

The TABC Journal



YOUR TABC STAFF Pastoral Staff

- Paul Thompson, Associate Pastor of Discipleship
- Joey Cole, Worship Pastor
- Dr. Lee Childs, Minister of the Transitional Interim Ministry
- Saül 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
- 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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New Perspective



This is a picture taken on Friday, December 13, 2024, from the upstairs dining area of the Food City on Euclid. We were there for the TABC Senior Christmas Banquet. This was a perspective of a grocery store never seen before. Below, down in the

aisles, what one saw was shelves towering on either side. Standing there above was interesting as you saw all the people walking around shopping for food. It is amazing that how we look at things opens up new perspectives.

Studying God's word can be like looking from above at a grocery store. The truth of the store and its layout and merchandise does not change whether you look down or walk through the aisles. God's word is the truth if you are walking through the aisles of each verse or step back for a more overall and contextual perspective. A better suggested study technique to understanding the Bible is to do some of both.

I cannot tell you how many Christmases the Biblical accounts in Matthew and Luke have been studied. We look at the story of Gabriel's message to Zachariah, John the Baptist's father, or Gabriel's encounter with Mary, the mother of Jesus. We have studied about Mary visiting Elizabeth, the trip of Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem, the declaration to the shepherds and their seeing the newborn Baby, and the wise men who followed the star.

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New Perspective (continued from page 1)

This year these stories took me on a different journey of understanding the whole Christmas story. This year revealed a bird's eye view that showed the passages in Matthew and Luke as God breaking His 400 years of silence from the time of Malachi 4:5-6. Each of these stories have a common theme: the prophecies spoken by God through His prophets of the Old Testament has now been fulfilled, and God has broken His silence by declaring in many ways

"Immanuel, God with us" has arrived.

I am praying that God working through His Spirit will open my eyes and your eyes to new understandings of His truth as He continues to create in us His renewed heart. May we find ourselves not down on the aisles only able to see what is on the shelves where we are, but may He elevate us so that we begin to have His view of what the mission and the ministries of TABC look like from His perspective. Then, let us be obedient in

following Him.

Happy New Year to each of you and remember, God has great new plans for TABC.

Grace

Dr. Lee Childs

Minister of the Transitional Interim Ministry



Dear Church Family,

It is such an exciting time to be a part of the Tennessee Avenue Baptist campus! For many years now, our Father has been preparing us for excellence and exponential growth. Hebrews 12:11 (NASB) says, *"All discipline for the moment seems not to be joyful, but sorrowful; yet to those who have been trained by it, afterwards it yields the peaceful fruit of righteousness."* When you are in a relationship with God there is no wasted pain; everything that enters our life is simply an opportunity to get into Christ, who is the Overcomer.

In my 11 years at TN Ave there have been many opportunities to overcome difficult and painful obstacles. However, I must say that all the things I've been through were designed by my perfect heavenly Father to expose my weakness and to force me to mature. As I look at my heroes in scripture like King David, one could ask, would David be the man

of God he became if he didn't have to respond to Saul's mistreatment? I think not.

God knows what He is doing as He puts us in situation after situation in which we must seek His face, surrender, and then choose to follow Jesus in resurrection life.

One of the prayers that I have for every member of TN Ave is that we would all see the pain of the past in light of God's Fathering; even seeing the people involved who may have caused us pain as part of God's hand. It is a critical need for us all to be cleared of the pain and offenses of the past so that God's overcoming spirit can lead us into more and more breakthroughs.

Christianity is called "The Great Confession." It begins with confessing Jesus Christ as Lord but it doesn't stop there. The Greek word for confession used in the new testament is *homologeō*. It simply means, "to say the same thing." Remember we were created for union with God, and Jesus Christ died and rose again to make that union possible. One of the greatest signs in a human life that they are in union with God is that they say the same thing that God says. From that point of union, we see from God's

perspective and we say what He is saying.

Everything that concerns you about your past, your present, and your future, Jesus has a word about it. For every believer, repentance is a way of life. All of us have an "old man," that old rebel who likes to rely on his own understanding and loves to say it the way he feels it. However, if you are truly a born again believer, you do not have the right to have your own perspective. We all must find the word of God in our situation and confess it. As we confess it, the Holy Spirit will begin to work on our soul's emotions, and our feelings will get into alignment with God's eternal perspective.

Friends, we must do whatever it takes to get the hurts, habits, and hang-ups out of our lives so that God's spirit can flow through us unquenched and ungrieved. 2025 is going to be a year of incredible healing and growth at TN Ave. I can already see it and I'm already saying it; please join me in confessing God's blessing over our campus.

I love you all in Christ,

Pastor Paul

Associate Pastor of Discipleship



Encouraging Service to Christ in the New Year

As we stand on the threshold of a new year, we are reminded of the endless opportunities God places before us to serve Him and others. The start of a new year is a time for reflection and renewal—a moment to reevaluate our priorities and commit to living more fully for Christ.

A Call to Serve

The Apostle Paul reminds us in Galatians 5:13 (NKJV), *“For you, brethren, have been called to liberty; only do not use liberty as an opportunity for the flesh, but through love serve one another.”* Service is a response to God’s love, not an obligation but a privilege. It is through service that we reflect Christ’s love and light to a world in need.

As we enter 2025, consider this: How is God calling you to serve? It might be in a familiar ministry where you’re already

involved, or perhaps it’s stepping into something new—teaching, mentoring, hospitality, outreach, or missions. Every act of service, whether big or small, matters in the kingdom of God.

Why Service Matters

Service transforms both the giver and the receiver. When we serve, we step outside of ourselves, growing in humility and compassion. Jesus Himself set the ultimate example of service in John 13 when He washed His disciples’ feet, saying, *“If I then, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet.”* (John 13:14, NKJV).

Service also strengthens the church. By using our gifts and talents, we build up the body of Christ and help fulfill the Great Commission (Matthew 28:19-20).

Practical Steps to Begin

1. **Pray for Guidance:** Ask God to reveal where He wants you to serve. Trust that He will lead you to the right opportunities.
2. **Evaluate Your Gifts:** What skills, passions, or talents has God given you? How can these be used for His glory?

3. **Start Small:** Sometimes the best way to begin is to simply step in where there’s a need.

4. **Be Consistent:** Commit to your area of service wholeheartedly. Faithful service, no matter how unnoticed it may seem, brings glory to God.

Encouragement for the Year Ahead

As we embark on this new year, let us adopt the mindset of the Apostle Paul in Philippians 3:13b-14 (NKJV) *“...forgetting those things which are behind and reaching forward to those things which are ahead, I press toward the goal for the prize of the upward call of God in Christ Jesus.”*

Let this year be one where our service to Christ grows deeper, where our love for others grows stronger, and where our faith shines brighter. Together, as the body of Christ, we can make a lasting impact for His kingdom.

Let’s serve with joy, love, and purpose in 2025!

Blessings,
Pastor Joey Cole
Worship Pastor

Tennessee Avenue Families, Early Childhood Education



The New year is always a great time to not only reflect on the past, but to focus on the future year. One of my favorite verses to reflect on during this time is Jeremiah 29:11. It says, *“For*

I know the thoughts that I think toward you, saith the LORD, thoughts of peace, and not of evil, to give you an expected end.” (KJV). That last part is translated in the NLT as *“They are plans for good and not for disaster, to give you a future and a hope.”* Isn’t it great to know that God already has a plan for our future? And He already knows what’s going to happen, and that even in the bad times, He is there to give us hope

and strength. Shew, that’s a thought that gives goosebumps when you really think and meditate on it. We are never alone, and God is always ahead of us in the storms of life. I am looking forward to the day when we get to be with Jesus, and we don’t have to worry about those storms anymore! I am so thankful that God sent His only Son to make a way for us to be with Him! (John 3:16) That should make our futures look bright, no matter what comes our way!

We have had a lot going on here at the Center in the last few weeks. Aside from the normal Christmas activities, we had new flooring put in all the rooms. It looks amazing and we are so thankful to the Church for providing this much needed upgrade. The front porch was also repaired and looks so much better with our new awning. It has made the Center look so much better, and the parents have all

been astonished at the difference it has made in the rooms. If you get a chance, you should swing by and see it! We will be glad to show you around!

In closing, I pray you all have a safe and blessed New Year! Remember to thank God for all He did for you in the past year, and for all the great things He’s going to do for you in the New Year!

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

**ECEC
DATES TO REMEMBER:
JANUARY 1ST
CLOSED
HAPPY NEW YEAR!**

the month of JANUARY

birthdays

4th

Chelsea Vance

6th

Jeff Brunette
Jan Combs
Jessica Correll
Deion Graham
Maleah Minor
Matilda Minor

7th

Shaun Correll
Sonny Schepers

8th

Bella Ellis

9th

Mara Dixon
John David Hunt
Larry Peters

11th

Keith Grindstaff
Jeannine Huff

14th

Jeff Trivett

19th

Nian Koserski

23rd

Sam Messer

24th

Bryson Hernandez

25th

Katlian Hicks

26th

Andrea Haynes
Savanah Medaglia

27th

Ricky Fleenor
Reva Mitchell

28th

Jeff Carter
Herbert Dunn

29th

Erica Jackson

30th

Mike Blair
Joe Milhorn
James Sproles

31st

Tyler Harmon

Event Calendar

- 1st **HAPPY NEW YEAR!**
Church Office, Academy & ECEC Closed,
No Worship Service
- 2nd **Celebrate Recovery**
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Every Thursday)
- 5th **Church Business Meeting**
Sanctuary following AM Service
- 5th **AWANA**
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
(Every Sunday)
- 5th **Youth Service**
TABC 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
- 7th **TACA Classes Resume**
Academy 8:00 am
- 7th **TACA Home Basketball Games**
FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 7th **Transition Team Meeting**
Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm (Every Tuesday)
- 8th **TACA Parent Chapel**
Sanctuary 8:15 am
- 8th **Kidz Korner**
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm
(Every Wednesday)
- 8th **Youth Service**
TABC 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
- 8th **Ladies' Small Group Meetings Resume**
Ladies' SS Classroom 6:00 pm
- 9th **Ladies' Community Bible Study**
TABC 9:15—11:15 am (Every Thursday)
- 10th **TACA Home Basketball Games**
FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 11th **TABC Children's Basketball Rec League**
FLB 8:00 am - 1:30 pm (Every Saturday)
- 17th **TACA Home Basketball Games**
FLB beginning 6:00 pm
- 21st **TACA Home Basketball Games**
FLB beginning 6:00 pm
- 27th **Widows Ministry Luncheon**
FH 12:00 noon
- 30th **TACA Home Basketball Games**
FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 31st **TACA Home Basketball Games**
FLB beginning 6:00 pm

Happy New Year!

anniversaries

1st

John & Barbara Raymond

3rd

Mike & Sheila Girten

4th

Ricky & Marie Fleenor

8th

Larry & Doris Peters

12th

Luke & Courtney Gent

Benji & Tammy Lawson

13th

John & Kathi Gentry

Jimmy & Peggy Phipps

14th

Wayne & Vicky Ramsey

dear CHURCH family

THANK YOU!

Thank you so much for the flowers, the cards, your prayers and thoughtfulness during the passing of our father.

Sincerely,
The Girten Family

TABC Welcomes

By Baptism
Abigail Elizabeth Thompson

Welcome Baby!

Chris & Rachel Blevins
Announce the birth of

Sutton Pearl Blevins

She weighed 7 lbs. 2 oz.
And was 19 ¾" long

Born
Thursday, December 19, 2024

Proud Big Sister:
Hope

Proud Big Brother:
Jake



CONGRATULATIONS!

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.

TABC FINANCES

Tithe & Offerings

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

12/01/2024 Offering	\$ 12,669.00
Rick Coram Ministries Offering	\$ 10,511.00
12/08/2024 Offering	\$ 9,418.00
12/15/2024 Offering	\$ 10,304.00
12/22/2024 Offering	\$ 14,219.00
On-line Giving 11/26-12/23/2024	\$ 8,860.93
Period Giving Total	\$ 65,981.93
Total 2024 offering YTD:	\$ 814,760.43

Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$ 887,928.20
General Account	\$ 190,875.22
Designated Account	\$ 33,072.77
Daycare / Academy	\$ 106,110.72
Money Market	\$ 141,202.09

START YOUR

PIT PARTY
Saturday, February 8th
5:00-7:00 p.m.

in the Family Life Building
(Pit Party is a time to work on and weigh your car!)

RACE DAY
Sunday, February 23rd
5:00 p.m.

Tennessee Avenue
Baptist Church
Family Life Building

AWANA Grand Prix car kits are \$7.00 each. See Miss April for an order form. Please return along with your payment to Miss April by Sunday, January 19th.

 THE JOY PLACE
Tennessee Avenue
BAPTIST CHURCH
104 Cypress Street
Bristol, Tennessee 37620

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

Return Service Requested

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.

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)*

Prayer Prompter

"As you plan ways to embrace the New Year, consider abandoning 'The sin of prayerlessness'."

(See 1 Thessalonians 5:17 & Philippians 4:6)