

# The JOY Journal

THE JOY PLACE  
Tennessee Avenue  
BAPTIST CHURCH

February 2025

Volume 34, Issue 2

## YOUR TABC STAFF

### Pastoral Staff

Paul Thompson, Associate Pastor of Discipleship

Joey Cole, Worship Pastor

Dr. Lee Childs, Minister of the Transitional  
Interim Ministry

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Debbie Boyd, Ministry Support

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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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Church Family,

I am a big fan of the C.S. Lewis books, *The Chronicles of Narnia*. Every book is so wonderfully written and applicable to real life. In that series, Lewis writes in allegory. Allegory is when you write a story with characters in it that represent real life figures. If you are familiar with the books or the movies then you know that the Jesus figure is an enormous lion. It is masterfully represented. One of my favorite lines is about Aslan, who is the Lion (who represents Jesus in the story). The children are in Narnia and have yet to meet Aslan face to face, and Mr. Beaver is explaining to them about him: "Aslan is a lion - the lion, the Great Lion." "Ooh", said Susan. "I'd thought he was a man. Is he - quite safe? I shall feel rather nervous about meeting a lion".... "Safe?" said Mr. Beaver... "Who said anything about safe? 'course he isn't safe. But he's good. He's

the King, I tell you."

I've always loved how C.S. Lewis characterizes Aslan as Jesus. That's an impossible task really. The real Jesus is an infinite Being of truth and power. Colossians tell us that He is the image of the invisible God and that all things were created by Him and for Him and that in Him all things are held together. He is pre-eminent. In other words, we really don't have a clue. This is an issue that is beyond our imagination. We simply do not have the bandwidth to comprehend Him. While He was on the earth, His Glory was covered by a cloak of humility that He wore. The only time He took it off was on the Mount of Transfiguration. Matthew 17:2 (NASB) says that: "...His face shone like the sun, and His garments became as white as light." Wow, what an amazing thing to witness! The Bible tells us the disciples present were terrified after God the Father's voice spoke. It's just sensory overload for the human soul.

I have become too familiar with Jesus.

(continued on page 2)



(continued from page 1)

I think I know Him pretty well. I think my knowing of Him has drifted more into familiarity than true intimacy though; in fact, I know it has. I'm currently repenting over it. A God as powerful as Jesus should never end up in the category of familiar.

I'd like to ask for your prayers for me. I

am hearing from the Lord and I do see some things in my life that must change. Isaiah 66:2 (NASB) says, *"But to this one I will look, to him who is humble and contrite of Spirit, and who trembles at my word."*

I am hearing the Lion of the Tribe of Judah's roar from a great distance. He is calling for me to come close. I feel called

to consume the Word like I never have before. Please pray for me that I gain the eye of the tiger and that I tremble before His Word. He is not a tame lion. He is an all consuming fire.

In Christ,

Bro Paul

Associate Pastor of Discipleship



## **Be My Humble Valentine!**

Valentine's Day is often associated with love, but as believers, we know that true love is more than chocolates and cards. It's an action, a way of life, and most importantly, a reflection of humility. Genuine love, as demonstrated by Christ, produces humility. In fact, humility is one of love's most beautiful attributes, showing itself through unselfishness, servanthood, sacrifice, and putting others' needs before our own.

### **Unselfishness-**

Unselfishness is the foundation of humility. The Apostle Paul writes, *"Let nothing be done through selfish ambition or conceit, but in lowliness of mind let each esteem others better than himself."* (Philippians 2:3, NKJV) This kind of humility is a direct product of love—it thinks less about personal gain and more about others' well-being. It is not about belittling ourselves but elevating others, a mindset that honors Christ and points people to Him.

### **Becoming a Servant-**

Humility also manifests through servanthood. Jesus said, *"The Son of Man did not come to be served, but to serve, and to give His life a ransom for many."* (Matthew 20:28, NKJV) When we follow Christ's example of serving others, we reflect His love. Whether it's helping a neighbor in need, encouraging a friend, or volunteering time for others, serving is an act of humility that makes Christ's love visible.

### **Putting Others First-**

The love that produces humility also involves prioritizing others over ourselves. In Philippians 2:4, Paul exhorts us, *"Let each of you look out not only for his own interests, but also for the interests of others."* (NKJV) When we consider others' needs ahead of our own, we practice the kind of selfless love that builds relationships and glorifies God.

### **Sacrifice-**

Finally, humility is most vividly displayed in sacrifice. Jesus demonstrated this on the cross, as Paul reminds us: *"And being found in appearance as a man, He humbled Himself and became obedient to the point of death, even the death of the cross."* (Philippians 2:8, NKJV) True love is sacrificial—it gives

without expecting anything in return. Whether it's sacrificing time, resources, or comfort, humility modeled after Christ is willing to give for the sake of others.

### **Humility Through the Holy Spirit-**

While humility is essential to living out Christ-like love, it is not something we can achieve on our own. Jesus said, *"Abide in Me, and I in you. As the branch cannot bear fruit of itself, unless it abides in the vine, neither can you, unless you abide in Me."* (John 15:4, NKJV) Through obedience to His Word and the work of the Holy Spirit, we are empowered to love in ways that produce true humility.

This Valentine's Day, let's look beyond fleeting tokens of affection and focus on the humility that comes from Christ-like love. Be a humble Valentine by serving, sacrificing, and putting others first. When we allow the Holy Spirit to shape our hearts, we reflect the love of Christ to a world desperately in need of it.

May we embrace the prayer of John 3:30: *"He must increase, but I must decrease"* (NKJV), and may our lives shine with the humility of Christ's love.

Blessings,

Pastor Joey Cole

Worship Pastor





Acts 16:6b and 7b

6b. ...having been forbidden by the Holy Spirit to speak the word in Asia.

7b. ... but the Spirit of Jesus did not allow them.

We see an interesting picture of the working of the Spirit in these two verses. Paul, accompanied by Timothy and Silas, was engaged in what we call his second missionary journey. He was revisiting many of the churches he and Barnabas had planted on his first journey. Paul then planned on journeying into the province of Asia, but as verse 6b indicates, the Spirit forbids Paul and his team from going to Asia. Then they attempted to travel north to Bithynia, but the Spirit again would not allow them to make that trip (7b). Paul and his team headed to

Troas where they would realize why the Spirit had halted their efforts.

We could use the phrase they “wound up in Troas,” (verse 8), but I think that would not accurately describe how they found themselves in Troas. In Troas, Paul has a vision at night of a man from Macedonia, Greece, urging him to “*come over to Macedonia and help us*” (verse 9). What is interesting and imaginative is it appears Paul connected to Luke, who was from Greece, and the author of Acts in Troas. In addition to directing Paul to Macedonia, which much was accomplished for the sake of the gospel during his visit there, he also encountered Luke, who would journey with Paul on the rest of his mission. As the author of Acts, the personal pronoun changes from “they” in verses 6-8 to “we” in verse 10, indicating Paul met Luke right after the vision of verse 9. Was meeting Luke, a Greek, affirmation to Paul of his mission to Macedonia?

So, all the redirecting and changing of Paul’s plans by the Spirit had significant reasons and purposes. Paul’s call to Macedonia spread the gospel and Christianity into Europe and the Western world and

connected Paul with the author of the Gospel of Luke and of Acts. We have at our reading pleasure these two books by the leading of the Spirit who connected Luke and Paul in Troas.

You may be asking what this has to do with our TIM ministry. Do not be surprised that as the Spirit continues to lead TABC through this transitional period we may think we are going in one direction and He may forbid that direction and/or redirect us in another direction. Are you ready and willing to follow Him as Paul and his team followed? We all know the path of the Spirit is the path we want to tread, not the path that we envision.

Let us all continue to praise the Lord for His and the Spirit’s work in guiding and leading each of us as we seek to accomplish Their mission for TABC of making disciples who make disciples for Christ, D2D.

Grace,

Dr. Lee Childs

Minister of the Transitional Interim Ministry



**PIT PARTY**  
**Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>**  
**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 23<sup>rd</sup>**  
**5:00 p.m.**  
Tennessee Avenue  
Baptist Church  
Family Life Building

# the month of FEBRUARY

## Event Calendar

### birthdays

- |   |   |   |
|---|---|---|
| 1 <sup>st</sup><br>Ricky Hall                                       | 13 <sup>th</sup><br>Lisa Anderson                     | 22 <sup>nd</sup><br>Joan Calhoun  |
| 2 <sup>nd</sup><br>Teresa Fleming<br>Tammie Harmon                  | 14 <sup>th</sup><br>VALENTINE'S DAY!<br>Michelle Keen | Kathy Koserski  |
| 3 <sup>rd</sup><br>Chris Hutton                                     | 15 <sup>th</sup><br>Bambi Rush                        | David Leab  |
| 4 <sup>th</sup><br>Rick Hale  | 16 <sup>th</sup><br>Brenda Walling                    | Larry Powers  |
| 6 <sup>th</sup><br>Olivia Cornelius<br>Kathi Gentry<br>Libby Lane   | 17 <sup>th</sup><br>Susan Cox<br>Cathy Fleenor        | 23 <sup>rd</sup><br>Beulah Beavers<br>Michell Cullop<br>Stephen Smallwood |
| 7 <sup>th</sup><br>Johnny Hutchins                                  | 18 <sup>th</sup><br>Patti Trivett                     | 24 <sup>th</sup><br>Wes Leonard<br>George Woodward                        |
| 11 <sup>th</sup><br>Larry Foran                                     | 20 <sup>th</sup><br>Wendy Barbrey<br>Kevin Doss       | 26 <sup>th</sup><br>Doug Altizer  |
| 12 <sup>th</sup><br>Monica Dixon<br>Charlie Pearman<br>Todd Slusher |   | 27 <sup>th</sup><br>Donna Keene   |
|   |   | 28 <sup>th</sup><br>Laura Hampton   |

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

### anniversaries

- |   |  |   |
|---|--|---|
| 8 <sup>th</sup><br>Stuart & Jennie Sutherland | 17 <sup>th</sup><br>Randy & Mary Jo Leonard<br>Lee & Babs Childs | 19 <sup>th</sup><br>Jonathan & Monica Dixon |
|---|--|---|

- 1<sup>st</sup> TABC Children's Basketball Rec League  
FLB 8:00 am - 1:30 pm (Every Saturday)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Deacon's Meeting  
TABC 4:00 pm
- 2<sup>nd</sup> AWANA  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm  
(Every Sunday)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Service  
Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
- 4<sup>th</sup> TACA Home Basketball Games  
FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 4<sup>th</sup> Transition Team Meeting  
Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- 5<sup>th</sup> TACA Parent Chapel  
Sanctuary 8:15 am
- 5<sup>th</sup> Children's Ministry Kidz Korner  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm  
(Every Wednesday)
- 5<sup>th</sup> Youth Service  
Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Ladies' Community Bible Study  
TABC 9:15—11:15 am (Every Thursday)
- 6<sup>th</sup> TACA Home Basketball Games  
FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> Celebrate Recovery  
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Every Thursday)
- 7<sup>th</sup> Senior Adult Breakfast  
Fiddler's Restaurant 9:00 am
- 8<sup>th</sup> AWANA Grand Prix Pit Party  
FLB 5:00—7:00 pm
- 9<sup>th</sup> Youth Superbowl Party  
Youth Room 6:00—10:00 pm
- 10<sup>th</sup> TACA Home Basketball Games  
FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 11<sup>th</sup> TACA Home Basketball Games  
FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 16<sup>th</sup> Deacon's Meeting  
TABC 4:00 pm
- 23<sup>rd</sup> AWANA Grand Prix  
FLB 5:00-7:30 pm
- 24<sup>th</sup> Widows Ministry Luncheon  
FH 12:00 noon
- 24<sup>th</sup> TACA Home Basketball Game  
FLB beginning 5:30 pm
- 28<sup>th</sup> TACA Home Basketball Games  
FLB beginning 5:30 pm \*\*Senior Night\*\*



# dear CHURCH family

## THANK YOU!

Just a quick thank you for the plant that the church sent for the passing of my mother. Please continue to pray for my brother, sister, and my mother's family. We are all taking her passing harder than

we thought. Thank you,  
**Jessica Correll**

I am writing to express my deepest gratitude for the outpouring of love, encouragement, and support you extended to me and my boys and in-laws and whole family during the passing of my husband

Luke. Your kindness, prayers, food, gift cards, money, gifts and your presence at the funeral service and graveside were a tremendous comfort during this difficult time. Please continue to pray - we can definitely feel them! We love you all and thank you again!

**Courtney, Brick & Loggins Gent**

### WEATHER RELATED SCHEDULE CHANGES

In the event of inclement weather, please visit our Facebook page *Tennessee Avenue Baptist Church* or our website [tabaptist.org](http://tabaptist.org) for the latest schedule changes.



Visit [tabaptist.org](http://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.



**Friday, February 7<sup>th</sup>**  
**Depart TABC at 9:00 a.m.**

Senior Adults, let's go to Fiddler's Restaurant in Abingdon, VA for our monthly breakfast. If you want to ride the bus, it will depart TABC at 9:00 a.m. Sign up in the vestibule if you'll join us for great food and fun fellowship!

### TABC FINANCES

#### *Tithes & Offerings*

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

01/05/2025 Offering	\$ 5,772.00
01/12/2025 Offering	\$ 9,382.00
01/19/2025 Offering	\$ 8,929.00
01/26/2025 Offering	\$ 9,795.00
On-line Giving 12/24/24-1/27/25	\$ 10,988.37
Period Giving Total	\$ 44,866.37
Total 2025 offering YTD:	\$ 44,866.37

#### Bank Balances

Current Loan Balance	\$ 871,804.55
General Account	\$ 191,016.87
Designated Account	\$ 37,333.81
Daycare / Academy	\$ 109,196.08
Money Market	\$ 127,595.27



**Ladies Spring Fellowship**

**SATURDAY, MARCH 29TH**

**SAVE - THE - DATE!**

*Ladies, save the date for our Spring fellowship!*  
*Watch for more details coming soon!*



# TACA Sword & Shield

FEBRUARY 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!

## BASKETBALL TIME AT TACA!

It's basketball time here at TACA! Basketball season brings excitement to our campus. It is always fun to watch the players on the court and the fans in the stands. In order for the season to be a success and run smoothly, many volunteers are needed. We are blessed with volunteers that coach, collect gate money, run the concession stand, keep the scorebook, run the scoreboard, live stream games, set up before games, and help clean up after games. We are so thankful for the army of volunteers who are willing to serve.

Basketball seasons vary from year to year. This year we have three teams which consist of middle school boys, middle and high school girls, and a Junior Varsity High school boys' team. These players have been working hard in the classroom and on the basketball court.

As with any ministry of the church, the sports program is dependent on donations to be successful. The TACA basketball teams have been blessed this season through donations from several families. Each team is sporting new uniforms this year because of the generosity of those families. In addition, a family donated an IPAD so we can livestream our home games as well as some of our away games. Live Streaming these games allows for working parents, grandparents, church members, and others who wish to watch the ability to do so. The games are live streamed through YouTube under TACA Athletics.

Our players not only work hard in the classroom and spend countless hours practicing for games and playing in those games, but some of the older students also volunteer their time every Saturday morning for the TABC Recreation League. This six-week program is designed to help students in Kindergarten through 6<sup>th</sup> grade build their foundational skills in basketball. The TACA basketball players work closely with the participants by leading drills, coaching, refereeing, keeping the clock, and even doing devotions.

To say we are blessed with a great group of students is an understatement. These students work together to become better teammates and to set a Godly example for those they encounter on and off the court. This league gives us the opportunity to "make disciples who make disciples."

Our basketball players and coaches appreciate the support of the TACA families, Academy staff and teachers, and TABC. We would love for you to come out and support these students during the week or on a Saturday through February 22<sup>nd</sup>. We have an amazing concession stand for all home games, and the best breakfast in town is served on Saturday mornings.

**Christy "Alaska" Reece Vance** is a playwright, director and author whose plays have been performed in cities throughout the U.S. as well as internationally. Her published works include *Changing Charming*, *Chasing Charming*, *Little Bo Peep Who Cried Wolf*, *I Am Angel*, *Ivan and the Birds*, *The Adventures of Bad*, *The Untold Story of Rose Red*, and the acting text, *Conquering the Stage: A Comprehensive Guide for the Actor*, which she co-authored with Kiara Pipino. She wrote the lyrics and libretto for the musical, *The Disorientation of Butterflies*, and directed the production at the New York International Fringe Festival, where she won an "Overall Excellence in Directing" award. Her play "Human" was presented at the New York International Fringe Festival as well as the New Orleans Fringe. Other New York productions include her one-acts *Moonlight in Boxes* and *Feeding the Subject*. In 2020, Alaska was recognized by the Kennedy Center American College Theatre Festival with an "Excellence in Directing" award for the direction of her verbatim play, *The Shutdown*. Alaska served as the chair of King University's theatre department until 2023, when she left to devote more time to her husband and two beautiful children. Alaska is thrilled to join the TACA family and looks forward to sharing her passion for theatre, her enthusiasm for language, and the love of Jesus with her students.



### TACA Chapel Mission Offering

#### TACA Mission Activities include

- Chapel Offerings
- Haven Food Drive
- Coat Drive
- Samaritan's Purse
- Community Service
- Belize Mission

#### December Giving

TACA Students gave \$1000 to the TLC Center to be used as gifts for the Hurrican Helene Victims. What a way to get involved with community missions! Way to go TACA!

January giving will benefit the Haven of Rest Food Drive!

February and March giving will benefit the Belize Mission and will provide rice and beans for the people in very poor areas of Belize.

TENNESSEE AVENUE  
CHRISTIAN ACADEMY

TRAINING TOMORROW'S  
CHRISTIAN LEADERS!

## TEACHER FEATURE

Christy "Alaska"  
Reece Vance  
Joins the  
TACA Faculty!





Tennessee Avenue  
Early Childhood Education



Families,

Happy February! The month that is all about love. You can already find all the Valentines Day goodies in the stores, and chances are if you're scrolling on your phone, you're seeing all sorts of Valentines Day ads. But, if we are Christians, shouldn't every month be about love? Specifically, God's love for us and our love for others? One of the most well-known scriptures about love is when Jesus was asked what the most important commandment was: "Teacher, which is the great commandment in the law?" Jesus said to him, "'You shall love the LORD your God with all your heart, with all your soul, and with all your mind.'" This is *the* first and greatest commandment. And *the* second is like it: 'You shall love your neighbor as yourself.' On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets." (Matthew 26:36-40, NKJV). So, if that's the case, should we not be showing love every day of every month of every year?

Another important aspect of this scripture is where we are instructed to love our neighbor. There is no exception, no clause, no stipulation. We are to love EVERYONE. Our families, our friends, of course! But we are also supposed to love those who we may not agree with, those who may push our nerves to the limit, those who have hurt us, those who are mean or ugly to us, those who say hurtful things about us, even though they don't know anything about us, those who are not like us, those who may not believe like us. Shew! That is one hard commandment to follow... but is it really, when we look at what Jesus did for us? God loved us, *all of us*, so much, that he gave his Son to pay for our sins. OUR SINS. Everyone single one of us. He gave the ultimate gift of love. Jesus died for OUR sins.

So, we should be able to love those around us! EVERYONE! Jesus loves everyone. And we should love everyone every single day. Man, sometimes that is hard. But we must learn to get over ourselves and to be what God has commanded us to be. So, my challenge to you is this: let this month, let Valentines Day, be a reminder to you - to love everyone, all the time!

Blessings in Christ,

Jessica Sharrett, Director  
Early Childhood Education Center



# TACA Sword & Shield

FEBRUARY 2025

## STAR STUDENTS

Our K-4 classes are excited to share with all of our parents the K-4 Star Students for the months of January & February....

**Mrs. Theresa's K-4 class:**

- Jan. 13-17 Everett Crockett
- Jan. 20-24 Kennedy Denton
- Jan. 27-31 Aiden Lewis
- Feb. 3-7 Marlowe Maxfield
- Feb. 10-14 Mark Milliard III
- Feb. 17-21 Albert Keen
- Feb. 24-28 Nyla Pickstock

**Mrs. Chanda's K-4 class:**

- Jan. 13-17 Rosie Harmon
- Jan. 20-24 Colt Yates
- Feb. 3-7 Evren Ratliff
- Feb. 17-21 Dalton Baumgardner





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

## 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](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)*