

the talon

Volume VI, Issue XVI



TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN
December 16, 2025

from the Head

“But the angel said to them, ‘Do not be afraid. I bring you good news that will cause great joy for all the people. Today in the town of David a Savior has been born to you; he is the Messiah, the Lord.’”

Luke 2:10-11



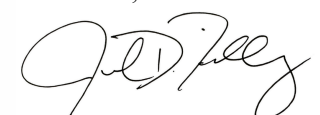
Last Wednesday, Tennessee Christian gathered for our final chapel of 2025. Our Christmas chapel is always a meaningful annual tradition, as students from the Learning Cottage through 12th grade come together to hear the Christmas story from the Gospel of Luke.

This year, however, it was especially memorable. After reading the story and speaking with students about the “Good News” proclaimed in Scripture, I asked a simple question: “What is the Good News?” Without hesitation, a young preschool student confidently spoke up in the sweetest voice, “It’s Jesus!” The purity and sincerity of that moment was a beautiful reminder of the truth at the heart of Christmas.



As we move through the Advent season and prepare to celebrate the birth of Christ, may we remember our calling to share that Good News with those around us, through both our words and our actions. Let us, as followers of Christ, be His hands and feet. And let us, as believers in the Good News, speak and live with His love.

In Christ,


Jared D. Tilley

IZZY JONES

and the Seekers of The Lost Christmas Treasure

This Christmas season, our Lower School students shared a gift with our community through their musical production of *Izzy Jones*. Featuring our Kindergarten through 5th-grade students, this production was the result of months of hard work, dedication, and collaboration that began all the way back at the start of the school year.

Led with love by Anna Madrigal and Kristen Campbell, *Izzy Jones* was an excellent performance. From learning the songs and choreography to memorizing lines and practicing stage presence, our students grew tremendously throughout the semester. Watching that growth culminate in a confident performance was such a joy.

This year marked an exciting milestone for our Lower School musical program. As our school continues to grow, we have officially outgrown our on-campus gym space, which is an incredible problem to have! For the very first time, the Christmas musical was held at the Lee University Dixon Center, and that was such a gift of an experience for our students.

Performing off-campus gave our students the opportunity to step into a true theater environment. They rehearsed on a real stage, performed under professional spotlights, and worked alongside an experienced theater crew who helped guide them every step of the way. They even enjoyed lunch in Lee University's cafeteria, which is an exciting and memorable part of the experience that made the days there feel extra special.

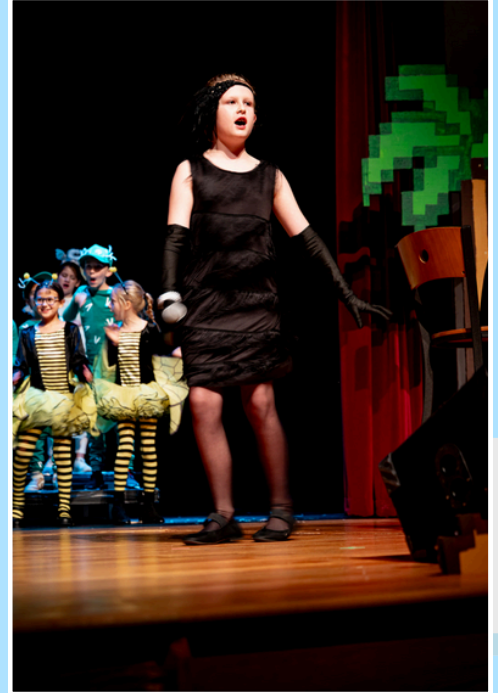
Thank you to our students, who showed courage and commitment; to our teachers, who poured countless hours into rehearsals and encouragement; to our families, whose flexibility, support, and enthusiasm made this experience possible; and to our partners at Lee University, who welcomed us so warmly.

Izzy Jones was a beautiful reminder of why we do what we do. It celebrated creativity, community, and the joy of the Christmas season. And it showcased just how capable our students are when they are given opportunities to shine. We are so proud of our Lower School and grateful for a performance that will be remembered for years to come.



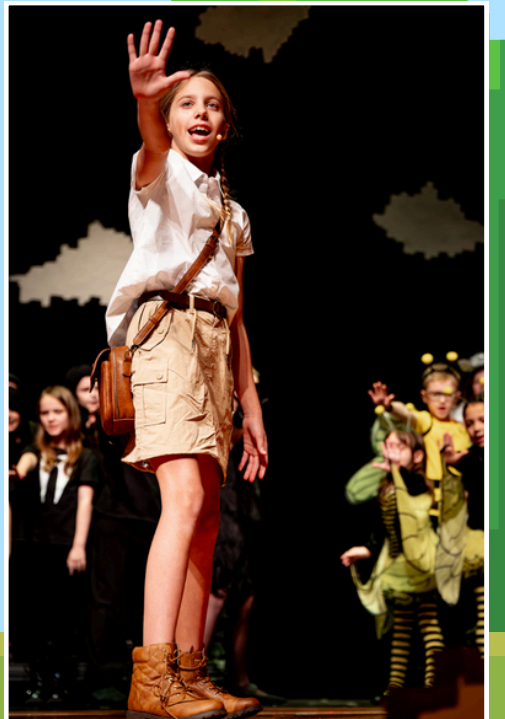
IZZY JONES

and the Seekers of
The Lost Christmas Treasure



IZZY JONES

and the Seekers of
The Lost Christmas Treasure





love and compassion.

Mary Award

“And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.’” – Luke 1:38



Madeline Hake (PreK)

“Madeline Hake exudes a quiet strength that is unmatched. She is patient with not only her friends but also, her teacher. She shows us all love + compassion through her presence every day.” -Jen Roe



William Workman (Kindergarten)

“William is a caring and thoughtful friend. He looks for opportunities to help others and willingly offers support whenever he can. He strives to be an example of God’s love and generously gives without expecting anything in return.” -Ashley Dodson and Phyllis Hope



Cali Daffin (3rd Grade)

“Cali does a wonderful job showing Christ’s love to those around her. She is intentional about including others and making sure no one feels left out. She has such a big heart and shows genuine kindness, even when it isn’t the easiest choice. The way she cares for people and helps them feel valued is a clear reflection of Christ’s love. She is a strong example of love and kindness lived out daily.”

-Abby Runion



love and compassion.

Mary Award

“And Mary said, ‘Behold, I am the servant of the Lord;
let it be to me according to your word.’” – Luke 1:38

Iris Tilley (4th Grade)

“Iris is very soft-spoken, but not just with her volume. I have never heard an unkind word come from her, demonstrating that she is thoughtful with her speech. Iris exemplifies love and compassion on a daily basis!”

-Donna McKee



Carolina Machacek (Middle School)

“Carolina displays love and compassion as Mary in the Bible in everything she does. She shows kindness and love to her classmates through sharing whatever she has and regularly offering words of encouragement and positivity. She exhibits compassion because she has an innate nature to seek out those who are lonely or hurting in some way in order to give them comfort in her friendship.”

-Kelly Owens



Amelia Shepherd (Upper School)

“Amelia is one of the most loving and compassionate people I know. She loves and cares enough to be the first to volunteer, first to sacrifice her own comfort for others, and the first to speak the truth even when it’s unpopular. She truly embodies the love of Christ in her warm and welcoming demeanor to all.” -Kylie Machacek



A LITTLE WARMTH, A LOT OF LOVE DONATION COLLECTION

sponsored by:

LOWER SCHOOL BETA CLUB

Homelessness continues to be a growing concern in Bradley County, with estimates of more than 400 individuals in our surrounding area. Each week, members of Wesley Memorial Church take to the streets to provide essential supplies and share hope with those in need.

Our Lower School Beta Club sponsored a schoolwide collection of needed items. During the week of December 1-5, we collected 76 canned goods with pop tabs, 54 fleece throws, 38 packets of adult wipes, 120 individual packets of tissues, and 32 chapsticks. Fourth grade students helped to sort and count all those donations!

Your generosity will help to bring warmth, comfort, and dignity to those in our community who need it most. Thank you, Tennessee Christian families, for showing once again the spirit of giving this Christmas!

-Donna McKee



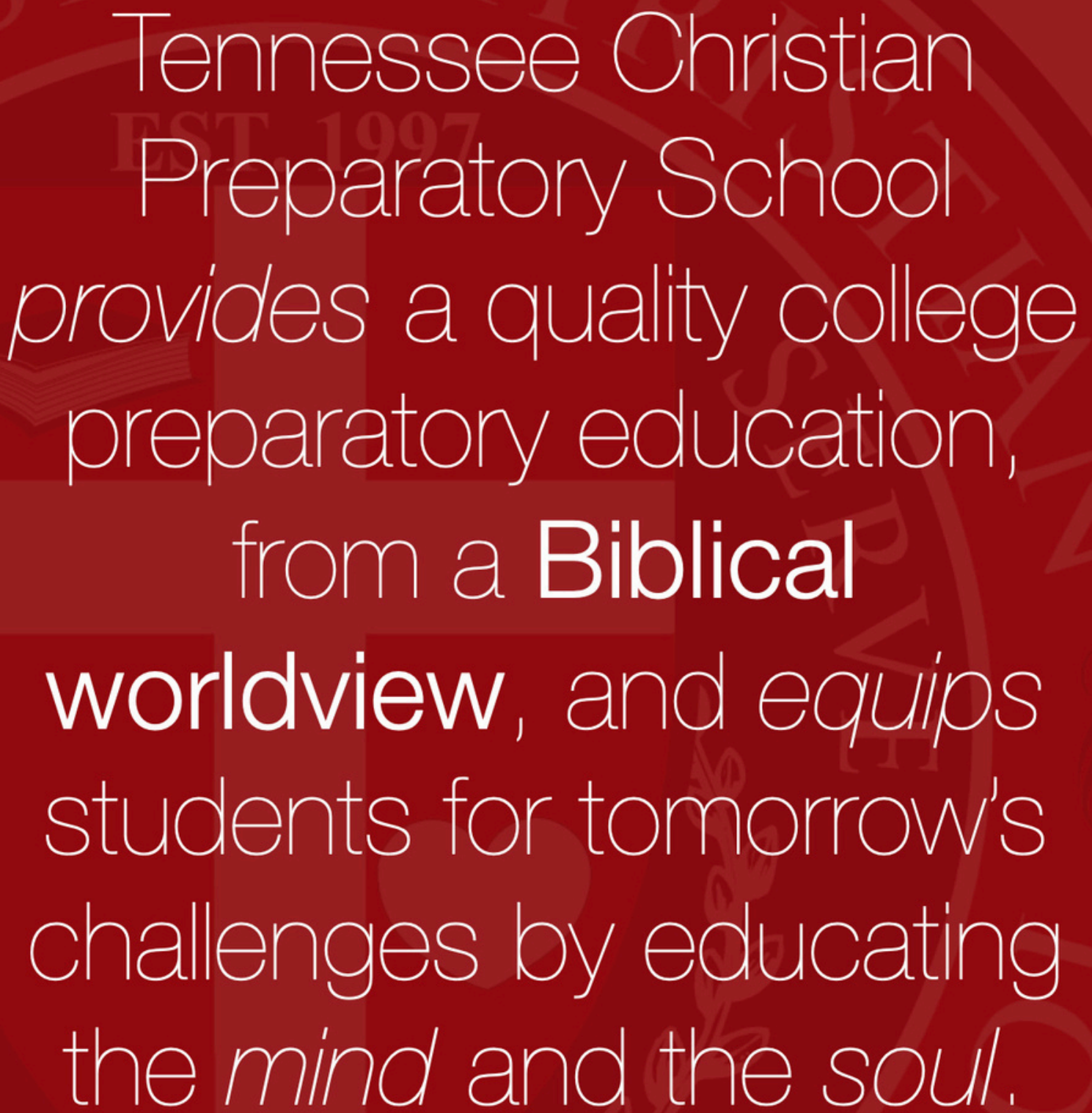
facilitated by:

Wesley Memorial Church
to help the
Homeless Outreach



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*.*