



the talon

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TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
December 2, 2025

from the Head

Long ago, in the colony of New England known as the Plymouth Colony, Puritans received a successful harvest with the help of the natives. The two shared a three-day feast of thanks. Our National holiday of Thanksgiving comes from this friendship and community.

Life was harsh for the Plymouth Colony, and many individuals died soon after arriving, including the "Tilly" family, who traveled on the Mayflower. During the 1620s, having a successful harvest or not determined life or death. You can guarantee that the thankfulness of these early colonists was heartfelt and meaningful.

I recently came across a collection of 1600s Puritan prayers in a book titled *The Valley of Vision*. The prayer below is "Praise and Thanksgiving."

I bless thee for the soul thou hast created,
for adorning it, sanctifying it,
though it is fixed in barren soil;
for the body thou hast given me,
for preserving its strength and vigour,
for providing senses to enjoy delights,
for the ease and freedom of my limbs,
for hands, eyes, ears that do thy bidding,
for thy royal bounty providing my daily support,
for a full table and overflowing cup,
for appetite, taste, sweetness,
for social joys of relatives and friends,
for ability to serve others,
for a heart that feels sorrows and necessities,
for a mind to care for my fellow-men,
for opportunities of spreading happiness around,
for loved ones in the joys of heaven,
for my own expectation of seeing thee clearly.
I love thee above the powers of language to express,
for what thou art to thy creatures.
Increase my love, O my God, through time and eternity.
Amen

In Christ,



Jared D. Tilley



generosity.

Barnabas Award

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” – Acts 20:35



Violet Moore (PreK)

“Violet Moore shows generosity towards us all on a regular basis. She enjoys creating art pieces for us, she loves helping take care of the younger children on the playground and she often lets friends take a turn before her. Her vivacious and generous spirit is felt through the classroom everyday.”

-Jenn Roe



Amos Rebenstorff (1st Grade)

“Amos is such a kind and respectful friend to his classmates. He comes to school eager to learn and to develop meaningful friendships with his peers. I have witnessed him go out of his way to be generous to a friend that might need extra words of encouragement. I’ve seen him help motivate those around him, and he has such a pure, loving, and giving personality. He is always brainstorming for ways to uplift and encourage others by writing them kind notes. I am so proud of his generosity in and out of the classroom.” -Rebecca Hake



Audrey DeBord (2nd Grade)

“Audrey is always willing - and happily at that - to give and help others. She is always giving someone a turn in class, sharing with friends, and does it with a servant's heart. She does all of this with humility and with a spirit of joy. She is also generous in her attitude, and is generous at giving smiles and a shoulder for her friends.” -Rachel Arms



generosity.

Barnabas Award

“It is more blessed to give than to receive.” – Acts 20:35

Harper Crowe (4th Grade)

“I am really impressed at how kind and generous Harper is with her time! She goes out of her way to help others, not only in our classroom but also with younger students. Harper has also been known to share her lunch with someone and bring in sweet surprises for her teacher! She demonstrates a Christ-like attitude of patience towards everyone and makes our classroom a better place! Harper Crowe is our class pick for generosity.” -Donna McKee



Sammy Hensley (Middle School)

“Sammy is a student that is generous to others on a regular basis. He is the first one to share supplies with others and even share advice. He wants to help serve in any way he can. He is giving, big-hearted, and open-handed to others and to me.” -Kelly Owens



Callie Jacobsen (Upper School)

“The hardest thing to be generous with is our time; one can earn more money and get more things, but our time can never be returned to us. Callie Jacobsen has been working the National Honor Society's charitable drives and after-school clean up initiative since before she was initiated into NHS, and before she received any high school volunteer hours. She just saw a need, and showed up. For that reason, I nominate her for the Barnabas award for generosity.” -April Sopczak



SECOND AND THIRD GRADE AUDUBON ACRES PIONEER DAYS

On Monday, November 17th, our 2nd and 3rd-grade students traveled to Audubon Acres for an unforgettable Pioneer Days experience. Students were able to step back in time and discover what daily life was like for early Americans through a variety of hands-on activities and demonstrations.

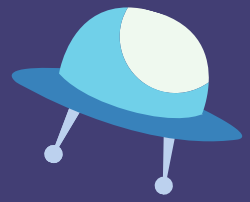
Throughout the day, students explored authentic cabins, learned how families cooked over open fires, and even saw how clothes were washed outdoors. They also had the chance to taste hand-churned butter on crackers and drink fresh apple cider that they helped press themselves. Additional demonstrations included wool spinning, blacksmithing, and log sawing, giving students a firsthand look at the time, effort, and skill required to create everyday items like yarn.

One of the most memorable parts of the trip was meeting volunteers who camp out for the entire week to live as pioneers did. Students enjoyed playing pioneer games, trying new foods, and learning in the beautiful outdoors together.

This trip was not only fun and immersive, but also a meaningful tie-in to the Thanksgiving season as students reflected on the hard work it took to build our country and were reminded of how grateful we can be for the advancements and comforts we enjoy today. Definitely a field trip to remember!

-Rachel Arms & Abby Runion





TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN SCIENCE FAIR

Each year, TCPS middle school students participate in their annual Science Fair held each November. In the early fall, local professionals and experts from the community assist students in selecting and developing their project ideas. Then, students conduct their experiments over the course of several weeks, culminating in our school-wide Science Fair where students present their projects to their classmates and teacher. The Science Fair is open to the TCPS community, and we invite local high school science teachers to come judge the projects. Our science fair winners for this year include:

1st Place Winner

-*Acidic Neutralizers*, Zac Evans

2nd Place Winners

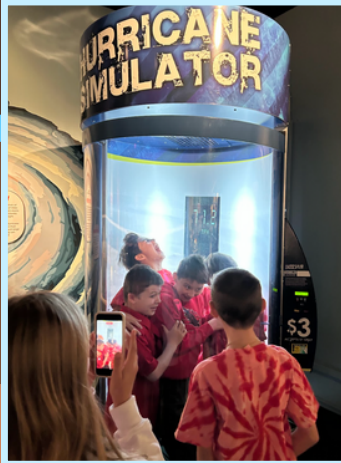
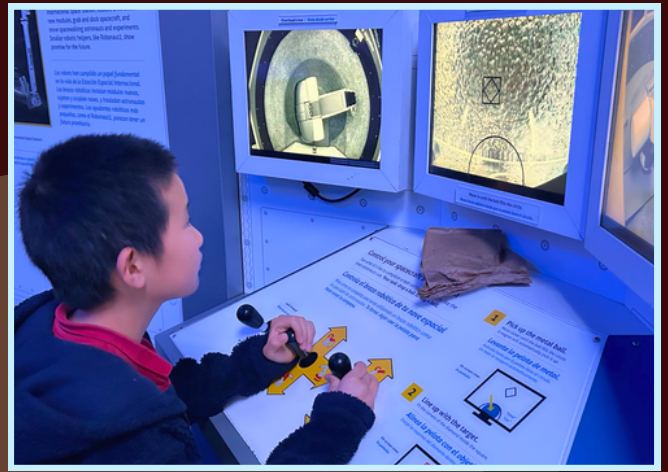
-*Beats and Heartbeats*, Eli Simonson
-*The Personality Game*, Greyson Laws

3rd Place Winners

- <i>Fuel Right Perform Tight</i> , Grace Laug	- <i>Hot Wheel Aerodynamics</i> , Mason Davis
- <i>The Heat Is On</i> , Henry Sluder	- <i>Growth Games</i> , Carolina Machacek
- <i>Germ Invasion</i> , Scarlett Shelton	- <i>Let it Grow</i> , Ady Ratcliff
- <i>Don't Bug Me</i> , Kenzie Smith	- <i>Great Candle Hunt</i> , Lincoln Osborne
	- <i>Sing It To Learn It</i> , Harper Canfield



TELLUS SCIENCE MUSEUM



On Tuesday, November 18th, a group of 30 enthusiastic fourth and fifth graders, along with two excited teachers and many parents, journeyed to Cartersville, Georgia, for a field trip to Tellus Science Museum. Our program was on plate tectonics, which did not disappoint! Students walked into the massive museum and were guided through the Weinman mineral gallery. Our tour guide, Ginger, did an impressive job educating our students about the Earth's crust and how it is constructed from tectonic plates. Our lab portion was an engaging experience as students worked to construct models of divergent, convergent, and transform boundaries. Then we headed into the gem panning room where students panned for tiny treasures to keep! No field trip is complete without a quick stop at the souvenir shop. Some families stayed a bit longer to tour the newly-completed West gallery, which has an extensive collection displaying the history of technology that preceded our Smartphones, as well as a section to see what it is like to be in space! We always return from Tellus with stories and pictures to share!

-Donna McKee



HAWK HIGHLIGHTS

As our school community headed into Thanksgiving Break, TCPS basketball delivered an exciting week of competition across all levels - High School, Middle School, and 4th/5th Grade. Here's a look at how the Hawks performed:

High School Boys Basketball

The High School Hawks continued their strong start to the season, improving to 3-0 after a decisive road win against Seymour Christian, 49-33.

Thomas Nicolaus powered the offense with a game-high 26 points, while Eli Ahlers dominated the glass with double-digit rebounds, and Caleb Cigliano anchored the defense, successfully guarding Seymour's top scorer for the entire game.

In their first conference matchup, TCPS fell to Mt. Pisgah, 53-37. A slow start put the Hawks behind early, but they showed resilience in the second half.

Caleb Cigliano sparked the comeback attempt, knocking down five three-pointers and finishing with 15 points to lead the scoring effort.

The Hawks now stand at 3-1 overall and 0-1 in conference play. They will look to bounce back with two key home conference games this week against Rhea Academy and Cleveland Christian.

Middle School Boys Basketball

The Middle School Hawks also delivered a strong showing on the road, defeating Seymour Christian 37-18.

Elliott Tilley had an outstanding night, pouring in 23 points, and Holden Harline added 10 points, knocking down big shots from the perimeter.

Against Mt. Pisgah, the Hawks battled competitively but came up short, 42-29. Tilley again led the way with 14 points, and all five starters contributed to the scoring.

The Middle School Hawks return to action Tuesday night against Rhea Academy.

4th/5th Grade Boys Basketball

The 4th/5th Grade Hawks capped off the week with two impressive victories, earning wins over St. Peter's at home and Belvoir Christian on the road.



Our teams continue to show heart, effort, and steady progress. We're excited for another great week of Hawks basketball.

A LITTLE WARMTH, A LOT OF LOVE DONATION COLLECTION

sponsored by:
LOWER SCHOOL BETA CLUB

DECEMBER 1-5, 2025

WHAT WE'RE ACCEPTING:

Learning Cottage	Pocket-sized tissues
Lower School	Fleece throws
Middle School	Adult body wipes (deodorant/bathing wipes)
Upper School	Pop-top canned goods (any that do not need a can opener) Examples include: Chef Boyardee, vegetables, beanie weenies, and fruit.



facilitated by:
Wesley Memorial Church
to help the
Homeless Outreach

DROP OFF LOCATION:
MORNING DROP OFF LINE
(LEARNING COTTAGE CAN DROP ITEMS THERE!)

A pixel art illustration of the Nativity scene. Mary, in a blue robe and head covering, stands on the left holding the infant Jesus in a wooden manger. Joseph, in a purple robe, stands on the right. They are under a simple wooden stable structure. The background features a bright yellow star in a blue sky with white clouds, green bushes, and a red ground with two red stars.

IZZY JONES

and the Seekers of
The Lost Christmas Treasure

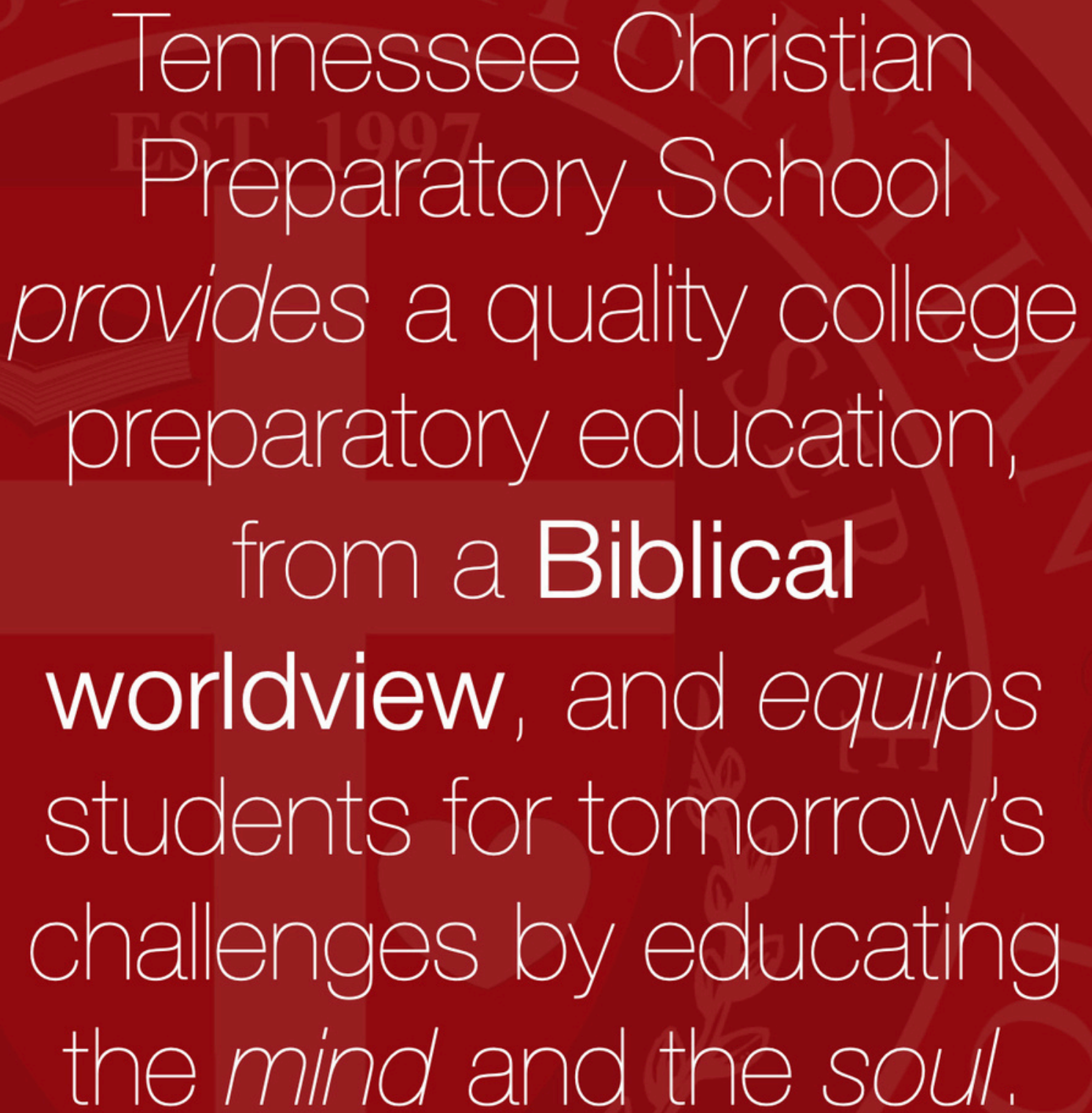
DECEMBER 9
6:30 PM

LEE UNIVERSITY DIXON CENTER



LEE
UNIVERSITY

A TOP-TIER, CHRIST-CENTERED EXPERIENCE



Tennessee Christian
Preparatory School
*provides a quality college
preparatory education,
from a **Biblical
worldview**, and equips
students for tomorrow's
challenges by educating
the *mind* and the *soul*.*