

# *the* talon

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TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN  
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# *from the* **Head**

If you have lived in Cleveland, Tennessee, for a while, you probably know who Ron and Pam Barker are. Married since 1970, they have successfully developed many neighborhoods in our community, including Weston Hills, Lenox Hills, Campbell Cove, and Campbell Glen, along with many others.

After Ron's graduation from Black Hills State University in South Dakota, he came to visit his brother, who taught at Tomlinson College in Cleveland, where Pam would become a student. While in town, Ron decided to attend an interview at Brown Stove Works "for practice" since he was planning to settle in the West. Because he liked Mr. Brown and he had met Pam, he took the job. In a short time, he was promoted to a leadership position.

After their marriage, even though Ron continued at Brown for a couple more years, he didn't want to be confined to the indoors, and she loved interior design, so they built a 4-unit apartment building. They realized they enjoyed building and wanted to continue.

Being adventurous entrepreneurs, they already owned the local ServiceMaster franchise, which they later sold so they could focus completely on what they really loved.

Ron loved developing land to build residential homes, and Pam's interior design skills were an asset to the business. She was invited by Cleveland State Community College to teach interior design, but first, she had to develop the curriculum! It was approved by the Tennessee Board of Regents and was used at Cleveland State and adopted at the 4-year universities so students could transfer from 2-year programs to 4-year programs at all Tennessee state universities.

Local realtors enjoyed selling the homes they built because they were well-built and beautifully designed. This is not just about being strong contributors to the community by providing residential housing. They were presented the opportunity to learn the commercial side of construction and develop commercial properties. Through those experiences, we see how God prepared them for their work right here on this campus. Even now, Ron is moving dirt and orchestrating infrastructure to support commercial businesses that are coming to the front of our campus.

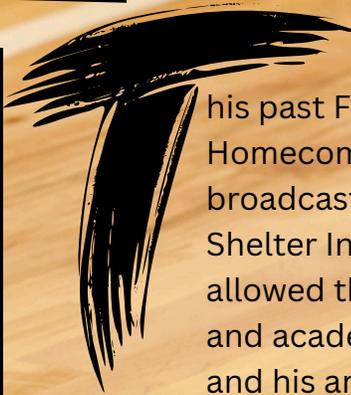
Ron and Pam have been strong supporters of Tennessee Christian Preparatory School for many years. As a former member of the Board of Trustees, Ron has stood in the gap to ensure our school survived some tough seasons. There are a few who, were it not for their strength, dedication, and commitment to Tennessee Christian, the school would not exist. In addition to serving on the Board of Trustees for many years, Ron has spent thousands of hours operating a backhoe or other large equipment on our school property, all while continuing to manage a very successful full-time business.

They have been faithful members of the Church of God for almost 40 years, and they are the parents of Melanee Barker and Robin McPherson and the very proud grandparents of Georgia, Frannie, Scarlet, Marjorie, and Elouise McPherson. It is my honor and privilege to invite Ron and Pam Barker to center court to receive this award.



Patricia Sluder  
President; Board of Trustees

# TENNESSEE CHRISTIAN Homecoming



his past Friday marked Tennessee Christian's Homecoming celebration, beginning with a special broadcast sponsored by Mark Shepherd from Shelter Insurance. The event, aired on Mix 104.1, allowed the school to showcase its athletics, arts, and academics. A big thank you to Steve Hartline and his amazing crew for their willingness to be part of the day and help kick off the festivities with such enthusiasm.

The excitement continued with the Homecoming pep rally in the gym, where students from all grade levels cheered on our basketball teams and cheerleading squads. The fun reached new heights as teachers participated in a hilarious relay race, sporting inflatable costumes. We had everything from Mike Wazowski to a dinosaur, bringing plenty of laughter and energy to the event.

Later in the evening, alumni gathered for a reception, with many returning to campus, some for the first time since the move, to reconnect with former teachers and classmates. It was a heartwarming moment, a true celebration of the Homecoming spirit.

During halftime of the game, Tennessee Christian proudly honored Ron and Pam Barker as Honorary Alumnus of the Year. After the ceremony, the Homecoming court made their entrance, and we were excited to crown Judah Machacek and Audrey Lyles as Homecoming King and Queen. To cap off the night, our varsity men's basketball team secured a win over conference opponent Paideia, making it a perfect finish to a memorable day.



# Night of Lights

## 2025 HOMECOMING DANCE





# Night of Lights

## 2025 HOMECOMING DANCE



H O N O R I N G   A L L   W H O   S E R V E D

# VETERAN'S DAY

Tennessee Christian gathered last week for a meaningful Veterans Day assembly, creating a moment of gratitude and reflection for our students and staff. The program began with a beautiful National Anthem performance by TCPS alumna Brooklyn Goff (Class of 2022), setting a reverent tone for the afternoon.

We were honored to welcome Mr. Charles Miller as our guest speaker. Mr. Miller, a Navy veteran, father of first-grade teacher Mrs. Rebecca Hake, and grandfather to Lucas and Madeline, shared heartfelt reflections on service, sacrifice, and the freedoms we enjoy because of those who have served.

In preparation for the assembly, our students colored patriotic stars, each labeled with the name of a veteran connected to our Tennessee Christian family. Displayed as a backdrop, these stars created a powerful visual of the many lives that have stood in the gap for our nation.

As a Christian school, we are especially mindful of the freedom to openly speak the name of God, pray together, and teach biblical truth, privileges made possible by the courage of the men and women who have defended our country. We are grateful to Mr. Miller for sharing his story, to Brooklyn for her beautiful performance, and to all veterans within and beyond our Tennessee Christian community. May we continue to honor their sacrifice with lives marked by gratitude, courage, and love.



# FIRE SAFETY

The Cleveland City Fire Department visited our Kindergarten–5th grade students this week to share an important lesson on fire safety. Firefighters taught students how to recognize potential hazards and focused especially on the safe disposal of batteries and knowing when a battery may be overheating or dangerous.

After the presentation, students enjoyed exploring a real fire truck up close. Firefighters showed them the equipment, answered questions, and helped them understand the vital role they play in keeping our community safe.

To top off the experience, each student received a fun goody bag, complete with a firefighter hat and a snack cake! We are grateful to the Cleveland City Fire Department for investing in our students and helping them learn how to stay safe.



# 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!)**



## **CONSIGNMENT SALE**

**The Winter Swap Consignment Sale  
will take place in the Art Room**

**COME SHOP the SWAP  
November 20th, 2pm to 4pm  
&  
November 21st, 12pm to 2pm**



**\*New Shield Logo & Crest ONLY\***

# Mama Hawks Prayer Group

Calling all TCPS moms!

Let's gather to lift up our school, students, and families in prayer.

## WHEN:

First School  
Monday of  
the Month  
at 8:00 AM

## WHERE:

TCPS Gym  
followed by  
breakfast at  
The Golden Yolk

We're excited  
to bring our  
mama hearts  
together and  
cover our  
school family  
with prayer.

## First Gathering: Dec. 1st

We'll be praying for:

- Joyful, healthy relationships within families and between friends
- Comfort, peace, and healing for grief or emotional pain during the holidays

Send questions to [fto@tcpsk12.org](mailto:fto@tcpsk12.org)



**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*.*