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
13 th -17 th	TACA Fall Break
23 rd	Finance Team Meeting Church Office 6:00 pm
27 th	Widows Ministry Luncheon Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon

anniversaries

4 th	Don & Sylvia Rowland	14 th	Sam & Connie Messer	18 th	Brandon & Nikki Stevens
12 th	Chris & Rachel Blevins	16 th	Richard & Abby Sharrett		

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Thank you so very much for all of your prayers lifted up for me during my recent surgery and recovery. John and I have also been so blessed by your texts, phone calls, cards, food and the flowers sent to us. I am thankful also to be a part of such a loving and praying church family. Love in Christ,
Kathi Gentry

To my brothers and sisters in Christ: You are truly a blessing. Thank you all for your prayers, concerns and my beautiful flowers as I recovered from surgery. Love my church family,
Jennie Shipplett

Church family, I cannot begin to express how wonderful you have been to Jim and me. I just thank you from the bottom of my heart that the church has been there in every way. We love each one and request your prayers. Love,
Jim & Cathy Smith

TABC WELCOMES

By Letter

JoAnn Lester



TABC FINANCES	
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>	
“...try Me now in this,” Says the LORD of hosts... See Malachi 3:10	
8/31/2025 Offering	\$ 8,884.00
9/07/2025 Offering	\$ 11,461.00
9/14/2025 Offering	\$ 7,706.00
9/21/2025 Offering	\$ 11,695.00
On-line Giving 8/26-9/22/2025	\$ 5,312.91
Period Giving Total	\$ 45,058.91
Total 2025 Offering YTD:	\$ 484,340.28
Bank Balances	
Current Loan Balance	\$ 813,756.22
General Account	\$ 139,014.13
Designated Account	\$ 77,626.33
Daycare / Academy	\$ 109,304.50
Money Market	\$ 22,086.79

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 5TH
CHURCH PICNIC
beginning at 3 PM
Steele Creek Park, Shelter G

The church will provide chicken, water and soft drinks. Please bring a side dish and/or dessert to share; a blanket or lawn chair; fun outdoor games and join in the fun and fellowship! Please note: There is a \$2.00 gate fee to enter the park.

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

Online GIVING
Visit tabaptist.org and select the 'Giving' tab ~OR~ Open the Mobile App, select "Church", then "Give".

October is
PASTOR APPRECIATION month
Please show our pastors how much you appreciate them!



TACA OCTOBER 2025 Sword & Shield

October UPCOMING EVENTS

1st

PARENT CHAPEL

Special Music from our
2nd and 3rd Grade
Students.

8:15 am

3rd

SENIOR VOLLEYBALL NIGHT

6:30 PM

6th-10th

SPIRIT WEEK!

DETAILS TO BE
ANNOUNCED

13th-17th

FALL BREAK TACA CLOSED

Childcare is available
only for students that
are enrolled in
morning/afternoon
care.

24th

REPORT CARDS

TACA Report Cards
Distributed

**PROUD TO BE
A CRUSADER!**



"I will praise the
name of God with
a song, and will
magnify him with
thanksgiving."

Psalm 69:30

**Tennessee Avenue
Christian Academy**



TACA Sword & Shield

OCTOBER 2025

Teacher Feature

Mrs. Robyn Reece

Associates in Bible & Business
Welch College
Bachelor of Arts
Interdisciplinary Studies
Western Governors University

"I have a passion for learning and enjoy instilling that passion in my students."

I began my teaching career at Beaufort Christian Academy in Beaufort, NC and then at Macon Road Baptist School in Arlington / Memphis TN, Greene County Schools in Greeneville, TN, and I came to TACA in August of 2018.

I enjoy most watching students overcome challenges and grasp new concepts."



Mrs. Jill Hutchins

Bachelor of Science
Elementary Education K-6
Appalachian State University

"I began teaching in 1992 in NC. I have taught various grades. I joined TACA in 2016 as a full-time teacher. I knew it was God's plan for my life. He spoke directly to me!"

I have always had a love for children and a passion to teach. It is my calling from God. I chose teaching because it allows me to shape children's lives, guiding them not only in their learning but also in growing them into the individuals God created them to be.

I love that I can freely speak the name of Jesus at TACA. I pray I can plant many seeds into the lives of these children. I enjoy watching my students grasp a new concept, develop confidence, and overcome challenges. These 'lightbulb moments' bring me joy! I also enjoy building lasting relationships with my students and being a positive influence in their lives. My students are my heart!"



Tennessee Avenue
Early Childhood Education



Families,

I love this time of year. Fall and Spring are by far my favorite seasons. There is so much change that it is a great reminder of the majesty of our Creator. How amazing that He has given us different seasons to enjoy! Just like the seasons of the year, we often go through seasons in our lives. Happy times, sad times, hard times, times of growth, times of despair, times of hope, times of peace. And honestly, sometimes we may go through many of these times within a day, a week or a month. We may often feel like we are drowning, or we may not be able to see the proverbial "light at the end of the tunnel". What can be even harder is when these hard times hit us out of nowhere. One minute you may be up on the mountain, the next you're down in the valley (The God on the Mountain is one of my favorite songs!). But what is true no matter what season we are in, no matter what time we are facing, is that God never changes. Psalm 107:1 says, "O give thanks unto the LORD, for he is good: for his mercy endureth forever." (KJV) When we are struggling, it is often hard to remember to give thanks, because often it is hard to see the things we have to be thankful for. But there is always good in every situation. Even though we may not be able to see it, the good is there. 1 Thessalonians 5:18 says, "In every thing give thanks: for this is the will of God in Christ Jesus concerning you." (KJV) My challenge to you is to remember when you are in those hard times, in those valleys, to be thankful, even if it is for something as simple as a drink of water, and to remember that this time won't last forever. Seasons change, but God, He stays the same.

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett

Director, Early Childhood Education Center



DATES TO REMEMBER:

October 31st:
Fall Class Celebrations



Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
BRISTOL, TENN.
PERMIT #90

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

COME JOIN US!

Prayer Prompter

*The days are getting shorter,
the air is getting cooler,
it's harvest time.*

*"Pray ye therefore
the Lord of the harvest,
that he will send forth
labourers into his harvest."
Matthew 9:38*

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

*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)*