

# The TABC Journal

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TENNESSEE AVENUE  
Baptist Church  
THE JOY PLACE



## 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  
Sheila Girten, Acoustic Guitar  
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



God has blessed TABC as we saw from reviewing our heritage. Another truth we learned, as we reviewed our history, is that there have been some difficulties over the more

recent past. This conclusion comes from conversations and records. Does this mean God has stopped working and leading TABC? NO. One common issue found in most of these difficulties has been in the leadership model and structure of TABC. This has been acknowledged time and time again.

Part of the mission of our transition efforts has been to assess our leadership structure against the biblical model and seek to change and make corrections where necessary to fulfill our mission of making disciples that make disciples. Our transition team, deacons and pastors believe the answer to this leadership structure problem is to move from a Senior Pastor single elder model of leadership to a plurality of pastors/elders' model. We find this solution to the leadership issues we have faced in God's word. The teaching in 1 Timothy 5:4 is Jesus is the Chief Shepherd, the Senior (Chief) Pastor (Shepherd), of His church, His bride; and along with the indwelling of the Spirit they guide and lead His congregation of believers with the ministry of two offices, the plurality of pastors/elders and deacons.

April 2025

Volume 34, Issue 4

The goal of this recommendation is to see a similar work of God as recorded in Acts 6. The congregation in Jerusalem followed the advice of the apostles to appoint seven men to become lead servants to the widows and others. This decision allowed the apostles freedom to devote themselves to prayer and the preaching ministry (v. 3-4). This is how Luke records the results of that change, "And the word of God continued to increase, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a greatly many of the priests became obedient to the faith." (Acts 6:7 ESV)

The result of that leadership change is the mission of the church, disciples making disciples. By instituting this change, the ministry flourished. This is the heart of your TIM team, deacons, and pastors. Will you come alongside them and agree to let go of things that have served their purpose and joyfully receive the new biblically inspired leadership model?

Please, take advantage of all the opportunities your leadership team provides to introduce, explain, and answer your questions. Currently, there are two Q&A sessions scheduled for the evening service time, 6:00 pm, on April 6 and April 13. You are very much encouraged to attend.

Grace,

Dr. Lee Childs  
Minister of the Transitional Interim Ministry



Brothers and Sisters in Christ,

The vision for our present/future life is found in God's eternal word. I am convinced that God is going to pierce a veil at TN Ave that will cause heaven to invade earth in our lifetime. Psalm 24 says that you and I are the gate that will open and that will unleash heaven. Make God's word the only word you choose to speak. Live for this breakthrough. The gates of hell shall not prevail against God's church.

2 Corinthians 5:17 (NLT) tells us: *"This means that anyone who belongs to Christ has become a new person. The old life has gone, a new life has begun!"*

1 Peter 1:23 (NLT) says, *"For you have been born again, but not to a life that will quickly end. Your new life will last forever because it comes from the eternal, living word of God."*

Matthew 16:18-19 (NLT): *"Now I say to you that you are Peter (which means rock) and upon this rock I will build my church, and all the powers of hell will not conquer it. And I will give you the keys of the kingdom of heaven. Whatever you forbid on earth will be forbidden in heaven, and whatever you permit on earth will be permitted in heaven."*

Philippians 3:20 (NLT): *"But we are citizens of heaven, where the Lord Jesus Christ lives. And we are eagerly waiting for him to return as our Savior. He will take our weak mortal bodies and change them into glorious bodies like his own, using the same power with which he will bring everything under his control."*

Colossians 3:1-3 NLT: *"Since you have been raised to new life with Christ, set your sights on the realities of heaven, where Christ sits in the place of honor at God's right hand. Think about things of heaven, not the things of earth. For you died to this life, and your real life is hidden with Christ in God."*

Jeremiah 15:16a (NLT): *"When I discovered your words, I devoured them. They are my joy and my heart's delight."*

Hebrews 4:12 (NLT): *"For the word of God*

*is alive and powerful. It is sharper than the sharpest two-edged sword, cutting between soul and spirit, between joint and marrow. It exposes our innermost thoughts and desires."*

Romans 12:2a (NLT): *"Don't copy the behavior and the customs of this world, but let God transform you into a new person by changing the way you think."*

Colossians 2:7a (NLT): *"Let your roots grow down into him, and let your lives be built on him."*

Finally, Hebrews 10:23 tells us to hold fast our confession.

Brothers and sisters,

It is Finished!

Because, it is written!

Imagine these eternal words being filled by God's spirit in God's children. I can only imagine!

Eagerly anticipating breakthrough,

In Christ,

Bro. Paul

Associate Pastor of Discipleship



## The Hope of the Cross: The Fulfillment of God's Perfect Sacrifice

Easter is a time of reflection, gratitude, and celebration. It is the season when we remember the greatest sacrifice ever made, and the victory that changed everything. To fully understand the power of the resurrection, we must first look back at the sacrificial system established in the Old Testament.

From the earliest pages of Scripture, God made a way for sinful people to be reconciled to Him. The sacrificial system, given to Israel through Moses, required the

blood of lambs, bulls, and goats to atone for sin. Day after day, year after year, priests offered sacrifices on behalf of the people. But these sacrifices were only temporary. They pointed forward to something—someone—greater.

Jesus Christ was that fulfillment. As John the Baptist declared, *"Behold! The Lamb of God who takes away the sin of the world!"* (John 1:29, NKJV). Unlike the Old Testament sacrifices that had to be repeated, Jesus' death on the cross was once for all. He became the perfect, spotless Lamb, offering Himself as the final sacrifice. His resurrection three days later proved that His work was complete, that sin and death had been defeated, and that we have eternal hope in Him.

This Easter, we will celebrate these incredible truths together through our special Good Friday service and musical *"The Hope of the Cross"*. On Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup>, at 7 PM, our church family will come together for

an evening of worship and reflection. Through powerful music and Scripture, we will walk through the story of redemption—from the Old Testament sacrifices to the finished work of Christ. We will also take communion, remembering the body broken and the blood shed for our salvation.

As we prepare our hearts for Easter, let us remember the depth of God's love displayed through the cross. The sacrifices of the past have been fulfilled. The debt of sin has been paid. And because Jesus lives, we have the promise of eternal life.

Join us as we worship, remember, and proclaim together—our hope is found in the cross and His resurrection!

Blessings,

Pastor Joey Cole

Worship Pastor



# Widows Ministry

Dear Church Family,

Although last month the respiratory illnesses and cold temps dropped our attendance, we still had 60 ladies! We enjoyed the singing of Geneva Brown and a great lunch. God has been so faithful to provide the food, the program and the helpers for this ministry and I am continually amazed and blessed by His provision! I would like to thank all of you who support this ministry with targeted monetary gifts and prayers! Keep them coming! And I also want to recognize the faith-

fulness of the workers who make it happen. Feeding 60 to 80 women is definitely a group effort!!

Many people have asked what they can do to help. One of the things many widows suffer from is isolation and loneliness, so if you take time to call and just say "Hello, I'm thinking of you", it would mean so much! An in-person visit would be even more welcome. Many widows find it hard to reach out, and feel overlooked, so your kindness and thoughtfulness could make the difference in someone having a good day or a bad day.

Here are some words of advice from grief counseling. Unless you are a widow, you don't know how a widow feels, so do not say "I know how you feel". We have all suffered loss of a loved one, but being a widow is different than other types of

grief. And contrary to popular belief, we DO want to talk about our spouse. So many time folks are afraid to speak of the departed husband for fear of making grief worse. The opposite is true! Talking about the one that is gone is sometimes very therapeutic. Grief is not something you 'get over'. Grieving people move forward with their lives, but grief is not like an illness that is over. Lives change forever with the loss of a spouse and it takes time to get used to the "new normal". If you don't know what to say, just give the widow a hug! That action is worth a thousand words!

Again, my heart overflows in gratitude to all of you! Bless you! Bless you! Bless you!

Kathy Sharp

# Tennessee Ave KIDZ



## EASTER MOVIE

**KIDS' CHURCH EASTER CELEBRATION**

**SUNDAY, APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup>  
9:45 AM—12:00 PM**

Kids, join us in the Children's Ministry Area for a FREE Easter movie and popcorn! And receive a free Easter treat bag!



## SUMMER VBS

**June 8-13  
6:00-8:30 PM**

**SAVE-THE-DATE!**

Our Summer VBS is "MAGNIFIED!" This VBS will encourage kids to look closely at the details of God's amazing world and magnify, or proclaim, the greatness of God. God made us, cares about us, loves us, forgives us, and is faithful to keep all His promises to us. We can praise God together! We were made to magnify God!

**VBS VOLUNTEER MEETING**  
APRIL 13<sup>TH</sup> 12:30 PM

We need LOTS of help! If you have any interest in helping with VBS, please plan to attend this meeting in the Family Life Building. Lunch will be provided. Please sign up in the vestibule to let us know you'll plan to attend.

# the month of APRIL



## Event Calendar

- 1<sup>st</sup> Transition Team Meeting**  
Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm (Every Tuesday)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> TACA Parent Chapel**  
Sanctuary 8:15 am
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Kidz Korner**  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm  
(Every Wednesday)
- 2<sup>nd</sup> Youth Worship Service**  
Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Wednesday)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Ladies' Community Bible Study**  
TABC 9:15-11:20 am (Thursdays)
- 3<sup>rd</sup> Celebrate Recovery**  
Fellowship Hall 6:30 pm (Thursdays)
- 4<sup>th</sup> Senior Adult Breakfast**  
Eggs Up Grill 9:00 am
- 5<sup>th</sup> VBS Leader Training**  
Indian Springs Baptist Church 10:00 am
- 6<sup>th</sup> Churchwide Q & A Session**  
Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- 6<sup>th</sup> AWANA**  
Children's Ministry Area 6:00 pm  
(Every Sunday)
- 6<sup>th</sup> Youth Worship Service**  
Youth Room 6:00 pm (Every Sunday)
- 10<sup>th</sup> Finance Team Meeting**  
Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Children's Ministry Easter Celebration**  
Children's Ministry Area 9:45 am
- 13<sup>th</sup> VBS Volunteer Lunch Meeting**  
FLB 12:30 pm
- 13<sup>th</sup> Churchwide Q & A Session**  
Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm
- 18<sup>th</sup> GOOD FRIDAY - Church Office, Academy & Early Education Center Closed**
- 18<sup>th</sup> Choir Musical / Communion Service**  
Sanctuary 6:00 pm
- 20<sup>th</sup> EASTER SUNDAY**  
No PM Service
- 21<sup>st</sup> Meals on Wheels**
- 28<sup>th</sup> Widows Luncheon**  
FH 12:00 noon

## birthdays

2 <sup>nd</sup>	Danny Lewis Jimmy Phipps, Jr.	7 <sup>th</sup>	Celesta Jenkins	20 <sup>th</sup>	Benny James
3 <sup>rd</sup>	Aaron Cole Max Minor	10 <sup>th</sup>	Hank Pottorf	22 <sup>nd</sup>	Carmen Frazier Jim Saunders
4 <sup>th</sup>	Joshua Thompson	13 <sup>th</sup>	Anne Haynes	23 <sup>rd</sup>	Jason Carter
5 <sup>th</sup>	Jerry Feathers Chris Koserski Sylvia Rowland Tayler Ryan	15 <sup>th</sup>	Katie Belle Phipps Zachery Strouth	24 <sup>th</sup>	Roger Cox
6 <sup>th</sup>	Janet Coker Ben Cornelius Cathy Wolfenbarger	16 <sup>th</sup>	Emma Padgett Samantha Tuzzolino	25 <sup>th</sup>	Don Rowland
		17 <sup>th</sup>	Jet Cornelius	27 <sup>th</sup>	Paul Thompson
		18 <sup>th</sup>	Hannah Moore Cade Stevens Stuart Sutherland	28 <sup>th</sup>	Jonathan Keen
			David Price	30 <sup>th</sup>	Ronnie Martin



## anniversaries

4 <sup>th</sup>	Johnny & Jill Hutchins	26 <sup>th</sup>	John & Amie Parker	30 <sup>th</sup>	Frankie & Becky Hunt
6 <sup>th</sup>	Kyle & Sandra Hillman	29 <sup>th</sup>	Cody & Olivia Cornelius		Jim & Bambi Rush
17 <sup>th</sup>	Marc & Debra Perry				

# dear CHURCH family

## THANK YOU!

Many, many thanks to you all for all of the prayers and everything you've done for us during the passing of our father Charles Tittle. God Bless you all!

**Mr. & Mrs. Tittle**

Thank you so much for allowing my family and friends to use your nice fellowship hall for my surprise 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. Love in Christ,

**Mary Ann Story**

How can I express my feelings for all you all have done for our family? You all are

such a blessing. This journey has been hard, but you all have lifted us up in prayers, food and gifts. Thank you all for all the visits, flowers, and the meal that was prepared for us after Dennis' celebration of life. Our hearts have been blessed. Thank you Church family!

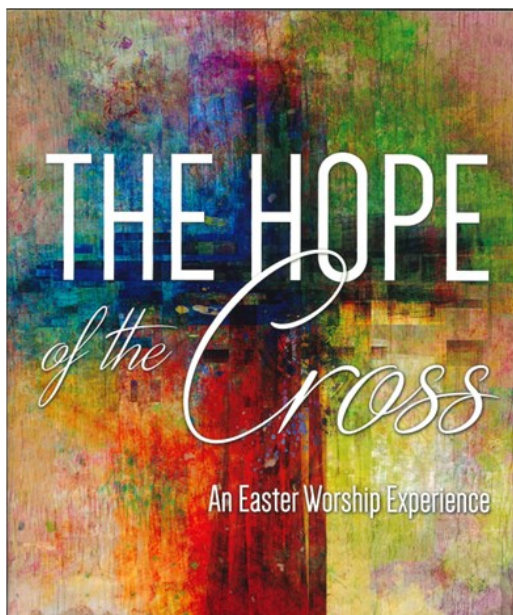
**Kim, Stacy, Courtney, Natalie & Family**



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.



**THE HOPE**  
*of the Cross*  
An Easter Worship Experience

**TABC Celebration Choir Easter Musical**

**Friday, April 18<sup>th</sup> 7:00 PM**

Please join us for a Christ-exalting evening of worship! We will also observe The Lord's Supper on this evening.

TABC FINANCES	
<i>Tithes &amp; Offerings</i>	
"...try Me now in this," Says the LORD of hosts... See Malachi 3:10	
03/02/2025 Offering	\$ 15,600.00
03/09/2025 Offering	\$ 10,063.00
03/16/2025 Offering	\$ 7,410.00
03/23/2025 Offering	\$ 12,605.00
On-line Giving 2/25-3/24/25	\$ 9,573.43
Period Giving Total	\$ 55,251.43
Total 2025 offering YTD:	\$ 160,140.96
<b>Bank Balances</b>	
Current Loan Balance	\$ 857,054.22
General Account	\$ 194,513.66
Designated Account	\$ 45,375.13
Daycare / Academy	\$ 51,878.23
Money Market	\$ 128,339.76

You are invited to a drop-in Household Shower honoring

**John & Roni DePew**

Sunday, April 13<sup>th</sup> 3-5 PM  
TABC Fellowship Hall

Please join us in blessing these newlyweds! See Alyson Cole if any questions.



# TACA Sword & Shield

APRIL 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!

## Belize Mission Trip

It has been five years since I have been in Belize. On March 11, 2025, I had the privilege of returning to Belize with a team of TACA students, parents, college students, and medical professionals.

My love for Belize all began in 2006 when I was invited to go with a team from Tri-Cities Christian School and I jumped at the chance! It would be my first short term missions trip and I was more than excited to go. I thought it was "just a trip" and a once in a lifetime experience. That is not what God had in mind at all. It was during that trip that I knew God was calling me to something much bigger. A sense of purpose and clarity washed over me, though it was accompanied by the uncertainty of what the future would hold. Nevertheless, the passion ignited within me was undeniable, and I was eager to embrace it.

Since that first trip, I have led over 25 teams to Belize on mission that included medical teams, construction, students, and pastors, parents and school staff. Some teams had as many as 73 members. We have served hundreds of patients, built more houses that I can remember, led many to the Lord, and made memories and friends that I will keep tucked away for the rest of my life. I never dreamed that accepting that invitation to go would lead to all those years of service.

God is merciful and kind. The idea that He invites us to join Him in serving others is mind boggling but beautiful and exciting! How can it be that He would extend such an invitation to someone who has no idea how to do all those things? He only asks for a willing heart. He will do all the rest. Thank you God that I said yes.

Cindy Beal

### Belize Mission 2025

95 Patients treated in the med clinic, home visits and orphans exams.

\*50 lbs beans and 60 lbs rice distributed.

\*7 sets of bunk beds and built and mattresses purchased for Cayo Christian Academy.

\*17 team members had life changing experiences.

\*Countless people reached with the gospel message.

\*Endless memories made and lives changed.

"Whoever serves me must follow me; and where I am, my servant also will be. My Father will honor those who serve me." John 12:26  
TO GOD BE THE GLORY!

1. I loved the experience of meeting all of our team. It was a blessing that we all bonded.
2. I really enjoyed triage and meeting the patients, helping at the orphanage and spreading God's love.
3. I'm thankful for the experience and blessed by the kindness of the villages we visited and the ones that came to the clinic.
4. I love that I can serve the Lord in ways I never dreamed of and look forward to serving again.
5. I know that this experience made my walk with Jesus a closer one than I had before and I'm blessed that I was able to go!!!!

Liz Trivette

Going to Belize was honestly a life changing experience for me. It opened my eyes up to see what a less fortunate country goes through day to day. It also opened my eyes from a religious standpoint, because even though they might not have much, they still have the Lord to help them through any disadvantages and rough times they may have. If you ever have the opportunity to experience what I got to experience, I would always recommend doing that. - Riley Sharrett

## Belize Mission Trip Testimonials

This year I was very fortunate to be able to go to Belize and help. It was a blessing to be with the three students and see how they interacted and prayed with the people of Belize. We handed out rice and beans and helped with the medical clinic as well. Walking the streets and seeing the living conditions puts perspective on how truly blessed I am. - Sam Tuzzolino

My experience on this trip to Belize was truly amazing and changed my perspective in ways I never expected. We are so blessed, yet we often fail to understand or appreciate it fully until we encounter situations like this. During the trip, I witnessed God moving in many ways, which deeply touched my heart. I am very thankful for the opportunity to participate in this trip and have such a meaningful experience. - Emily Petty (10<sup>th</sup> Grade)

My experience in Belize was truly eye-opening. It's one thing to know, in the abstract, that others are less fortunate than I am—blessed with a life where I never go hungry, attend a Christian school, and enjoy simple pleasures like dining out—but it's another entirely to witness the severi-

ty of their struggles firsthand. I can't imagine not knowing when my next meal will come, lacking running water, or even facing the threat of my home collapsing due to a lack of resources. While witnessing these hardships broke my heart, it was equally inspiring to see the unwavering faith in the people's worship, with the peace and joy of the Lord shining through them. - Chelsey Bowman (11<sup>th</sup> Grade)

I am so thankful that I was given the opportunity to go on the Mission Trip to Belize. I never dreamed it would have the effect on me that it did. We are so blessed and often take everyday conveniences for granted, while there are people who can't even get access to basic medical, physical, or spiritual needs. I think that the worst part was seeing just how poorly the people in the villages live. Their homes are falling apart, they have no water and very little food, and the orphanage we visited is full of girls who have been abused at a very young age. It was such a blessing to be able to love on these people, provide a little bit of help, and share the Love of Jesus with them. - Jessica Sharrett



Tennessee Avenue  
Early Childhood Education



# TACA Sword & Shield

APRIL 2025

Families,

I am writing this on my first day back on campus after spending an amazing week on the Mission Trip in Belize. I never dreamed that the trip would have such an impact on my life. Seeing how most of the people of Belize live in poverty, not even having access to what we consider is basics, is heartbreaking and makes you realize how incredibly blessed we are, and honestly, how selfish. I know there are people here who struggle around us, but it is a different type of struggling.

Most of the villages that we visited were in deplorable conditions, had no running water, and if they did it was not clean water. The houses are tiny, more like shacks that are literally held together by old wood and nails, and most of these homes have more than 4 or 5 people living in them, ranging in ages. Many do not have access to medical care, or do not have the ability to get help if they need it. They also struggle to put food on their tables. It is heartbreaking. But they do not seem to complain. They are thankful for any help, but to them, the way they are living is normal.

During the med clinics we held on the camp we got to meet an array of people as well. Again, many just needed help getting basic care. There were several with uncontrolled high blood pressure, severe pain from untreated arthritis, skin issues due to lack of bedding, and even some just seeking out help for headaches or colds. Again, help with all these conditions is something we take for granted. Most of us have medicines for issues and certainly have Tylenol or ibuprofen on hand.

Another opportunity we had was visiting Marla's House of Hope. It is an orphanage for girls. For me, this was one of the hardest clinics and visits we did. Most of the girls were there because they were removed from their homes due to abuse, and most had been sexually abused at a very young age. Because of the abuse, you could see fear and discomfort when they were being checked, even though it was literally just a basic checkup. This was also a great opportunity for the young adults and students that were with us to really show Jesus. While we were doing the med clinic, they were outside playing with the kids. It was amazing to see.



With Easter coming up this month, this trip was a great reminder of what Jesus came to do, and what He did for us. Jesus himself was on a mission and traveled spreading the Word of God. The Disciples were on a mission, spreading the Word of God, the Life of Jesus, and helping those they met. I could never have imagined that I would be going on a mission trip (or that Riley would be going on one with me). Isaiah 6:8 (NKJV) says, "Also I heard the voice of the Lord, saying: 'Whom shall I send, and who will go for Us?' Then I said, 'Here am I! Send me.'" I am so thankful that God called, and we went. I am also so thankful that I work here on the TABC campus, a campus that understands the command given in Matthew 22:36-40 (NKJV), "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 great 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." What an incredible experience it was!



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



## Dates To Remember

April 1<sup>st</sup>  
K4 Summer and Summer Camp  
Enrollment opens to the public

April 18<sup>th</sup>  
Closed for Good Friday



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## 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.

### Prayer Prompter

*Prayer is to our countenance  
like sunshine and rain  
to spring blossoms.  
Got Glow?"*

See Exodus 34:29-33

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