

The TABC Journal

December 2025

Volume 34, Issue 12

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
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

Inside this Issue:

Ministry Information	1-3
Birthdays & Anniversaries	4
December Events	4
Dear Church Family	5
TACA Sword & Shield	6-7



Church family,

I want to begin by offering a heartfelt word of thanks to everyone who volunteered for our Community Fall Festival on November 2nd. What an incredible day of ministry, fellowship, and community connection! A special thank-you goes to April, whose steady leadership and joyful service helped make the entire event a success. And to every volunteer who set up games, cooked food, greeted families, cleaned up, or simply showed the love of Christ through a smile—thank you. Days like these remind me how blessed I am to serve alongside such

a faithful church family.

As we prepare to enter the Christmas season, we also enter what is for many the busiest time of the year. Schedules fill up, emotions can run high, and the calendar moves faster than our hearts can follow. Yet it's often in the bustle of December that we need to be "fed" most by the Word of God. If we're not careful, we can celebrate Christmas while starving spiritually.

To help keep our hearts anchored, I want to give our entire church a gift: a simple daily Advent Devotional Guide, designed to help you slow down, breathe, and remember why this season matters. On the next page is a short guide you can use individually or with your family. My prayer is that these Scriptures and

reflections will keep your spirit nourished as we walk toward Christmas together. Church family, I pray this simple devotional helps you stay spiritually nourished throughout December. If we'll take time to feed on God's Word—even for just a few minutes each day—we'll find that our hearts become calmer, our joy grows deeper, and our worship becomes sweeter. Advent is not about adding more to your to-do list—it's about making room for the One who came to save us.

On a personal note, thank you again for your kindness, generosity, and love during Pastor Appreciation and also my birthday. It is truly my honor to serve the wonderful family of Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church.

Continued on Page 2

Continued from Page 1

“Preparing Him Room”

2025 Advent Devotional Guide

December 1 – Hope Begins with a Promise

Isaiah 9:2

Even in darkness, God speaks hope. As your month begins, ask Him to shine His light into your busy places.

December 2 – Life from the Stump

Isaiah 11:1

God can bring new life out of what feels worn out or overwhelmed. Trust Him with your December.

December 3 – Waiting with Faith

Psalms 130:5

Real hope waits expectantly. Pause today and ask: “Lord, what do You want to grow in me this season?”

December 4 – Peace That Calms the Heart

John 14:27

Jesus offers peace the world cannot give—not in quieter schedules, but in His presence.

December 5 – The Prince of Peace Reigns

Isaiah 9:6

Let Christ govern your thoughts today. Invite Him to rule over every stress, decision, and moment.

December 6 – A Still and Quiet Spirit

Psalms 131:2

Before the weekend rush begins, breathe deeply and rest your soul in God’s care.

December 7 – Good News of Great Joy

Luke 2:10

Joy isn’t found in events or purchases but in the Savior who came for *you*. Rejoice today.

December 8 – Joy in His Presence

Psalms 16:11

Take a few minutes to sit quietly with the Lord. Joy grows best in stillness with Him.

December 9 – God’s Love on Display

1 John 4:9–11

Christmas is God saying, “I love you first.” Let that love shape your interactions today.

December 10 – Love That Never Lets Go

Romans 8:38–39

Nothing—no stress, no fear, no burden—can separate you from the love of Christ.

December 11 – Salvation in His Name

Matthew 1:21

Jesus came to save us from our sins. Let gratitude fill your prayers today.

December 12 – The Word Became Flesh

John 1:14

This is the heart of Christmas: God came near. Let His nearness encourage you.

December 13 – A Light for All People

Isaiah 42:1–4

Pray for someone who needs the hope and light of Christ this season.

December 14 – Strength from His Joy

Nehemiah 8:10

When your strength feels thin, ask God to strengthen you with His joy.

December 15 – Mercy Every Morning

Lamentations 3:22–24

Start your week remembering that God’s mercy covers each new day of December.

December 16 – Peace Through Prayer

Philippians 4:6–7

Bring your worries to the Lord and let His peace guard your heart.

December 17 – Joy in Giving

Acts 20:35

Look for a simple way to bless someone today—joy grows as we give.

December 18 – The Shepherds’ Wonder

Luke 2:15–16

Slow down long enough to wonder again at the miracle of His birth.

December 19 – Hope that Overflows

Romans 15:13

Pray for God to fill you with hope that spills into every conversation.

December 20 – A Family of Faith

Galatians 4:4–7

Because Christ came, we are sons and daughters of God. Rest in that identity.

December 21 – Love in Action

John 13:34–35

Let every word and action reflect the love of the Christ who loved you first.

December 22 – Emmanuel—God with Us

Matthew 1:23

Remember: wherever you go this week, you never go alone.

December 23 – The Humble King

Philippians 2:5–8

Reflect on the humility of Christ, who traded heaven’s glory for a manger.

December 24 – Glory to God in the Highest

Luke 2:13–14

Before the celebrations begin, pause to give God glory for sending His Son.

December 25 – Christ Has Come

Luke 2:1–20

Today we rejoice that the Savior has been born. Read the story with your family and celebrate His grace.

Merry Christmas Christ Has Come!!!!

Pastor Joey

Worship Pastor



Prov: 3:5-6 *"Trust in the LORD with all your heart and lean not on your own understanding; In ALL your ways acknowledge Him, and He shall direct your paths."*

These are among my favorite verses in the Bible. Our human understanding is limited because of sin, limited wisdom, impulsive assumptions, and faulty emotions.

Prov. 14:12: *"There is a way that seems right to man, but its end is the way of death."* This verse reminds us that our ways are not always right. Oh, but God! He is all-powerful, all-knowing, all-wise, loving, and has good plans to guide us. Isaiah 58:11: *"The Lord will guide you continually and satisfy your soul in drought and*

strengthen your bones; you shall be like a watered garden, and like a spring of water, whose waters do not fail."

Please continue to pray for the TIM team, as we seek God's guidance in ALL our ways.

Johnny Hutchins
TIM TEAM



Dear Church Family,

As the Christmas season is just around the corner, it's the perfect time to reflect on God's Blessings and our Lord and Savior. I'm writing this before Thanksgiving and wanted to let you know how very thankful I am for each and every one in our congregation. We truly are Blessed to be able to come together and hear God's

word as a close-knit group of believers... otherwise known as my church family!

Although we have had bumps and bruises this past year, we've also had many bright spots. God has provided wonderful pastors to help us fill in as needed. I feel we have all been fed the gospel, and enjoyed each and every message brought to us. God has generously seen us through financial and other various hardships and provided as needed. I feel these trials have also brought many of us closer together, as well as closer to God. What else could we ask for?

I ask that you also please take time to reflect on your blessings. How can we be down in spirit when we are praising and thanking God for all he does for us? He

came to this earth for us; he lived for us; he died for us; and he rose again, for us. Praise His Holy Name!

I do ask one favor; we've been blessed to have visitors on multiple occasions. If you see someone new, please take time to make them feel welcome, as they may become a part of our church family.

Let's keep all those on our Prayer Request List, our Pastor Search Committee, the TIM Team, and our many TABC ministries in our daily thoughts and prayers.

I pray God blesses each one of you.

Sincerely,
Scott Frazier



It's the most wonderful time of the year—and one of the most meaningful! As we enter December, our hearts turn toward celebrating the birth of Jesus, the greatest gift ever given. In Children's Ministry this month, we'll be

helping kids understand the *true* joy of Christmas—not just in gifts and glitter, but in God's incredible love for us.

Mark your calendars for our **Children's Christmas Sing-a-long and Cookie Service on Sunday, December 21st at 11:00 am!** This special event will be full of music, laughter, and sweet treats as we celebrate the season together with songs that tell the story of Jesus' birth. It's a wonderful opportunity for families to join in worship and fellowship.

We'll also continue exploring the

Christmas story each week through fun lessons, crafts, and songs that remind us of the hope Jesus brings. Encourage your children to invite a friend to join us this month as we share the light of Christ together!

TABC Kidz are wishing you a Merry Christmas with a season full of love, blessings, and fellowship!

Miss April
Children's Ministry Director

the month of DECEMBER

birthdays

1 st Lily Koserski Logen Madaglia	10 th Caleb Hunt	22 nd Cody Cornelius
2 nd Millie Clark George Jones	13 th John Depew Abby Sharrett Jade Yates	24 th Velma Boyd Billie Skeens
3 rd Debra Perry Jerry Jenkins	14 th Adrian Padgett	26 th Patti Wright Noah Wheeler
4 th Phil Kendrick	16 th David Minor	27 th John Gentry Sharon Goodman Lewis Moody Peyton Vance
5 th Benji Lawson Jill McKinney Diane Powers	17 th Meredith Corvin	28 th Michael McKinney
6 th McKenzie Lawson	18 th Patty Blackwell Alex Spence	29 th Melinda Widener
7 th Allen Dixon	19 th Sutton Blevins Shirley Sammons	30 th Tim Beavers Keith Boyd
9 th Evan Vance	21 st Jonathan Dixon Kathy Sharp	31 st Daniel Dunnington

anniversaries

5 th Danny & Bobbie Lewis	12 th Randy & Patty Blackwell	22 nd Michael & Jill McKinney
9 th Joey & Alyson Cole	19 th Clarence & Melba Booher	27 th Zane & Chelsea Sary

event calendar

3 rd	TACA Parent Chapel Sanctuary 8:15 am
3 rd	TACA History Fair FLB 9:00 am - 4:00 pm
3 rd	Kidz Korner Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
3 rd	Youth Service Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
4 th	Ladies' Community Bible Study TABC 9:15—11:15 am (Thursdays)
4 th	Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
4 th	TACA Band in Bristol Christmas Parade 7:00 pm
5 th	Senior Adult Breakfast Fiddler's Restaurant, Abingdon, VA 9:00 am
7 th	AWANA Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
7 th	Youth Service Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
12 th	Senior Adult Christmas Banquet Food City Banquet Hall 5:30 pm
12 th	TACA High School Christmas Play Sanctuary 12:45 pm & 7:00 pm
14 th	AWANA Christmas Store Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
15 th	Meals on Wheels
17 th	Kids' 'Happy Birthday Jesus' Party Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
18 th	ECEC Christmas Program Sanctuary 6:30 pm
21 st	Nursery - 'Happy Birthday Jesus' Party Nursery 9:45 am
21 st	Children's Ministry Christmas Program Sanctuary 11:00 am
21 st	Candlelight Service Sanctuary 6:00 pm
22 nd	Widows Ministry Luncheon Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon
24 th -26 th	Christmas Holiday Church Office & Academy Closed
31 st - Jan 2 nd	New Year's Holiday Church Office & Academy Closed

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Dear friends, my heart already was overwhelmed by the warm welcome and love you showed me as I returned to lead worship in Pastor Joey's absence. Then came your gifts of love and sweet cards and Eddie will tell you, I cried out loud. Tennessee Avenue should be called the "Love" church, but then that might be a bit too close to "The Love Shack". :) Regardless, you are amazing "family" to me and I love you all. Thank you for loving me with the love He has given,
Gail Guy

Church family, thank you so much for all the love, prayers, concern and many acts of kindness during the sickness and deaths of my brother and sister-in-law. Each phone call, card, text or hug came at the perfect time. I love and cherish my church family. Love and prayers!
Teresa Braswell

TABC Church family, thank you all so much for all of the thoughts, prayers, calls, concerns, visits, meals, cards and text messages during my recent surgery and recovery period. TABC families are such a blessing to us. We thank you from the bottom of our hearts. Ephesians 1:3
Jodi Peters

TABC FINANCES	
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>	
"...try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts... See Malachi 3:10	
10/26/2025 Offering	\$14,511.00
11/02/2025 Offering	\$ 14,918.00
11/19/2025 Offering	\$ 27,226.00
11/16/2025 Offering	\$ 15,592.00
On-line Giving 10/21-11/17/2025	\$7,316.04
Period Giving Total	\$ 79,563.04
Total 2025 Offering YTD:	\$ 612,586.33
Bank Balances	
Current Loan Balance	\$ 811,089.63
General Account	\$ 157,261.50
Designated Account	\$ 93,523.41
Daycare / Academy	\$ 46,604.42
Money Market	\$ 22,105.85



SENIOR ADULT BREAKFAST FIDDLER'S RESTAURANT Abingdon, VA

Friday, December 5 9:00 AM



Text
JOYPLACE
to
73256
to give via
text
message.



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

Senior Adult Christmas Banquet

FRIDAY DECEMBER 12

Food City Banquet Hall, Euclid Ave.
5:30 PM

MENU:

- Garden Salad w/dressing
- Turkey & Dressing
- Apple Glazed Pork Tenderloin
- Mashed Potatoes
- Mac & Cheese
- Glazed Carrots
- Rolls and Beverages
- Country Fruit Cobbler

COST:
\$12 per person

See Mrs. Peggy,
Mrs. Debbie or
Mrs. Brenda to
get your ticket!



TACA

Sword & Shield

DECEMBER 2025

CRUSADER CAMPAIGN

The Crusader Campaign is TACA's annual giving program and its most critical fundraising effort, as it supports all students and programs (Early Education through 12th grade) by providing enhancements and resources that are not otherwise covered by tuition. The Campaign also serves to support the mission of TACA in training and equipping our young people to be crusaders for Christ, as well as provide a strong foundation for the continued growth of TACA's ministry. Each year, every TACA family is asked to make a financial gift to the Crusader Campaign that exceeds the

cost of tuition.

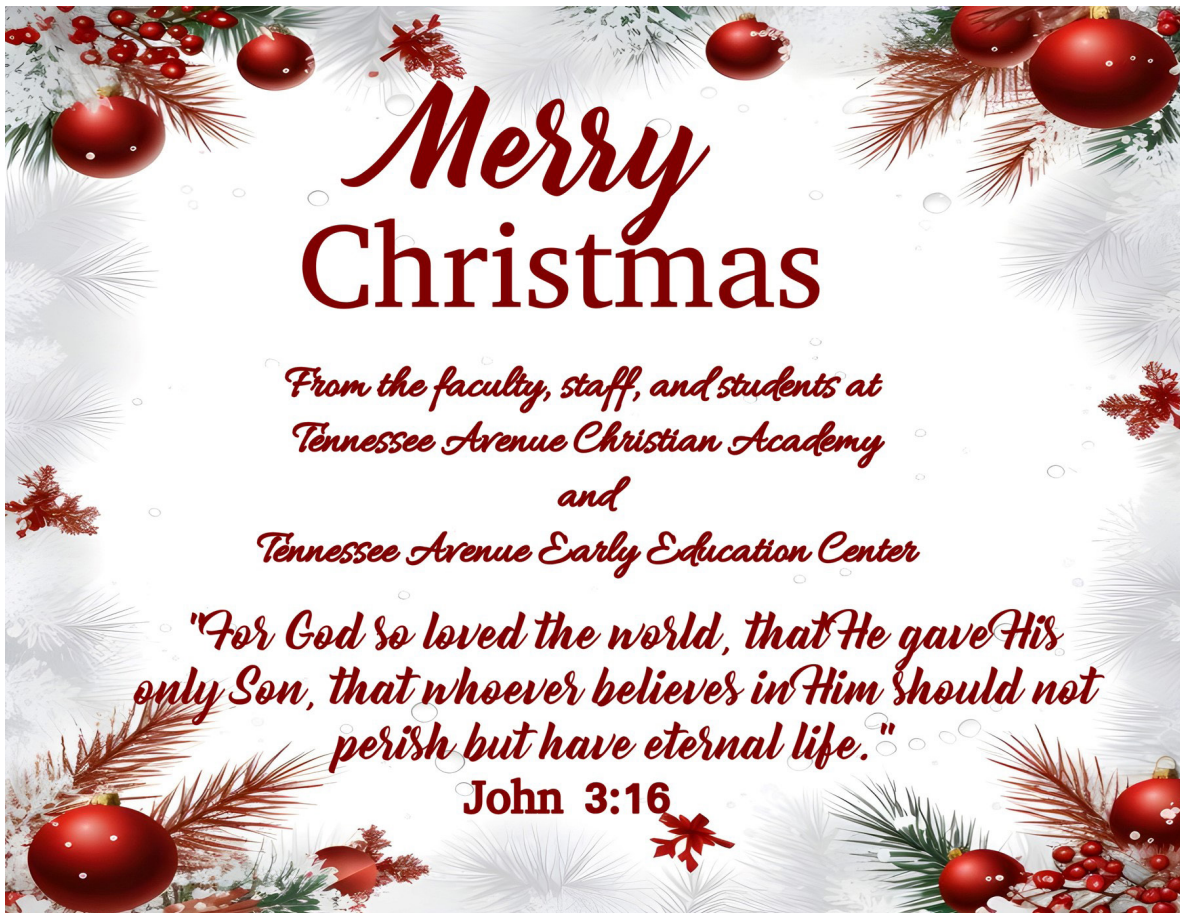
The funds raised through the Crusader Campaign not only provide 'extras' to many of TACA's programs, but also allow us to keep tuition at a more affordable level for families, and provide funding for financial aid and scholarships. Your tax-deductible gift is vital in maintaining and improving educational excellence at TACA. Gifts of any size are a blessing and greatly needed as each one makes a difference in educating our students for the cause of Christ.

Through the annual Crusader

Campaign, the generous support of our school and church families, grandparents, alums, and friends have allowed us to fund many wonderful enhancements and resources beyond the general budget.

All gifts are tax-deductible to the full extent allowed by law. You should consult legal/financial advisors, however, to determine the tax implications & deductibility of any gift.

From a Grateful Heart,
Cindy Beal
Administrator





TACA Sword & Shield

DECEMBER 2025

Tennessee Avenue Families, Early Childhood Education



I am typing this article while sitting in the Atlanta Airport, coming home from our Mission Trip to Belize. It has been an amazing week, even though we fought last minute schedule issues and the constant rain. We were able to help so many people through the med clinics, bean and rice distribution, and home visits. There were three different of these events that happened this week that had a profound effect on some of our team members. The first, we visited a small building where a family lived, and they were caring for their mother/grandmother who was 102 years old. To live to that age in a third world country like that is a miracle! The family was so sweet and needed baby food as that was all she could eat. So, a few members of our team started planning. After that, we visited another family that was literally only a few buildings down, that had a 7-year-old laying on a mattress in the floor. He was nonverbal, and so small. Our team feels sure he has cerebral palsy. He was on his stomach and unable to straighten his arms and legs. The family was taking such good care of him, even though they had very little. Again, our members started making a plan. The next person that was in desperate need of help was a homeless man that was literally living between a bus stop and a bridge. Every time we went by him, he was laying down covered with a blanket. Again, our members started making a plan. Some of us went to the "mall" (think very run down grocery store type, or gas station type of store) and started purchasing things for all these families. When we stopped back at each one, we all felt an overwhelming feeling of the Lord with us.

I say all this as a reminder. Christmas is upon us. While our families are likely blessed beyond measure with food, gifts, nice clothes, and all the things... there are many families, even in our hometown, that are likely struggling just to make ends meet, just to go to the Dollar Tree to buy a few gifts, and who may not know where their next meal will come from. Hebrews 13:16 says, *"But do not forget to do good and to share, for with such sacrifices God is well pleased."* (NKJV) Please remember to help those that you encounter. You never know what the people you come across this time of year may be dealing with. Remember, Jesus is the whole reason for the season; God's son, who was born in a manger. He didn't need anything else but what was provided. So let your focus be on that. Be kind, share with those in need, and remember to be thankful for all that God has blessed you with.

Blessings in Christ,
Jessica Sharrett
Director
Early Childhood Education Center

DATES TO REMEMBER:

December 18

2 & 3-Year Olds Christmas program
6:30 pm in the Sanctuary (more info will be coming!)

December 24-25

Closed

January 1

Closed

 **THE JOY PLACE**
TENNESSEE AVENUE
Baptist Church
104 Cypress Street
Bristol, TN 37620



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

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.

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)

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)*