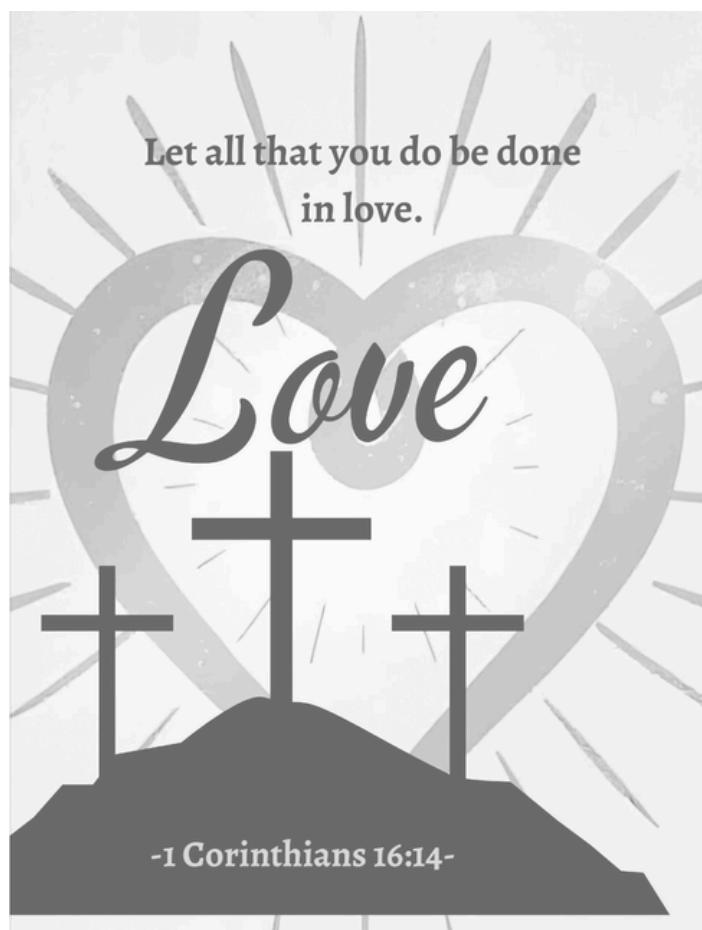




I count them as great friends and brothers in arms. Part of the longing in my heart to go back to the pastorate is because of hanging out with these men and seeing the love and dedication they have for the flocks the Lord has put under their watch. It made me want that again in my own life, and it makes me long for the side-by-side walk of discipleship a pastor has with his leaders and church members. It has made us long to belong to one gospel community where we can invest our lives. With that said, I have surrendered to the call of a sister church in Pell City, Alabama to serve as their pastor beginning February 1. I am humbled that God would entrust His flock to my stewardship as His undershepherd, and I would request your prayers for us as we make this transition. The church is God's plan to bless this world and communicate the Gospel to the ends of the earth. He does this as His grace is reflected in the church to the communities around them. We love you and trust the work of this family of churches will continue on as you seek to make disciple-making disciples and see South Mississippi become known for the name of Jesus Christ. May God direct you to the next man He has called to lead the association. Bro. T - signing off.



### Start the New Year off with Rolling Hills Baptist Church's Thirsty (for God's Word) Thursday

On the second and fourth Thursdays of each month, at 10 AM we will be going through a new video series in Romans Part 2 with J.D. Greear.

Join us at the church for study, fellowship, and food. Everyone is welcome!  
Call 601-723-0962 for more information.

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**Tara Poolson, Women's Ministry**  
**601-347-4850**

We are excited to share that this year's Spring Tea & Marketplace will be held on Saturday, April 11, at the First Baptist Church of Carriere in the Activities Building! It is a joy to use this historical space (do you realize it is 50 years old now?) for its intended purpose—bringing people together under the truth of His grace.

Which brings us to our 2026 theme for our Women's Ministries—Grace Upon Grace, which is drawn from the beautiful reminder in John 1:16-17:

“For from His fullness we have all received, grace upon grace. For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.”

Join us for an afternoon of fellowship, encouragement, inspiration, sisterhood, and worship as we reflect on the abundant grace found only in Christ. SHARE and invite your friends and neighbors to this event.

Click the link below or scan the QR code to sign up!

<https://pci.jotform.com/form/260143787127156>



### Interested in starting Bible Drills in your church?

Training is available for any church that would like to start a Bible Drill program. If you would like information on Bible Drills, please contact the Association office at 601-798-2372.

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### Pearl Submissions

If you would like to submit an article for the Pearl, please submit it to [prbapta@gmail.com](mailto:prbapta@gmail.com) by the 12<sup>th</sup> of the month that leads up to the next month's edition. If I don't receive it by that date, I can't promise that I'll be able to fit it in. Also, if you notice any corrections that need to be made in the Pearl or if there is an address, birthday, or anniversary correction, please let me know.

**Want to help us save paper and postage?** Sign up to receive the Pearl by email! Just send me your name and email address and I'll add you to the list. Also, let me know if you'd be okay with me taking you off of the snail mail list. Send all this to [prbapta@gmail.com](mailto:prbapta@gmail.com).

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## February

### Birthdays:

- 2 Dr. Kyle Jones
- 8 Tommy Jones
- 14 Elaine Rhodes
- 14 Megan Butler
- 15 Lesa Lee
- 16 Leah Bell
- 16 Becky Pomelow
- 20 Karen Myers

### Anniversaries:

- 14 Yancy & Donna Wise