

Lent

40 DAYS OF RENEWAL



MID-TENN

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee E-Newsletter

March 8, 2018

ABOVE REPROACH

by Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter



NOW WHAT?
Making mission
matter today.
Conference
March 23-24, 2018
NaCoMe Camp and
Retreat Center



The world outside the walls of the church has changed. Join us as we explore the "now" of big picture mission work to create the "what" of

Last Friday morning millions across our country, and millions more around the world, paused amidst the business of their day to watch the live streaming of the funeral service for the Rev. William (Billy) Franklin Graham. Family members and long-time friends, preachers and politicians from far and wide, gathered in the chilly Charlotte, North Carolina air, to remember and give thanks for the life of Evangelist Billy Graham. The Tennessean (Nashville



newspaper) leading up to that day ran an article promoting Reverend Graham as "America's Pastor." That depiction I think to be something of an overstatement; but there is no overstating the impact that Rev. Graham, and the Billy Graham Evangelistic Association, had on the spread of evangelical Christianity in late 20th century.

For close to 70 years of active ministry, Rev. Graham, reared Presbyterian, ordained Baptist, sought to introduce people around the globe to the Gospel of Jesus Christ. He and the association branded by his name were constantly in the spotlight and scrutinized by many who were, quite frankly, critical of the stadium-sized crowds that flocked to hear him preach. But from all I've ever known and read about Billy Graham, he was one tele-evangelist "above reproach." Not that he was perfect, but he was penitent, who purposed to live and labor with an air of transparency. You just didn't hear of financial or flirtatious scandals about him or his association.

Many gracious and generously kind things were said at Friday's funeral about the man Billy Graham and his mission. Among the testimonies spoken that day about Billy Graham, there were two that stood out to me. One was offered by his younger son, as he stood at the podium that his father often preached behind, and said, "My daddy was FAT! He was Faithful, Available, and True." Gosh, that being true, I well imagine the spirit of father Graham was doing somersaults in his coffin, to have it said of him by one of his adult children, "My daddy was faithful,

mission outreach for your church. Bring a group from your church for a workshop-style conference, leaving with a plan and purpose moving forward. Steve Young, Executive Director of Living Waters for the World, will lead discussions to help your team discern God's call to mission work and how to invigorate the work YOUR church is called to do.

To register, [click here](#)
For flyer, [click here](#)
or you can contact [Ryan](#)
at 931-729-9723



Received during the season of Lent (February 14 - April 1), Each gift to [One Great Hour of Sharing \(OGHS\)](#) provides a way to share God's love with our neighbors in need around the world by providing relief from natural disasters, food for the hungry, and support for the poor and oppressed.

***You shall be called
repairers of the breach
- Isaiah 58***

**Free Blackburn
College Concert
Saturday, March 17
at 7:00 pm
Trinity Presbyterian
Church
3201 Hillsboro Pike
Nashville, TN**

Blackburn College's chamber *a cappella* ensemble, Blackburn Voices, will perform a free concert in the Trinity Presbyterian Church sanctuary on Saturday, March 17 at 7:00 pm.

available, and true." The other testimony offered that stood out to me was something of a refrain repeated time and again throughout the hour long service. It was said repeatedly how Billy Graham loved the Lord and longed to see the Resurrected One! In prayers, songs, and pronouncements, those present and those viewing from afar were told of how Rev. Graham placed his trust in the matchless Son of the most-high God, even Jesus Christ, and that he looked forward to one day meeting the Savior face-to-face!

As Lent turns ever more speedily toward another Easter celebration, may we grow in our love for and in our longing for the crucified and risen One, our Friend, Jesus Christ.

**Introducing the East Nashville Training Hub
@ Woodland Presbyterian Church
NOW HIRING
submitted by Phil Martin, Chair
Committee on Church Transformation**

In January 2018, Woodland Presbyterian Church, in partnership with presbytery's Church Transformation Committee and Ministry Architects, launched the East Nashville Training Hub.



The Training Hub is seeking to build a team made up of young adults, youth, and college students to serve together in supporting and empowering congregational ministry in East Nashville into a new chapter of growth and increased impact.

In its first phase, the Training Hub is focusing its efforts on serving at Woodland Presbyterian, taking responsibility for ministries to children and youth, special events, worship preparation and leadership, as well as communication and marketing efforts. Just so you know where this article is going, four slots are still available for the first phase.

Though the Training Hub is in the very beginning stages and presently has six individuals on the team, it builds on the collaborative work of the Session of Woodland, the Church Transformation Committee and Ministry Architects that has been in process over the past year to 18 months. Over that time, almost 150 visitors have attended Woodland. And on December 3, Woodland celebrated a special Welcome Sunday, engaging 100 members and friends of Woodland.

The ideal candidate for the Training Hub will be between the ages of 18 and 30 with an interest and aptitude for serving in the church and available to work at least 5 hours a week, mostly on Sunday mornings.

Eventually, the Training Hub is envisioned as a center of energy and renewal, exploration and growing, faith and community for the churches in East Nashville and perhaps even the entire Presbytery, if the "appetite" is there.

If you know a young adult to nominate for the Training Hub or have questions about the Training Hub, please contact:

- Phil Martin, phil@philmartinaffiliates.com, chair of the Church Transformation Committee or
- Mark DeVries, mark.devries@ministryarchitects.com,

The concert program for this tour is entirely a cappella, and includes a number of African pieces, a set of English madrigals sacred works that include many American hymn arrangements, a few Spanish language works from Central and South America, and some pop arrangements of songs by the Beatles, Pentatonix, and others. Blackburn College in Carlinville, Illinois is affiliated with the Presbyterian Church (USA).

**"The Road Home"
Spring 2018
Maryville College
Concert Choir Tour
coming to Nashville**

The 2018 Maryville College Concert Choir Spring Tour features a Tennessee theme that includes churches in Maryville, Knoxville, Pikeville, Nashville, Tullahoma, and Memphis.

On March 15, the Maryville Concert Choir will perform at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3900 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205 at 7:00 pm.

For more information and tour dates, [click here](#)

SAVE THE DATE!
Board of Pensions
Benefits Connections
Gathering coming to
Nashville
April 19, 2018



Benefits Connections are conversations with Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) employers and influencers about benefits. Look for an invitation and more information about Benefits

with Ministry Architects.

Keep us in your prayers and send us your talented and enthusiastic young people.

**Priest Lake Presbyterian Church
Kenya Trip Update**
submitted by Crystal Caviness

At Priest Lake Presbyterian Church, we like to say that we are a small church doing big things for the Kingdom of God in Nashville, the region and the world. It's a catchy phrase and, I believe - more than - that that it's absolutely true.



On a recent trip to Kenya, a small group of eight women representing PLPC learned that we are, indeed, a small church doing big things, including feeding hungry children, putting shoes on those that have none, educating kids and instilling hope in an entire community.



When our group left Nashville on January 10, we departed on a journey to see firsthand what PLPC is doing in the small coastal village of Lower Bodoi through the church's support of the Angaza Nuru

ministry.

This was the team's second trip, having first gone there in November 2014. In the three years since that visit, what we found is that

1. Our children are healthier, which is positively affecting their education. Village leaders told us that the weekly Saturday feeding program that PLPC supports is making a difference in the health of the children. We learned that because the students in the Angaza Nuru School receive both a nutritious breakfast and lunch that they are learning better. In Kenya, all students must take a test to enter first grade. We were told that our Angaza Nuru School students have a pass rate of 100 percent!
2. More of our children are staying in school. Finishing the equivalent of high school is still an accomplishment in Bodoi. While in Kenya, we celebrated that two of our Angaza Nuru students finished Form 4 - the same as 12th grade - this past December. These two students - Jaffary Juma and Rachel Tungu -- have been sponsored for years by PLPC members Leesa Fields and Cat Bradford. Without their support and encouragement, Jaffary and Rachel would not have finished high school. Now both want to attend college and Jaffary is volunteering with the Angaza Nuru School until he has the means to go to college. Both Jaffary and Rachel are role models for the other children.
3. All of our children now have shoes! Thanks to a generous donation from PLPC members, we were able to distribute 200 pairs of shoes. These shoes, from a company named The Shoe That Grows, are able to fit a child up to five shoe sizes. On the day that we brought the shoes, some of the children waited for more than four hours to be fitted for shoes. Having shoes means that the children can go school and are less inclined to pick up diseases found in the ground.

Connection Gathering coming to Nashville on April 19, 2018.

Committee Meeting Dates

Committee on Church Transformation

Monday, March 12
@ 5:00 pm

Committee on Ministry Transitions Team

Tuesday, March 13
@ 3:00 pm
Presbytery Office

Committee on Ministry

Tuesday, March 13
@ 4:00 pm
Presbytery Office

Executive Presbyter Search Committee

Thursday, March 15
@ 4:00 pm

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Tuesday, March 20
@ 4:00 pm
First, Nashville



4. And certainly not last...we built a school!! The roof over our new, beautiful school is in its final days of curing and then our students will move into the Angaza Nuru School. It's amazing to think that we - the little church on Smith Springs Road in Nashville - built a school in a tiny, remote village

in Kenya.

If you would like more information about the Angaza Nuru ministry, please contact the church office at office@priestlakepresbyterian.org or check out the Journey to Kenya and Angaza Nuru Facebook pages.

Links of Interest

[Iglesia Presbiteriana Nueva Vida](#) (the new website for the Hispanic NCD)

[Presbytery of Middle Tennessee](#)

[Cheerful Giving - Church Campaign Services](#)

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance](#)

[Montreat Conference Center](#)

[Board of Pensions](#)



You 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.

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