



MID-TENN

E-Newsletter of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee

September 2017



The Presbytery office will be closed on Monday, September 4, 2017 in observance of Labor Day.

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October Presbytery

"Well, It's That Time of Year Again!"

by Warner R. Durnell, EP

How would you answer if asked the question, "What marks this time of year?" Would you answer, "Back to School sales," "Labor Day barbeques," "Marching-band performances," "Hurricanes forecast!" One or all of these responses would be correct. But there is yet another answer that often gets omitted. It is squarely on the minds of local church leaders right about now, and marks this time of year as we head into the fall; that being, "Planning for Annual Stewardship Emphasis Sunday!"



Many an American Christian congregation, around late August and early September, is apt to be found putting the finishing touches on plans for the fall Stewardship Emphasis Campaign. Church Treasurers and Finance Committees are busily chiseling a proposed Operations Budget for the coming fiscal year; Pastors and Christian Educators are pouring over scripture texts in preparing to preach and to teach on topics of generosity in giving; elders, deacons, and other canvassers of congregations are now beginning to finalize their strategy and zero in on the precise language of their solicitations. It's that time of year!

In order for preparations heading up to Stewardship Sunday to bear fruit, churches would benefit from a focused stewardship initiative that the services of an experienced consultant in church financial development could provide. One such consultant resides right here in Middle Tennessee, is a Presbyterian, and is more than willing to lend his aid and assistance to congregations within the Presbytery...and in fact, has done so in years past. His name is Douglas ("Doug") Himes, and he may be reached at dhadhimes@bellsouth.net. Doug's approach to church stewardship is truly one of faithful discipleship; of envisioning and embracing stewardship opportunities as a result of our maturing as disciples of Jesus Christ!

**Meeting at
NaCoMe Camp and
Conference Center
Thursday,
October 19, 2017**

**Get more than just the
meeting!**

The next Presbytery meeting will be held at the beautiful NaCoMe Camp and Conference Center on Thursday, October 19, 2017.

Why not come down a day early and spend some extra time hiking in the woods, praying by the creek, or simply relaxing in a rocking chair on the front porch! For only \$40.00, you will be provided lodging, Wednesday night dinner and breakfast on Thursday morning.

To make your reservation online, [click here](#).

You can also contact the NaCoMe staff at 931-729-9723 or email retreats@nacome.org to make your reservation.



**PRESBYTERIAN
DISASTER
ASSISTANCE**

**Presbyterian Disaster
Response to Harvey
(per PDA Website)**

PDA continues to be in touch with presbytery leadership in New Covenant, Mission, and South Louisiana Presbyteries. National Response Teams are

If you are a pastor, Christian Educator, Church Treasurer, or Church Finance Committee member, and are interested in having the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee host a stewardship training workshop this fall, please write back to me at warnerdurnell@gmail.com, on or before **September 15th**. If there is enough interest, I believe we could calendar such an event with Doug Himes. Let me know if you think you and other leaders from your church might welcome such an offering.

Grace and peace always!



**Meet our Board of Pensions
Church Consultant,
Rev. Dr. Edward Thompson**

It is a pleasure to work for the Board of Pensions and to have Middle Tennessee as part of my region. I look forward to building closer ties with the presbytery and with congregations in particular. As a "church consultant" formerly known as "regional representative" I see my role as to educate and support churches and agencies within the presbytery with regard to Benefits. I am more than willing to visit you in your context to discuss how best you might design a strategy that enables you to make available to church employees benefits. I can be reached by email ethompson@pensions.org or by phone 215-587-7045. Even better would be discuss such things over coffee or a meal or a game of golf!



*The Rev. Dr.
Edward Thompson*

The Reverend Dr. Edward Thompson joined the Board in January 2013. Previously, he was Head of Staff for First Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida. Ordained by the Presbytery of Edinburgh in 1982, Edward served in the Church of Scotland in Edinburgh, Golspie, and Troon. He moved to the United States in 1995 and became Senior Pastor of Second Presbyterian Church in Kansas City, Missouri. In September 2008, he became Senior Pastor and Head of Staff for First Presbyterian Church in Naples, Florida. Edward is a graduate of Durham University in England and the University of Edinburgh, where he focused on theological studies. He completed his Doctor of Ministry at McCormick Theological Seminary, Chicago.

The presbyteries in Edward's region lie in Kansas, Missouri, Kentucky, and Tennessee.

being deployed into the affected regions when it is safe to do so.

Please designate gifts to DR000169-Harvey.

A bulletin insert, prayer and litany are available on the PDA website, [click here for PDA website.](#)



Employers Begin Selecting 2018 Benefits

It's time for employers to begin updating their Employer Agreements for 2018.

Now through October 13,

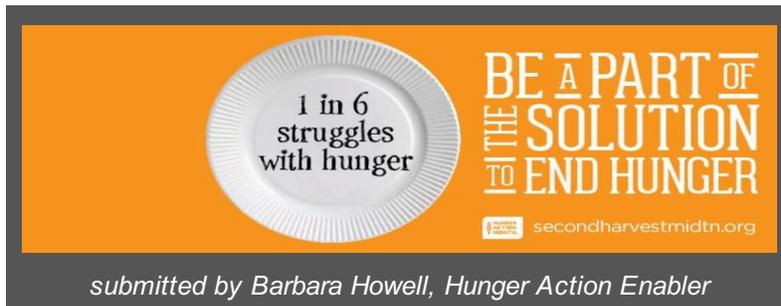
employers should log on to Benefits Connect to review, update, and submit their Agreements for 2018. Through this process, employers select benefits to offer employees during fall annual enrollment for coverage effective January 1 the following year. An expanded pensions.org section is available to assist employers. [Read more.](#)



East Brentwood Presbyterian Church and Preschool present

Presbyteries in Synod of Living Waters: East Tennessee, Holston, Middle Tennessee, Mid-Kentucky, Mid-South, Transylvania, Western Kentucky

Presbyteries in Synod of Mid-America: Giddings-Lovejoy, Heartland, John Calvin, Missouri Union, Northern Kansas, Southern Kansas



submitted by Barbara Howell, Hunger Action Enabler

September Is Hunger Action Month

The numbers are telling. Today more than 40 million people in the United States are hungry or food insecure.

September is Hunger Action Month™ when Feeding America, Second Harvest Food Bank, and the Society of St. Andrew ask everyone in America to take action to fight hunger in their community - all month long. Hunger Action Month is your opportunity to join a movement that has a real and lasting impact on our effort to feed more Americans than ever before. Whether it's by advocating and raising awareness, making donations, or volunteering, you can find the way that's right for you to make a difference during Hunger Action Month.

The Society of St. Andrew offers a [Daily Calendar for Prayer and Action](#) that includes a scripture reading and related activity for each day of September. Using this calendar, congregations will take direct action against hunger and give money that, through the Society of St. Andrew, will be used to put nourishing fruits and vegetables on the tables of our hungry brothers and sisters right here in the U.S. How to get involved...[read more.](#)



The Presbytery of Middle Tennessee office is moving.

The Presbytery office will be moving to Westminster Presbyterian Church, 3900 West End Avenue, Nashville, TN 37205 on Wednesday, September 27, 2017.

MUSIC IN THE GROVE

September 4, 2017

2:00pm - 6:00pm

9000 Concord Road
Brentwood, TN
Corner of Wilson Pike
and Concord Road

For flyer, [click here](#)

Rev. Ernest Newsom releases new CD "Family Expressions"



Saxophonist and
Recording Artist, Ernest
(Saxman) Newsom
celebrates the release of
his latest CD entitled,
**"FAMILY
EXPRESSIONS"**

The CD is a nine track
vocal and instrumental,
original jazz and blues
arrangement by the
composer, Newsom.
This is his fourth CD
within the seven years of
his professional musical
career.

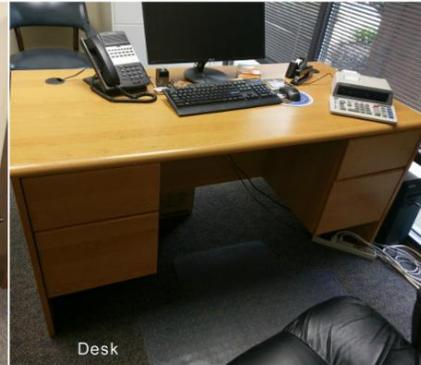
For more information,
615 893 6219 or email
ernburn76@hotmail.com

**Monroe Harding
Fundraising Event
Fostering Joy
Friday, October 6,
2017
6:30 - 10:00 pm**

As we start to pack up the office, there are a some items (pictures below) that we will no longer be needing. We are offering these items to churches or individuals. If you are interested in any of the item(s) below, please contact [Linda Griffiths](#) at the Presbytery office, 615-332-3330 and let her know what item you are interested in. **The item(s) will need to be picked up at the current office location at 618 Grassmere Park Drive, Suite 2, Nashville, TN 37211 before September 23rd.**



Desk with Hutch



Desk



Podium



Conference Table with Chairs

*Top left to right: Black Desk with Hutch, Desk
Bottom left to right: Podium, Conference Table with
chairs*



**Committee Meeting
Dates
Mark your
calendars!!**

Committee on Ministry Exam Team

Tuesday, September 5, 2017 @ 2:15pm
Westminster, Nashville

Church Transformation

Monday, September 11, 2017 @ 5:00pm
FPC Nashville

Committee on Ministry

Tuesday, September 12, 2017 @ 4:00pm
FPC Nashville

Rocketown
601 Fourth Avenue
South



For flyer, [click here](#)
For tickets, [click here](#)

Guatemala Fiesta Y Reunion (GPCC)

Saturday, September 16, 2017 @ 4:00pm - 7:00 pm
For information, contact kirahilley@gmail.com.

Committee on Preparation for Ministry

Tuesday, September 19, 2017 @ 4:00pm
Presbytery Office

Committee on Leadership Excellence

Wednesday, September 20, 2017 @ 9:30am
Trinity, Nashville

Administrative Committee

Thursday, September 21, 2017 @ 2:00pm
FPC Nashville

Finance Committee

Thursday, September 21, 2017 @ 3:30pm
FPC Nashville

Quick Links

[Presbytery of Middle Tennessee](#)

[Synod of Living Waters](#)

[Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)

[Board of Pensions](#)

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.

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