

# MID-TENN

## Presbytery of Middle Tennessee E-Newsletter June 2018



### Presbytery of Middle Tennessee GA Commissioners to the 223rd General Assembly (2018) June 16-23, 2018 St. Louis, Missouri

Please hold our General Assembly Commissioners (names and pictures below), Stated Clerk, Therese Howell and Executive Presbyter, Warner Durnell in prayer as they travel to and participate in the 223rd General Assembly (2018) which will begin this Saturday, June 16 and ends June 23.



### [The PC\(USA\) Store](#) [Resources for Presbyterians](#)



Downloadable resources are available on [PC\(USA\) Store](#) which will provide your congregation with everything from printable certificates, catechisms for all age levels, and studies and essays for leaders and study groups. Per the PC(USA) store [browse through all downloads](#) to find what your church needs.

**Impact, In Concert  
(youth choir)  
comes to Priest Lake  
Presbyterian Church  
June 22, 2018  
7:00pm - 8:00 pm**



REV. GREG GLOVER  
First, Clarksville



REV. MARY LOUISE MCCULLOUGH  
Second, Nashville



REV. CAROL TATE  
2018 PMT Vice-Moderator/MAL



PAT BRIDGES  
First, Columbia



GEETA MCMILLAN  
First United, Sparta

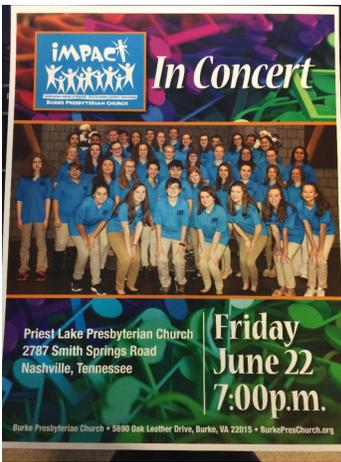


BART WALKER  
First, Murfreesboro

For more information about the 223rd General Assembly, visit the [website](#). You can view the proposed docket. General proceedings and worship during assembly will be live-streamed, so [bookmark the page](#) and stay informed.

### **A Message to Mid Council Leaders from the Stated Clerk of the General Assembly** *via Tricia Dykers Koenig, Associate for Mid-Council Relations*

Over the last few weeks, along with Tricia Dykers Koenig, I have had the privilege of participating in four face-to-face gatherings and two Zoom calls with presbytery and synod leaders, General Assembly commissioners, and other local



Priest Lake Presbyterian Church is hosting a FREE event on June 22nd.

"Impact, In Concert" is a youth choir from Burke Presbyterian Church (PCUSA) in Burke, Va. This traveling choir has been touring with youth for over 10 years. They do a combination of gospel, contemporary and traditional Christian music.

Priest Lake Presbyterian Church is located at: 2787 Smith Springs Road, Nashville, TN 37217 615-366-0247



submitted by  
Linda Griffis, HAA  
via the [Food and Faith Website](#)

The US government has until September 30, 2018 to pass a new Farm Bill. The House brought their Farm Bill to the floor and it was rejected on May 18. The Senate will reportedly unveil its Farm Bill in June.

Five areas of concern regarding the proposed House Farm Bill are:

**SNAP** - benefits would be cut by about \$17 billion over ten years, primarily by toughening the work requirement rules, which would push an estimated



J. Herbert Nelson, II

leaders. Kerry Rice and COGA member Carol McDonald have also been able to be present for some of these frank conversations about the per capita budget and other concerns. We have appreciated the opportunity to hear what's on your minds, and we don't want the process to end here. I am committed to continuing these

conversations with you-on a variety of topics that you want to raise. Mid councils are the key to the health of the church, and deeper engagement with you is a priority for me and for the OGA. We will seek opportunities to visit you; to take the initiative to extend an invitation to us, please contact Tricia. -J. Herbert Nelson, II

### PER CAPITA

You may have seen the news article explaining that the Stated Clerk will be proposing a revision to the per capita budget as originally approved by COGA and PMAB and posted to PC-Biz as Item 03-01.

The original per capita budget approved by COGA and PMAB for consideration by the 223rd General Assembly (2018) reflected the Stated Clerk's desire that the church be aware of the true cost of doing the work that OGA has been directed to do by the Book of Order and General Assembly actions. We have heard the concerns of mid council leaders about the size of the requested increase, and have crunched the numbers on a proposal that would reduce the proposed per capita rate without, we think, damaging the OGA's ministry-although it would substantially deplete reserves. The revised proposal would increase the per capita rate by 10 percent in 2019 and 10 percent in 2020. See the [revised narrative budget](#) for details.

The reports of the Way Forward Commission and the All Agency Review Committee, as well as an overture from the Presbytery of Newton, call for serious review of how we fund the work of the church, and these conversations might inform the budgeting process in subsequent years.

### Worship that Wakes Us Up

by Warner Durnell

*"Wakeful and faithful worship encompasses the whole of life." [Mark Labberton]*

The process of physically relocating routinely calls for acts of thinning, of

1.6 million beneficiaries off of SNAP.

**Conservation** - the House bill would erase support for resource stewardship on 70 million acres (that's an area the size of Nevada) of working farm and rangeland by completely eliminating the Conservation Stewardship Program.

**Local food** - the House bill abandons local farmers by cutting all funding for several programs that invest in helping farmers connect to local and regional buyers and in improving healthy food access.

**Beginning and socially disadvantaged farmers** - the House bill misses the mark by failing to invest more in beginning farmers, military veteran farmers, and farmers of color. With the average age of farmers continuing to rise, the status quo is not enough to ensure the success of these key farmer communities.

**Crop insurance and commodities** - because prices are low compared to production costs and because of the many risks of farming, not least of which is extreme weather due to climate change, crop insurance is critical for farmers. But the House bill opens major new loopholes allowing for unlimited subsidies that will continue to distort land prices and create an unfair playing field for farmers.

[Click here](#) for a guide to the Farm Bill - complete with questions you can ask your local, state or federal candidates.

lightening one's load.

Moving from active ministry status, to retired ministry status, definitely calls for a thinning of one's library. But the choice of which publications to retain and which ones to release, can be agonizingly difficult. I was advised to, "Use your joy barometer!" When in doubt whether to keep a book or magazine, or give it away, hold the publication in question and ask your heart, "Will it add more joy to hold on to this, or to let it go?" Then, go with whatever your heart seems to say in that moment. A book that my joy barometer advised me to retain recently is Mark Labberton's, *The Dangerous Act of Worship*. The Rev. Dr. Mark Labberton, presently serving as President of Fuller Theological Seminary, is a gifted preacher and professor of preaching, who, for 16 years was Pastor for First Presbyterian Church of Berkeley, California.



*Rev. Warner Durnell*

The essence of Dr. Labberton's premise in this book is that the modern day North American church is for the most part "asleep." The church is not asleep in the sense of being dormant; rather, he argues, "the church is asleep to God's heart for a world filled with injustice."<sup>1</sup> What is required to awaken the church to the call of God to be engaged in ministries of justice in the world (and not just ministries of Christian nurture, fellowship and charity)? Dr. Labberton asserts that we must first be stirred by acts of corporate and personal worship that leads us to continually discovering our life in God and living that life in the world. That's what makes for worship that is "dangerous," adventuresome, life altering, world transforming! Worship that reorders our daily lives to where we not only recognize the economic and social injustices in our...[read more](#)



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**[Synod of Living Waters](#)**  
**[Presbyterian Church \(USA\)](#)**  
**[Board of Pensions](#)**

**MID-TENN Submissions:**

Articles, photos, & announcements for the July MID-TENN newsletter may be submitted to Linda Griffis at [pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com](mailto:pbymidtnoffice@gmail.com) by July 6, 2018.



*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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