



MID-TENN

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee E-Newsletter

November 2017



**Don't forget to turn
your clocks back
Sunday, November 5
@ 2:00 am.**



**Trinity Presbyterian
Church
New Hymn debut at
their 75th
Anniversary Service
Sunday, November
5, 2017**

"We All Are One" a new hymn will debut at Nashville's Trinity Presbyterian's 75th Anniversary service on November 5, 2017. The hymn will be sung during the 11:00 am service...[read more](#)

"It was a great day to be at NaCoMe!"

by Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter

The 131st Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held on Thursday, October 19th out at NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center. In my Executive Presbyter Report to those assembled on that day, I began by saying, "It's good to be back out at NaCoMe for a Presbytery Meeting!" Having first been received as a member of Middle Tennessee Presbytery in 1993, I can vividly recall the frequent meetings of Presbytery held on the grounds and in the facilities of Camp NaCoMe.



There was a stretch of several years when the Presbytery met annually at NaCoMe, risking a downpour in the spring and cooler than customary air in the fall. On the 19th we were blessed with a beautifully sunny; a little chilly in the shade, but simply gorgeous in every other way!

Please take the time to read Stated Clerk Therese Howell's "Highlights of the 131st Stated Meeting," and enjoy the photos that Administrative Assistant Linda Griffis took of our proceedings and made room for in this issue of THE MID-TENN. I would be remiss in my reporting if I failed to acknowledge the meaningful worship that opened our meeting, planned by the Rev. Carol Ann Tate, Martha Bess DeWitt, Certified Christian Educator, and the Rev. Marjorie Thompson.

**Bellevue
Presbyterian
Church's
The Sunny Day
Club®**

The Sunny Day Club® at BPC recently celebrated its first anniversary.

Sunny Day Club is for members with early stages of memory impairment. A host of volunteer members also meet each week from 11 a.m. to 2 p.m. at Bellevue Presbyterian Church to give Caregivers a break.

They sing, laugh, play games, eat lunch and cake!

Watch the video below and learn how this ministry is impacting the lives of club members in Bellevue, Tennessee.



**Sunny Day Club
Video**

**Emmanuel
Presbyterian Church
announces its Fall
2017 Lineup of
Special Guest
Worship Leaders**

As Emmanuel basks in the afterglow of hosting Amy Grant, the leading lady of Contemporary Christian music, as their worship leader in September before a packed house, they

Kudos to 2017 Presbytery Moderator, the Rev. Stuart Gordon, for his warmhearted way of helping to guide us through the business portions of the day with dispatch, while insuring ample time for discernment in decision making. Owing to the fact that NaCoMe is on the far western edge of our



Presbytery's boundary, a number of churches in the eastern most and southern most parts of the Presbytery were under represented at this meeting. We may want to consider holding a Presbytery meeting in Allardt or Tullahoma to even things out, geographically speaking.

A primary reason why the Administrative Committee of the Presbytery elected to hold our fall stated meeting at NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center last month was in order to showcase this special place set apart to many across the Presbytery for whom NaCoMe was a name only. From the show of many hands raised indicating that this was their first visit to NaCoMe, I believe that objective was attained. The well-maintained building and grounds, the first-rate programs offered, the gracious camp staff, and the gorgeous day, combined to make us glad we came and cause us to look forward even now to our next visit!

Highlights of the 131st Stated Meeting
by Therese Howell, Stated Clerk

NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center hosted the 131st Stated Meeting on Thursday, October 19, 2017. Presbyters enjoyed the beautiful fall day and the generous hospitality of the NaCoMe staff.



***Below are some of the
highlights of the meeting:***

* Worship included a sermon by The Rev. Marjorie Thompson, as well as a time of reflection. Dr. Carol Tate (Moderator-in-Nomination) and Ms. Martha Bess DeWitt, CCE (Retired), assisted with worship. The Rev. Janet Salyer presided over the celebration of the Lord's Supper. An offering of \$691.00 was



collected for NaCoMe.

are pleased to announce an exciting continuation of guest musicians in worship through the end of the year and beyond at Emmanuel Presbyterian Church here in Nashville, Tennessee. **[See the Fall 2017 Lineup here.](#)**

**Eastminster
Presbyterian
Church
CHAIRS NEEDED**

Eastminster Presbyterian Church is reaching out to see if any churches have around 50-60 stackable, conference room type chairs for them to purchase or have. These chairs will be used in their worship area which is located within the Woodland Presbyterian Church. Please email **[Connie Hamblen](#)** with any responses. Thank you.



**Condolences to the
Torrey Family**

Dr. Rubye Torrey entered the Kingdom of Heaven on Thursday, October 26, 2017. Sympathy goes to husband Claude Torrey, son Michael, and daughter, Claudia. Over the years, Dr.

* Treasurer Mike Ingram presented a report and analysis of presbytery's financials, and a continuing resolution was adopted until the 2018 budget can be approved.

* The presbytery approved permission for the celebration of the sacrament of the Lord's Supper by The Rev. Lindsey Groves for the UKIRK Nashville ministry at Vanderbilt University and Belmont University.

* The Stated Clerk reported briefly on the Hands and Feet Initiative for the 223rd General Assembly (2018). More information is available at <http://oga.pcusa.org/section/ga/hands-and-feet/>

* The Committee on Preparation for Ministry reported that Candidates Emily Wilmesherr, Elizabeth Hollingsworth, Claire Harris Kramer, and Beth Olker were certified ready for call.

* The Administrative Committee reported that The Rev. David Sawyer will serve as chair of the Nominating Task Force in 2018; and that Ruling Elder Geeta McMillan will serve as chair of the Personnel Task Force in 2018.

* The Administrative Committee received a request for an Isaiah 1:18 Team to work with The Village Church. The committee reported that Robert Montgomery, Carol Tate, and Connie Hamblen had agreed to serve; an additional member of the team is being recruited.

* The Administrative Committee reported on their discussion of the upcoming retirement of Executive Presbyter Warner Durnell (July 31, 2018). The EP job description will be reviewed, and the presbytery elected Steve Douse, Donovan Drake, Sally Hughes, Ed Lancaster, and Melinda Sanders to serve as the EP Search Committee.

* The presbytery approved amendments to the charter of NaCoMe, including changing the name to the NaCoMe Camp and Retreat Center, and reducing the membership of the NaCoMe Board of Governors to not less than 12 nor more than 16 members. One-half of the membership continues to be from the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee, and one-half of the membership from the Presbytery of the MidSouth...[read more.](#)

Campus Ministries

**PSF@MTSU (UKirk MTSU)
Fall Update**

by Rev. Micah Watson,

Torrey served on numerous Presbytery Committees and was a faithful member, officer, and chorister of First Presbyterian Church, Nashville. A service will not be immediate; however, if you wish to share a few words/thoughts about Dr. Torrey, there is a book in two locations: The Church Choir Room at FPC Nashville and the Manor at Steeplechase at the piano in the Dining Room.



Micah and Autumn Watson

Campus Minister

Greetings Middle Tennessee Presbytery!

**PSF @ MTSU (UKirk MTSU)
has had one heck of a semester!**

Let me set this up with a little back ground. This past spring we graduated 5 of 6 students on our leadership team! As a fan of college football I'm very familiar with the phrase "Rebuilding Year." In Campus Ministry it's hard to ever truly call a specific year a "Rebuilding



Year" because students are only around as active participants for maybe 3-5 years! Things are ever changing around campus ministries. However, if I had to assign that phrase to a specific year it'd be only the early weeks of this one.

Although its always sad to say goodbye, it allows for new leaders to rise up and for new folks to plug in.

Thats exactly what's been happening at PSF this semester! We now have a strong core group, quite a few of which are in their first semester at PSF, but it feels like a family.

We've done a lot this semester! We've tailgated!

Welcomed back our alumni for Homecoming weekend! (An annual occurrence now, for any PSF alums in the Presbytery that don't know!) Seen a new worship team form on Thursday nights! Survived the World's Fastest Hayride, for something like the 30th year running?!?! (Thanks Cripple Creek!) Most Monday nights we've served Burritos to our friends on the streets with The Nashville Burrito Ministry! We



made the best Chili at MTSU's Chili CookOff (Even though we regretfully took 3rd place due to our lack of school spirit! Haha) We've enjoyed many great meals provided by our wonderful surrounding church family!

And right in the middle of all this awesome PSF stuff, I've been blessed to marry my best friend, the new Mrs. Autumn Watson. I've also been blessed to accept the full time position here at PSF!



CE Brown Bag

November 9 @ 11:30
Presbytery office

Administrative Committee

November 9 @ 2:00
FPC Nashville

Finance Committee

November 9 @ 3:30
FPC Nashville

Church Transformation Committee

November 13 @ 5:00
FPC Nashville

Committee on Ministry

November 14 @ 4:00
FPC Nashville

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

**The Institute for
Faith-Based
Leadership at
Belmont University**



**PROTECTING THE
FLOCK**

***A Conversation
about Church Safety***

November 15, 2017

8:00 am

**McWhorter Hall
Room 409**

Belmont University

The recent gun violence, both at the national and local level, has forced us to consider again the ways in which as faith-leaders, we need to provide safety and security to those who attend our churches. This conversation will focus on church safety protocols and what preventative measures we can put into place to help reduce the likelihood of an incident.

REGISTER NOW:

\$15

(Includes breakfast)

[Click here for website](#)

As we push towards the close of this semester we are looking forward to joining many of our fellow UKirkians in January at Montreat College Conference!

[Click here](#) for PSF MTSU website.

**Presbyterian Hunger Program
Alternative Thanksgiving Ideas**

submitted by Barbara Howell, Hunger Action Advocate



Each season brings with it unique opportunities and challenges. What it means to live justly at one time may look radically different from what it means to live justly at another time. All of us strive to live in accord with God's word, and how each person engages in practicing lifestyle integrity will vary.

Alternative Thanksgiving Ideas

The Thanksgiving guide from the Presbyterian Hunger Program is designed to help you create a celebration that celebrates the blessings God has provided.

Simplify your Thanksgiving and focus on God, your family and friends by implementing lifestyle practices and tips from our guide.

The Presbyterian Hunger Program encourages everyone to consider following these guidelines to live faithfully throughout the Thanksgiving season.

1. Prepare sustainably - Locally grown foods require less energy to transport, are fresher, and ensure food sovereignty.
2. Share the work and savor the day - Celebrate by encouraging everyone to help and enjoy a time of fellowship around meal preparation.
3. Serve someone and share the wealth - Not everyone is able to partake in a Thanksgiving meal. Volunteer to serve a Thanksgiving meal at a local shelter or donate nonperishable items to a local food pantry.
4. Pray and renew - Give thanks for the miracles of life and food production that make thanksgiving feasts possible.

To read more, click the following link:

<http://www.presbyterianmission.org/wp-content/uploads/thanksgiving-2.pdf>



Quick Links

[Presbytery of Middle Tennessee](#)

[Synod of Living Waters](#)

[Presbyterian Church USA](#)

[Board of Pensions](#)

[UKIRK Nashville](#)

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