



YOUR TABC STAFF

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Joey Cole, Worship Pastor
Saúl Delgado, Hispanic Pastor

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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
Richard Sharrett, 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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the Joy Journal

February 2026

Volume 35, Issue 2



Love That Pursues and Restores

February draws our attention to love—but Scripture invites us to consider a kind of love far deeper than sentiment, romance, or momentary affection. The Bible presents love not merely as a feeling, but as a faithful, covenant commitment. One of the clearest and most challenging pictures of that love is found in the life and ministry of the prophet Hosea.

Hosea's story is uncom-

fortable, raw, and deeply moving. God commanded him to love a wife who would be unfaithful—a

living illustration of Israel's relationship with the Lord. Again and again, Gomer wandered. Again and again, Hosea pursued.

This was not because she deserved it, but because God was revealing His own heart toward His people.

Through Hosea, the Lord declares, *"I will heal their backsliding, I will love them freely..."* Hosea 14:4a, NKJV

That is the love of God—free, undeserved, and unwavering. It is a love that does not ignore sin, but one that moves toward restoration rather than rejec-

tion. A love that disciplines, yet never abandons. A love that redeems what seems broken beyond repair.

This is the same love ultimately revealed in Jesus Christ. Hosea points us forward to the Gospel—where God Himself steps into our brokenness, bears the cost of our unfaithfulness, and brings us back to Himself. At the cross, we see the fullest expression of covenant love: love that pays the price, love that brings us home, love that will not let go.

As we reflect on this kind of love, we are also reminded that God calls His people not only to receive it, but to reflect it. True devotion to

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Love That Pursues and Restores

God is always accompanied by love lived out in tangible ways—acts of compassion, mercy, and faithful service to others.

One beautiful example of that love among us is seen in Kathy Sharp. We want to extend heartfelt congratulations to Kathy on the publication of her first book—a meaningful and well-written work that has already been a blessing to many. This accomplishment is a testimony to her faithfulness, perseverance, and desire to use her voice for God's glory.

Beyond the book itself, we are deeply grateful for Kathy's ongoing ministry to widows in our community. Her care, encouragement, and Christlike compassion reflect the very heart of God revealed in Hosea—a love that sees those who are of-

ten overlooked and walks with them faithfully.

We would also like to express sincere thanks to everyone who helped make Kathy's recent book signing event such a success. To those who set up the space, served refreshments, welcomed guests, and worked behind the scenes—your willingness to serve did not go unnoticed. Your efforts helped create a warm, joyful environment that reflected the love of Christ in practical ways.

We are especially thankful to share that the funds collected from the book proceeds have been applied directly to the ongoing Widows' Ministry, allowing this work of compassion to continue and grow.

This is a beautiful picture of the church

working together—many hands, one heart, all for the glory of God and the care of His people.

As we move through this month, may Hosea's message challenge and encourage us. May we rest in the truth that God's love for us is steadfast and sure. And may we, as His people, be faithful to live out that love—patiently, generously, and sacrificially—in our homes, our church, and our community.

"For I desire mercy and not sacrifice, And the knowledge of God more than burnt offerings." — Hosea 6:6 (NKJV)

Blessings,

Joey Cole

Worship Pastor

LOVE
IS PATIENT
love is kind

IT DOES NOT ENVY

IT **does not boast**

IT IS NOT PROUD

IT DOES NOT DISHONOR OTHERS, IT IS NOT SELF-SEEKING

IT IS NOT EASILY ANGERED IT KEEPS NO RECORD OF WRONGS

love does not delight in evil but rejoices with the truth

it **ALWAYS** protects **trusts**
it **ALWAYS** hopes **perseveres**

Love never fails

1 CORINTHIANS 13:4-8



We have been studying through the Gospel of Matthew in SS (anyone who doesn't have a SS class is welcome). Last Sunday, we discussed Matthew 24:3-6, where

Jesus tells His disciples what to look for in the last days. We also find other references to the last days in Timothy. 1 Timothy 4:1-2 says, "Now the Spirit expressly says that in latter times some will depart from the faith, giving heed to deceiving spirits and doctrines of demons, speaking lies in hypocrisy, having their own conscience seared with a hot iron." 2 Timothy 3:1-5 says, "But know this, that in the last days perilous times will come: For men will be lovers of themselves, lovers of money, boasters, proud, blasphemers, disobedient to parents, unthankful, unholly, unloving, unforgiving, slanderers, without self-

control, brutal, despisers of good, traitors, headstrong, haughty, lovers of pleasure rather than lovers of God, having a form of godliness but denying its power. And from such people turn away!"

I think we can all agree that within these scriptures, we can see today's culture. I am reminded of a quote Phil Whitaker used frequently... "Keep looking up, today could be the day." My prayer for us all - may we all live daily as if today is the day.

Love in Christ,
Johnny Hutchins
TIM TEAM



Dear Church Family,

I hope this letter finds you and your family well!

As we start the year 2026, I ask that you

add the following list to your daily prayers.

- God's continued awesome hand on us in everything we do!
- Our Congregation.
- Brother Bob Jones as he continues to deliver God's Word to us.
- All the people who work and volunteer their time on both sides of our campus and keep us moving forward.
- The Pastor Search Committee as they seek God's will in finding our next

Pastor.

- The TIM Team for all their ongoing work on our Bylaws and job descriptions.
- God's help and guidance on our reaching the lost and being a beacon of light in our community.

I know I'm probably forgetting someone or a ministry, but please know how much I appreciate each and every one of you and I look forward to seeing you at Church!

Sincerely,
Scott Frazier



Hello Families,

We're excited for all that February has in store for Children's Church! This month, kids will continue learning about God's love, growing in faith, and building strong friendships through fun lessons,

worship, and activities.

*****SPECIAL EVENT*****

Don't forget the AWANA Grand Prix Race on February 22nd! It's always a highlight of the year, filled with creativity, excitement, and cheering each other on. We can't wait to see all the racers and their cars!

Thank you for partnering with us as we help children know, love, and follow Jesus.

Blessings,
Miss April
Children's Ministry Director



PIT PARTY
Saturday, February 21st 4:00-6:00 p.m.
in the Family Life Building
(*Pit Party is a time to work on and weigh your car!*)

RACE DAY
Sunday, February 22nd 4:00-8:00 p.m.
Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church
Family Life Building

the month of

FEBRUARY

birthdays

1 st	Ricky Hall	13 th	Lisa Anderson
2 nd	Teresa Fleming Tammie Harmon	14 th	Michelle Keen
3 rd	Chris Hutton	15 th	Bambi Rush
4 th	Rick Hale	16 th	Brenda Walling
6 th	Olivia Cornelius Kathi Gentry Libby Lane	17 th	Susan Cox Cathy Fleenor
7 th	Johnny Hutchins	18 th	Patti Trivett
12 th	Monica Dixon Charlie Pearman Todd Slusher	20 th	Addison Trivett Wendy Barbrey Kevin Doss

22 nd	Joan Calhoun Kathy Kiserski David Leab Larry Powers
23 rd	Beulah Beavers Michell Cullop Stephen Smallwood
24 th	Wes Leonard George Woodward
26 th	Doug Altizer
27 th	Donna Keene
28 th	Laura Hampton

And now abide **Faith Hope Love**, ^{these three,}
but the greatest of these is **love.** *1 Corinthians 13:13*

anniversaries

8 th	Stuart & Jennie Sutherland	17 th	Lee & Babs Childs Randy & Mary Jo Leonard	19 th	Jonathan & Monica Dixon
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event calendar

1 st	AWANA Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
3 rd	TACA Home Basketball Games FLB 6:00 pm
4 th	TACA Parent Chapel Sanctuary 8:15 am
4 th	Kidz Korner Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
4 th	Youth Service Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
5 th	Ladies' Community Bible Study TABC 9:15—11:15 am (Thursdays)
5 th	Celebrate Recovery Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
6 th	Senior Adult Breakfast Perkins Restaurant, Exit 7 9:00 am
10 th	TACA Home Basketball Games FLB 5:30 pm
14 th	Children's Ministry Basketball Fun Day FLB 9:00 am - 2:00 pm
16 th	Meals on Wheels
16 th	TACA Teacher Inservice, No Classes
16 th	TACA Home Basketball Games FLB 5:30 pm
19 th	TACA Home Basketball Games FLB 5:30 pm (Senior Night)
21 st	AWANA Grand Prix Pit Party FLB 4:00-6:00 pm
22 nd	AWANA Grand Prix FLB 4:00-8:00 pm
23 rd	Widows Ministry Luncheon Fellowship Hall 12:00 noon
27 th	Hispanic Church Prayer Meeting Fellowship Hall 8:00 pm - 12:00 am

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Dear Church Family, thank you for the prayers, well wishes, cards and flowers. It is a blessing to be a member of such a loving church. *"Therefore, as we have opportunity, let us do good to all, especially to those of the household of faith."* Ga-

latians 6:10 All praise, power, honor, glory and love to the Lord!! Love you all,

Tim Beavers

My Tennessee Avenue family, thank you for the pretty roses you all sent me. That was awful thoughtful of you!

Todd & Candy Smith

The family of Thelma Chorosovic wish to express our gratitude for your thoughtfulness. The flowers were beautiful and were very comforting at her funeral. Thank you for your kindness.

Joan Pohlgeers

TABC FINANCES	
<i>Tithes & Offerings</i>	
"...try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts... See Malachi 3:10	
12/21/2025 Offering	\$ 12,481.00
12/28/2025 Offering	\$ 7,816.00
12/31/2025 Offering	\$ 12,700.00
On-line Giving 12/17 - 12/31/2025	\$5,981.85
Total 2025 Offering YTD:	\$ 693,615.00
1/04/2026 Offering	\$ 10,608.00
1/11/2026 Offering	\$ 8,586.00
1/18/2026 Offering	\$ 8,322.00
On-line Giving 1/1 - 1/19/2026	\$ 4,578.70
Period Giving Total	\$ 32,094.70
Total 2026 Offering YTD:	\$32,094.70
Bank Balances	
Current Loan Balance	\$ 793,969.61
General Account	\$ 116,970.46
Designated Account	\$ 80,810.10
Daycare / Academy	\$ 41,183.54
Money Market	\$ 22,124.33



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



WEATHER-RELATED SCHEDULE CHANGES

In the event of inclement weather, please visit our Facebook page **Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church** or our website tabaptist.org for the latest schedule changes.

SENIOR ADULT BREAKFAST



Friday, February 6 9:00 AM

TACA

Sword & Shield

FEBRUARY 2026



A LASTING IMPACT

We extend our sincere gratitude to families and friends for their faithful support of Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy in 2025. Your contributions enable our ministry to grow and create a lasting impact. This support benefits our students and future generations in significant ways. We are incredibly thankful for your continued involvement and dedication. Your unwavering support helps us provide a nurturing environment for our students to thrive. Together, we are building a brighter future for TACA, our community, and beyond.

Because of your generosity:

- We have expanded our scholarship program, allowing

more students to experience a kingdom learning, quality education.

- Facilitated short term missions, providing students with a lifelong love of missions.
- Enhanced programs such as athletics, band, art, and drama, providing an enriched educational experience and a love of the arts.

Just as with the loaves and fishes, God can use what we give and multiply it for His Kingdom. All of this is possible because of our faithful givers, and the evidence of that generosity is realized all across our campus!

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

"The point is this: Whoever sows sparingly will also reap sparingly, and whoever sows bountifully will also reap bountifully. Each one must give as he has decided in his heart, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver." 2 Corinthians 9:6-7

To God Be All the Glory!

Cindy Beal
Administrator

Teacher Feature

Heather Allen

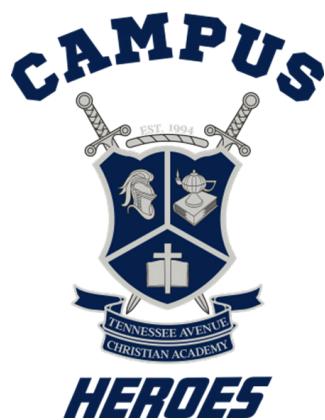
I grew up in a family of educators with both parents, siblings, and a grandmother who have taught for most of their lives. I have always loved history and desired to share that love with those around me. I have an Associates Degree in History and an Associates Degree in Political Science from Northeast State. I first came to TACA as a substitute teacher in 2022 and became a full-time teacher in 2024. I have the privilege of teaching my favorite thing - History! I love sharing the story of the world to each of my students, but what I enjoy the most is seeing the look in students' eyes when they connect a Bible story to the history text and realize that they happened at the same time. History itself is great, but to make the Bible come more alive for my students is even better.





TACA Sword & Shield

FEBRUARY 2026



Ms. Mandy Pottorf

At Tennessee Avenue Christian Academy, we honor Ms. Mandy Pottorf for her unwavering dedication as a volunteer. Whether assisting in the carline or supporting the office with her talents, Mandy embodies the spirit of service and kindness. Her contributions truly brighten our campus every day.

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

Tennessee Avenue
Early Childhood Education



Families,

February is all about Love. Loving God (Mark 12:30), loving one another (John 13:34-35), and loving our enemies (Matthew 5:44). These are all the normal go to verses that everyone seems to use. But I found another this past week that quickly became a "strength" verse for me. Psalm 143:8 says, *"Cause me to hear Your lovingkindness in the morning, For in You do I trust; Cause me to know the way in which I should walk, For I lift up my soul to You."* (NKJV)

Many of you know the medical battle we just went through with my brother. For a while we didn't know if he was going to make it. He was on a vent for 3.5 days, had a good day, then we had a few more bad days of hallucinations. It was scary and I think all I could see and hear was fear. I felt like our whole family, and a ton of others

were in constant prayer. But for some reason when I prayed, I still felt the overwhelming sense of fear. Then I came across the verse in Psalms, and it was like a cool breeze washed over me, and I was able to take a breath. My trust, my faith was wavering. I wasn't listening to hear God's voice; I was listening to the fear in my heart. But that verse reminded me that God has shown Himself to me time and time again, and for some reason this time, in the middle of a crisis, I forgot. I forgot Who I am supposed to trust. I forgot to surrender everything to Him. It was like I was trying my best to make sense of it all, on my own. Proverbs 3:5-6 says, *"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."* (NKJV) All I needed to do was to let go and let God. And man, did He start to move.

My brother is home now, and has a long road ahead of him, but God had His hands around him and our whole family. It's funny how sometimes it takes hard times to remind us of God's love for us, and that we are to fully trust in Him. This whole experience was a huge lesson in trust, faith, and remembering Who we belong to. With that being said, I would like to thank all who were lifting him and our family up in prayers over the past week and half. Please continue to pray as he faces some major changes. I know that God will provide a way and will take care of him and the family in the days to come.

It is also reassuring to know I work for a ministry of God. I was reminded many times that people loved me, my family, and there were so many offers of help. It was a ray of light in a very dark time. I am sure many of you have faced similar dark times, and I pray that you were able to lean on God's love during that time. We may not always understand or have the answers, but we know beyond a doubt that God loves us.

My reminder to you in this month all about love, is to remember that it's not just all those around you who love you, but God loves you too, more than we can ever fathom.

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett, Director
Early Childhood Education Center


Dates to Remember
Friday, Feb. 13th:
Valentine Parties

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



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Prayer Prompter

"Love can only be cultivated adequately in aloneness with the one you love..."

Joseph Carroll

Matthew 6:6

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

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)*