

# MID-TENN

Presbytery of Middle Tennessee E-Newsletter

May 11, 2017

## PENTECOST OFFERING

April 17 - June 4, 2017

### When is the Pentecost Offering received?

The Pentecost offering is traditionally received on the day of Pentecost (June 4, 2017). However, you can help sustain the important PC(USA) ministries and programs that are supported by the Pentecost offering by making a gift at any time throughout the year.

### How is my gift used?

A gift to the Pentecost offering helps the Church encourage, develop, and support its young people, and also address the needs of at-risk children. 40% of the Pentecost offering can be retained by individual congregations wanting to make an impact in the lives of young people within their own community. The remaining 60% is used to support ministries of the Presbyterian Mission Agency:

## FOR ONE OF OUR OWN

by Warner Dumell, Executive Presbyter

**"It is the duty of the people to pray for magistrates."**

[Westminster Confession of Faith, 6.130, 4a]

We Presbyterians here in Middle Tennessee, indeed all Presbyterians across the State of Tennessee, find ourselves in an enviable and unique position of being able to help influence the future shape of our nation's health-insurance system for generations to come. One of our own US Senators, an earnest Presbyterian whose membership is in the Westminster Presbyterian Church of Nashville, is Lamar Alexander. Senator Alexander heads up the Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee of the Senate, one of two Senate committees primarily responsible for drafting new health care legislation now that the U.S. House of Representatives GOP rollback of the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been passed on to them.



Whether you support the House bill or decry it, our leaders in the Senate are tasked with coming up with a plan that is responsible and affordable, insures children and seniors, and provides coverage for those with pre-existing conditions as well as those presently healthy. This is a mammoth undertaking; it's hard! The wisdom of Solomon and the compassion of Jesus will be needed in order for such a plan to be crafted and acquire the necessary votes for passage even in a partisan US Senate. That's where we can have a part to play.

We can and are called to PRAY for Sen. Lamar Alexander. Let our prayers for him be the kind we would want for ourselves, were we in his leadership position. Pray for his health and well-being, that he will have the stamina of body and sharpness of mind to see this challenging course to its conclusion...[read more](#).

- Young Adult Volunteers
- Ministries for Youth
- Children-at-Risk
- Pentecost Offering Financials

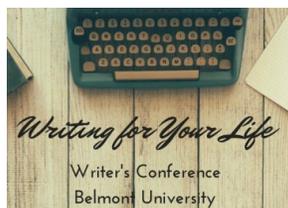
For more details, visit the website, [click here](#)

**Book Launch and Signing at Westminster Presbyterian Church Nashville, TN (Youth Room) Friday, May 19 4:00 pm**

**New Children's Book *Who Counts?* by Amy-Jill Levine and Sandy Eisenberg Sasso**



Book is available at the [PC\(USA\) Store](#)



**Spiritually-Focused "Writing for Your Life" Conference Belmont University July 18-19, 2017**



## Highlights of the 129th Stated Meeting May 6, 2017

Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville  
*submitted by Therese Howell, Stated Clerk*

The 129th Stated Meeting of the Presbytery of Middle Tennessee was held at Hillsboro Presbyterian Church, Nashville, on May 6, 2017. Commissioners gathered in the light-filled sanctuary for worship. Sermons were preached by Ms. Beth Smith McCaw and Mr. Josh



Dr. Donald McKim

Rodriguez, candidates for ordination. The Hillsboro choir presented special music. An offering of \$1,190.00 was collected for the COM's Pastoral Care and Sabbatical Funds. The Rev. Dr. Donald McKim made a presentation on Martin Luther and John Calvin in light of the 500th anniversary of the Reformation. To read

Dr. McKim's presentation, [click here](#).

The following actions were approved / reported at the presbytery meeting:

- Installed The Rev. Dr. Stuart Gordon (First Nashville) and Ruling Elder Ed Lancaster (First Columbia) as 2017 Moderator and Vice-Moderator, respectively
- Approved the transfer of a cemetery owned by the Oak Grove Presbyterian Church, Bethpage, to a non-profit organization for the maintenance and upkeep of the cemetery
- Approved the appointment of an administrative commission for Eastminster Presbyterian Church, Nashville, as the church discerns its future in light of the Dec. 2016 fire. Members of the commission are The Rev. Dr. Bill Barger, Ruling Elder Suzanne McLeMore, The Rev. Lilia Ramirez, and Ruling Elder Melinda Sanders.
- Two inquirers, Ashley McFaul-Erwin (Second) and T. Wes Moore (First Cookville), were approved as candidates.
- The Rev. Steve Thomas III was retired effective



Belmont University's College of Theology and Christian Ministry (CTCM) announced that registration is now open for the "Writing for Your Life" conference on campus July 18-19. Partnering with the "Writing for Your Life" conference series, headline speakers for the Nashville event will be acclaimed authors Barbara Brown Taylor and Rachel Held Evans.

For more information, [click here](#)

**My Cursillo Experience...so far**  
*submitted by Nancy Loudermilk*

Nancy Loudermilk is a member of our Priest Lake Presbyterian Church in Nashville who has participated in Presbyterian Cursillo in recent years. Cursillo is a discipleship experience much like Emmanus Walk.

Ms. Loudermilk is seeking to ascertain whether there are persons in this Presbytery interested in attending a Cursillo weekend in a nearby Presbytery. See her letter below:

*My Cursillo Experience...so far... What was it like to set out for a 3-day retreat in an unknown setting*

June 1, 2017

- The Rev. Dr. Sam Cooper was retired effective June 1, 2017

To read more highlights and see more pictures of the meeting, please [click here](#).



**Fill a Bag - Feed a Family**

This year marks the 25th anniversary of the National Association of Letter Carriers' Stamp Out Hunger food drive. The nation's largest all-volunteer one day food drive has collected over 1.5 billion pounds of foods over the last 24 years. Delivering to every address in America, letter carriers are all too familiar with the unfortunate reality of ongoing hunger.

Here's how you can help:

1. Collect and bag healthy non-perishable\* food items.
2. Place by mailbox for letter carrier to deliver to a local food bank or pantry.

\* Donate healthy, low-sodium, low-sugar items such as bean, canned tuna in water, peanut butter, soup, vegetables, pasta, pasta sauce, cereal, oatmeal and other whole grains, canned fruit, canola or olive oil, and canned meats. Please do not donate items that have expired or are in glass containers.



**BIG TENT**  
**July 6-8, 2017**  
**Washington University**  
**St. Louis, Missouri**

**REGISTRATION IS OPEN!**

Make plans now to join old friends and make new ones at this summer's Big Tent

conference in St. Louis, July 6-8.

**The theme of this year's conference is Race, Reconciliation, and the Reformation.**

Through plenary events, Bible study, workshops, and

knowing only one other person?...[read more](#)

### Quick Links

[Presbytery of Middle Tennessee](#)

[Synod of Living Waters](#)

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

[Board of Pensions](#)

[Presbyterian Disaster Assistance \(PDA\)](#)

*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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worship, attendees will be challenged and renewed by the power of the gospel message to overcome our current realities of anxiety, division, and inequality. The three-day event, held on the beautiful campus of Washington University in St. Louis, will provide a variety of opportunities to engage with issues facing the church and society today. For more information and registration, [click here.](#)