

TUESDAY TALON



²⁵At that time there was a man in Jerusalem named Simeon. He was righteous and devout and was eagerly waiting for the Messiah to come and rescue Israel. The Holy Spirit was upon him ²⁶and had revealed to him that he would not die until he had seen the Lord's Messiah.

Luke 2:25-26

Simeon is a testament to the diligence of waiting. Imagine being gifted his promise from God and, as time passed, having doubt and even despair, but the amazing fulfillment Simeon received must have been overwhelming when he did get to see and hold young Jesus in his hands.

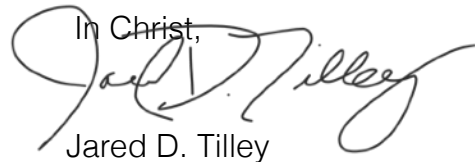
In 2021 Dr. Michael Lindsay, President of Taylor University, gave a lecture highlighting the lessons he learned about leadership while researching his book, *A View from the Top*. Through his multi-year research, Dr. Lindsay interviewed over two hundred leaders, including top government officials and former presidents. Listening to his lecture and each lesson that he learned reinforced my own leadership outlook and values. I was fully on board with Dr. Lindsay's teachings nodding my head up and down in agreement. That is until he said, and I paraphrase, the best answers to some dilemmas or questions require waiting. He wanted me to wait.⁹ Leadership is about answers and actions. Nobody enjoys waiting, and much can be lost while we wait. My rapid head nodding turned into a furrowed brow that took me much too long to recognize and remove. This internal conflict stayed with me long after the lecture. Reflecting on what Dr. Lindsay said resulted in an understanding; I have trouble waiting. Maybe I am not alone.

The talent of waiting is not something we do well as humans or, more specifically, as Christians. Throughout the Bible, waiting is a theme that is often met with consternation and frustration. While there are examples like Simeon, we have many other examples that make us feel better. Abraham and Sarah, Moses, and the Disciples all struggled with waiting. Through the act of waiting, even impatiently, God's purpose and goal were revealed and change happened. How then should we feel about waiting when

we want answers, decisions, and change now?

The Christian calendar has a season of waiting, Advent. During Advent, we are expected to wait and anticipate the coming of Christ. Walking the halls on campus this week, I can sense the anticipation, excitement, and longing for Christmas from the students. Yesterday, when I got into my car to take my boys home from school, both of them listed off the days until Christmas, “Only twenty days left.” They began talking about their favorite things about Christmas, and I realized that through the hustle of this season, I had not been intentional about anticipating and embracing the waiting associated with Advent. My kids' excitement reminded me and I am thankful for that.

I very well could be the only one wrapped up in preparing for the holiday season, forgetting the most important part, but something tells me I am not. I pray that we can embrace the season of Advent with a heart of thanksgiving that Christ has come and that he will come again. Through the waiting and like Simeon, we can allow God to mold us as he sees fit, allowing us to be his hands and feet to all around during the Advent season.

In Christ,

Jared D. Tilley

ARMFIELD DANCE ACADEMY, THE NUTCRACKER



Sugar Plums were dancing in all of our heads last Friday as we watched two of our very own Hawks perform in the The Armfield Nutcracker. All Lower School students, teachers and our



Seniors traveled by school bus to Tennessee Wesleyan to enjoy this traditional Christmas ballet while spying Nurse Rachel Conar and Senior Anna Grace Conar as they performed gracefully on stage. It was such a treat to hear students whisper to their seat neighbors, “I see Nurse Conar!” or “is that pink ballerina Anna Grace? I think it is! I found her!”

The Armfield Dance Academy geared this performance

towards children and explained

parts of it along the way, which was beneficial for several of our first timers in the audience. The Nutcracker is such a wonderful gateway into classical music and ballet. We are fortunate to have the opportunity to share this with our students.



LOWER SCHOOL CHOIR, AVAIL SENIOR LIVING

“Let each of you look not only to his
own interests, but also to the interests of others.”

Philippians 2:4



Last week, Lower School Choir, under the direction of Mrs. Jessica Divel, had to opportunity to minister to our neighbors at Avail Senior Living. Avail is a center that offers premier services and housing for assisted living and memory care. The residents at Avail were so welcoming to our eager students as they spread the light of Christ with their songs and smiles.

During these formative lower school years, we want to give our students as many opportunities as we can to put Philippians 2:4 into practice. This trip to Avail was a wonderful chance for these students to look after others and their interests by sharing Christmas cheer.



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