GRACE TABERNACLE BAPTIST CHURCH

Community Connection

Activating God's Word



PASTOR WAYNE DAWSON

The Word of God is alive, powerful, and relevant to our everyday lives. Simply reading the Bible is not enough; we must activate God's Word by believing it, obeying it, speaking it, internalizing it, and letting it transform how we live.

James 1:22 reminds us, "Do not merely listen to the Word, and so deceive yourselves; do what it says." God desires for His Word to move from the pages of Scripture into our hearts and into our daily actions. When we activate the Word, we put our faith into practice.

We also activate God's Word through obedience. Knowing what Scripture says is not enough; we must be willing to do what it says. When God tells us to forgive, we forgive; when God tells us to love, we love. When God calls us to serve, we serve. When He tells us to trust Him, we trust Him, even when we cannot see the outcome.

Our lives should become living testimonies of what God can do. When others see our love, patience, faith, integrity, and compassion, they'll see evidence that God's Word is working in us.

Sometimes our circumstances may seem to contradict what God promised. We may face sickness, disappointment, financial challenges, family struggles, or uncertainty about our future. Yet faith reminds us that God's Word remains true even during difficult circumstances.

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 will make your paths straight."

The Word of God has the power to change hearts, strengthen families, restore hope, guide decisions, and transform lives. But we must act on it.

Don't just read the Word, live the Word. Don't just hear the Word, obey the Word. Don't just know the Word, activate the Word!

As we activate God's Word in this season, may our lives become a visible testimony of God's truth, His Grace, and His transforming power.

With love & prayers,

Pastor Wayne

THE HEALTH CORNER

September Focus: Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD)

Contributor: Eleanor J. Ellis

Chronic Obstructive Pulmonary Disease (COPD) refers to a group of lung disorders that damage the lungs and make breathing increasingly difficult. The two most common forms are chronic bronchitis and emphysema, both of which are associated with cigarette smoking, air pollution, exposure to airborne organic dust and toxic workplace gases, and frequent respiratory illnesses.

Chronic bronchitis occurs when the airways become inflamed, and the mucus-producing glands in the bronchi enlarge, producing excess mucus and a persistent cough. It is traditionally defined as a cough that lasts for at least three months per year for two or more consecutive years.

Emphysema damages and destroys the tiny air sacs, or alveoli, in the lungs. As the disease progresses, the lungs lose elasticity and become less able to exchange oxygen and carbon dioxide efficiently, causing increasingly labored breathing and shortness of breath.

COPD is not usually inherited. However, approximately 1% to 3% of cases are associated with alpha-1 antitrypsin (AAT) deficiency, a genetic condition that can affect both the lungs and liver. AAT is a protein produced by the liver that helps protect the lungs from inflammation and tissue damage. When the body does not produce enough functional AAT, emphysema can develop even in people who have never smoked. Ask your doctor about alpha-1 testing if you have unexplained liver problems, breathing difficulties despite never having smoked, or asthma that does not improve with treatment.

Air trapping occurs when air cannot be fully exhaled from the lungs and may contribute to hyperinflation. When narrowed or less elastic airways partially collapse during exhalation, air becomes trapped in the alveoli, making it increasingly difficult to empty the lungs and breathe effectively.

Symptoms: Common symptoms include shortness of breath, chronic cough, and wheezing that often worsen over time.
Treatment: Treatment may include bronchodilators, corticosteroids, smoking cessation, avoiding pollutants, maintaining a healthy diet, and participating in pulmonary rehabilitation to help manage symptoms and improve physical fitness.
Source: Harvard Health. For additional information or guidance regarding COPD, consult a qualified medical professional.

Happy Birthday

To our members celebrating birthdays in the month of October:

Aderemi Simone Adedeji
Elsada McGann
Alissa Monique Snoddy
Rachel Colvin
Everton Marshall
Tisha Chisholm
Nicole Campbell
Karen Barclay
Vijay Dhaan
Esther Marshall
Briana Marie Snoddy
Brielle Hairston
Cameo Futrell
Camille Futrell
Alison McGuire
Sir Leonard Edwards III
Joniah Gales
Keondric Daniels
Ingrid Junor

Recap of Motion in Devotion: A Glorious Showcase of Praise

Contributor: Lady Laverne Dawson



Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church celebrated a powerful evening of faith, creativity, and worship during its Third Annual Dance Praise Festival. The event highlighted our youth's gifts and dedication, reminding us that worship takes many forms and that young people have a vital place in ministry.

The congregation was blessed by Devotion in Motion, Growing in Grace, Growing in Grace Littles Praise Dancers, Divine Grace Mimes, and special guest performers from Providence Baptist Church, Humble Cry, Angels of Praise, Guardians of Praise, Next Generation, and Gentlemen of Praise. Each group offered a unique expression of praise, creating a beautiful and unforgettable celebration.

A special highlight was the debut of the Grace Music Ministry, which added another meaningful dimension to the evening. The program was hosted by Sir Leonard Edwards and Amir Wilson, with history presented by Rashanea Redman.

The festival also served as the Third Annual Fundraiser sponsored by Grace Tabernacle's Christian Education Ministry. Proceeds will support the youth's retreat to the Bible Museum in Mansfield, Ohio, on October 24, 2026. Donations are still being accepted, please see Rev. Camille Brown or Sis. Robin Gunn.

We thank every performer, volunteer, parent, supporter, and ministry leader who helped make this event a success. Above all, we give God the glory for using our youth to turn movement into ministry and praise into testimony!

Spotlight: Deacon Tanis Strong

Quiet Beauty, Reverent Faith

Contributor: Eleanor J. Ellis



Tanis Strong was born and raised in Akron, Ohio, by a hardworking mother who was deeply devoted to her children. Though quiet, determined, and not especially religious, her mother taught Tanis to be respectful, do what is right, and treat others with kindness—values Tanis still lives by today.

At age ten, Tanis moved to Cleveland with her mother and two siblings: a brother, who is now deceased, and a sister. The family had little while growing up, but her mother made the most of what they had and taught her children to appreciate it. Her mother passed away in 2007 and remains the most influential person in Tanis's life, having always offered unwavering support and encouragement.

Tanis graduated from Glenville High School and Ursuline College, where she earned a bachelor's degree in business administration in 2003. She worked at PNC Bank as a Clinic Care Manager until her retirement in 2017. Tanis is a widow; her husband passed away in 2010. Together, they have two adult children and three grandchildren.

Tanis enjoys traveling and makes a point of taking a vacation each year. Her travels have included Europe, with visits to Paris and Italy, and most recently, Barbados, where she traveled this April with her daughter and two stepchildren.

Tanis has been a member of Grace Tabernacle Baptist Church for more than 30 years. She first came to Grace with a friend on Friendship Sunday. The late Reverend Dr. Jeremiah Pryce's teaching and commitment inspired both Tanis and her husband to remain at Grace, and he later appointed them both as deacons of the church. Today, Tanis continues to appreciate Pastor Dawson's teaching and the uplifting worship led by the Praise Team, both of which sustain her joy throughout the week.

Over the years, Tanis has served in several ministries, including the Fiscal Management Team, Women of Grace, New Members Class, Usher Board, and Food Produce Outreach. She also stands at the front of the church each Sunday during altar call with outstretched hands, warmly welcoming anyone who desires to join God's family. Tanis's favorite scripture is Proverbs 3:5–6: "Trust in the Lord with all your heart and do not lean on your own understanding. In all thy ways acknowledge Him and He shall direct thy path."

Thank you, Deacon Tanis, for being our October Spotlight.

SAVE THE DATE

10/2: Men's Fellowship (7:00 p.m)
10/3: Christian Ed Seminar (1 p.m)
10/8: Young Women's Dialogue (6:30 p.m)
10/10: Food Bank (10:30 a.m)
10/17-18: Women of Grace Weekend
10/24:Bus Trip to Bible Walk Museum
10/18 & 19: New Member Orientation
10/30: Friday Nite Alive YWD Takeover (6:00 p.m)
10/31: Quarterly Business Meeting (10:00 a.m)

Worship with Us

Sunday School: 9:30 a.m.
In person and online

Junior Church: 11:00 a.m.
For children and teens 1+

Worship Service: 11:00 a.m.
In person and online

Pray & Study

Wednesdays
Bible Study: 6:30 p.m.
Prayer Meeting: 7:30 p.m.

Thursdays
Communal Prayer: 9:30 a.m.
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