



## MID-TENN

### Presbytery of Middle Tennessee E-Newsletter

February 2017



From the Stated Clerk's  
Office

#### Statistical Report Deadlines

The deadlines to file reports are  
as follows:

**Thursday, February 16**  
(to file reports online)

**Friday, February 24**  
(for Stated Clerk  
to file reports)

#### Session Minutes Review

##### Dates

All sessions will be held at the  
Presbytery office  
from 10:00 am - Noon

**Saturday, February 18**  
**Saturday, March 4**  
**Saturday, April 8**

[Click here](#) to visit the PMT's  
Stated Clerk Webpage for all  
needed information.

#### An Uncommon Morning

*by Warner R. Dumell, Executive Presbyter*

When the voices of First Presbyterian Church-Murfreesboro's choir sang out Thomas Matthews' "Holy Lord, We Bow Before Thee" as the introit for our opening worship, everyone in the sanctuary could sense that we were in for an uncommon morning. Uncommon in the sense that for the first time in recent memory, the morning of a Stated Presbytery of Middle Tennessee Meeting would include both a floor examination of a young, passionate, and sharp candidate for ordination to the ministry of the Word and Sacrament, immediately followed by recognition of the honorable retirement of a long, storied, and faithful pastorate. Rarely do we get to share the enthusiasm and excitement of someone about to enter ordered ministry, and then in the next few minutes join in commemorating and celebrating someone about to exit active ministry.



Rachel Pence, soon to be the Reverend Rachel Pence, will be serving as one of the Associate Pastors for the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville. Her installation service will be held at Westminster Nashville on Sunday, March 5th at 3:00 pm, and it is hoped that fellow teaching elders from around the Presbytery will share in this celebration.



## ONE GREAT HOUR OF SHARING (OGHS)

submitted by  
Barbara Howell,  
Hunger Action Advocate

### Sharing Resources and Changing Lives

Most congregations receive "OGHS" on Easter Sunday, Passion/Palm Sunday or both, while many receive it throughout Lent—however, you can help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by One Great Hour of Sharing Offering by [making an online gift](#) at any time throughout the year.

A gift to One Great Hour of Sharing enables the church to share God's love with our neighbors-in-need around the world by providing relief to those affected by natural disasters, provide food to the hungry, and helping to empower the poor and oppressed.

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)

[Presbyterian Hunger Program](#)

[Self Development of People](#)



### Renovaré Book Club

The Renovaré Book  
Club will meet on:

**Wednesday,  
February 22**

**from 10:00-11:30 am**  
at Fido Coffee Shop, 1812 21st  
Ave North, Nashville, 37212.

We will talk about  
*Life of the Beloved: Spiritual  
Living in a Secular World* by  
Henri Houwen.

William "Bill" Barger, having culminated his 33 years in ordained ministry as a teaching elder, was honored by the First Presbyterian-Dickson and Ellis Groves Presbyterian-Waverly churches back in December. Bill served those two congregations for the past 29 years, and now purposes to take some time for himself and his family as he adjusts to the new rhythm of life as a retiree.



In his remarks after being recognized, Bill stated, "The call begins, and the call ends. To me, it's (retirement) just that next step in a long journey."

William H. Willimon, in his publication *Calling and Character: Virtues of the Ordained Life*, writes, "...from among the baptized, the church has found it helpful to call some to lead the church, to care for congregations, to preach the Word and to administer the sacraments, to worry about what makes the church, church...." On this past Saturday, we were privileged to witness and bless one who is about to take on the mantle of those who "worry about what makes the church, church," while moments privileged to witness and bless one who lays that very mantle down.

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### HIGHLIGHTS OF THE 128TH STATED MEETING by Therese Howell, Stated Clerk



Presbyters were warmly greeted by members of First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro, on Saturday, February 4, 2017, for the 128th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee.

First time presbyters met with Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell and Stated Clerk Therese Howell for orientation and prayer before the meeting. Presbyters then gathered in the sanctuary for worship, led by The Rev. Dr. John Hinkle, Jr., pastor of the host church. Also participating in worship were The Rev. Bobby Harding (associate pastor, First Murfreesboro) and The Rev. Rosanna Anderson (UMC Ministries). Ms. Rachel Pence, a candidate under care of the Presbytery of St. Augustine, preached the sermon based on Matthew 5:13-20.

(cover of book above)

Any who would like to participate or has any questions, contact [Rosanna Anderson](#) by [clicking here](#).



## BARTH READING GROUP

Anyone interested in reading Karl Barth in the company of others is invited to a new group forming this month.

Clifford Anderson, Associate University Librarian for Research and Learning at Vanderbilt and Stuart Gordon, Associate Pastor at First, Nashville, invite you to join them in reading Barth on the doctrine of providence, III/3. In 2015 Cliff edited, with Bruce McCormack, *Karl Barth and the Making of Evangelical Theology*, published by Eerdmans.

The group will meet on the first and third Tuesdays each month, from February through June, at Newk's next to Centennial Park in Nashville. Members may enjoy a dutch dinner or simply take part in the conversation, which will run from 5:30 to 7:00 pm.

Contact [sgordon@fpcnashville.org](mailto:sgordon@fpcnashville.org) for a reading schedule.



### BELLS FOR SALE

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Columbia, TN has for sale 3 octaves of Schulmerich bells in the original carrying cases in very good condition. They also have 7 bell tables, 7 table pads with covers, 11 music stands, 11 risers, 11 lights for the stands and a large quantity of bell music that all need to be sold with the bells.

All the items are in very good condition. They can even arrange for delivery. If interested, please contact the church at 931-388-3703 or email Mike Dunston at [dunston48@aol.com](mailto:dunston48@aol.com).

The Presbytery's mission team to Guatemala was commissioned to service. The team consists of:

John Hilley - East Brentwood  
Kira Hilley - East Brentwood  
Barb Hall - Brentwood First  
Teddy Chuquimia - New Life  
David Carlton - Second Presbyterian  
Mark Riley - Normandy Presbyterian  
Paul Rein - East Brentwood  
Jeffrey Rein - East Brentwood  
Aaron Renton - East Brentwood

An offering of \$2,158.92 was collected for Eastminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville, and the Lord's Supper was celebrated.



Special music was provided by the choir of First Presbyterian Church, Murfreesboro (Jocelyn Fisher, Director of Music; Valerie Rains, organist; soloists Tom Tyner and Noah Rice; and

percussionist David Sevier).

Other highlights of the meeting...[READ MORE](#)

## UPCOMING EVENTS



**PMT's MISSION BANQUET**  
**FEBRUARY 16, 2017**  
Nashville Korean Presbyterian Church  
6:00 pm - 8:00 pm

The Mission Banquet will feature a mini mission fair, recognition of mission programs, and a keynote address by Jeff Ritchie, retired Associate Director of Mission at the Outreach Foundation and David Paduil, Ruling Elder at Sudanese American Nuer Presbyterian Church. They will share, inform, and even entertain us concerning their faith in Jesus Christ and the work of the church here and abroad.



## Quick Links

[Presbytery of Middle Tennessee](#)

[NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center](#)

[Synod of Living Waters](#)

[Presbyterian Church \(U.S.A.\)](#)

[Board of Pensions](#)

[Nations Ministry - Spotlight on refugees](#)

If you are interested in attending, please call the Presbytery office at 615-332-3330.

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## PMT's LEADERSHIP EXCELLENCE TRAINING August 2017 through May 2018

The Committee on Leadership Excellence is please to invite you to participate in an exciting new program that is forming now to meet monthly from August 2017 through May 2018. This training is designed for Teaching Elders, Commissioned Ruling Elders and Christian Educators.



Local convener The Rev. Tom Laney of the Turner Center for Church Leadership will teach, facilitate, and provide individual coaching to participants. Nationally know guest speakers will also teach specific sessions on Adaptive Leadership, Managing and Mobilizing Resources,

Leading Leaders, and Feeding Leaders' souls (especially your own!).

To view flyer for more information, [click here](#)

For enrollment form, [click here](#).

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## SAVE THE DATE!

**PMT'S Committee on Leadership Excellence  
COLLEGE OF PREACHERS  
presents**

**"Mary Teaches Us How to Preach"  
October 30, 2017 (9:30 am - 2:00 pm)**

Westminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville  
Lunch will be provided

For more information regarding this seminar and another seminar that is in the works, please [click here](#).

*You are receiving this e-newsletter because you are a member or friend of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee or one of its congregations.*

### **DISCLAIMER:**

*Articles and events that appear in the e-newsletter are believed to be of interest to some segments of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee. However, these articles and events are not necessarily endorsed by the Presbytery.*