

Candidates and Interns: Reports for August 2016

Name	Start Date	Mentor	Church	Intern Report?
Antoon, Martin	05-16	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	X
Bert, Luke	08-14	Ben McLain	Trinity	Oral
Brent, Kyle	11-13	Charlie Wingard	Providence	X
Brock, Cory	05-12	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	
Brown, Chris	05-13	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	
Canevaro, Addison	11-14	Dennis Watts	Trinity	Oral
Cross, Heath	02-16	<i>Candidate only</i>		NA
Duhs, Seth	11-14	<i>Candidate only</i>		NA
Forrest, Anthony	11-14	Ryan Dean	Redeemer	X
Hammond, Ian	11-14	Jeff Jordan	Pinehaven	X
Jackson, Kelly	02-15	Ralph Kelley	1 st Jackson	X
Jung, Hyoun	08-15	Ryan Dean	Redeemer	Oral
Meenan, Billy	02-13	Brad Mercer	Highlands	X
Meyer, Greg	02-13	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	
Morgan, Davis	08-14	Caleb Cangelosi	Pear Orchard	Oral
Owens, Zack	11-11	Ryan Dean	Redeemer	X
Prabhakar, John	05-16	Ed Hartman	1 st Jackson	X
Rehers, Chris	05-15	Chris Wright	Lebanon	X
Ritchey, James	02-15	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	X
Robison, Nick	11-15	Scott Huber	Lexington	X
Suber, Aaron	05-14	Caleb Cangelosi	Pear Orchard	X
Tisby, Jemar	11-12	Elbert McGowan	Redeemer	X
Wegener, Jason	08-15	Ed Hartman	1 st Jackson	Oral

Intern Report

Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley

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Date: May 2016

Name of intern: Martin Antoon

Name of mentor: Billy Dempsey

Church where you are serving as an intern: First Presbyterian Jackson, MS

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

Since I've only been under care for a couple of weeks, my first duties have largely been setting up a large scale plan for carrying out the required responsibilities. This has helped me break the requirements down into more manageable pieces to work towards through each semester.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

I met with Billy the week after I went under care, and he was very helpful in taking the list of requirements and helping me develop a time frame for when I should think about taking care of each task. He also gave some helpful suggestions of people to whom I could get in touch to meet those requirements. Billy is also encouraging from a pastoral standpoint and walks through each stage of my internship with me, along with the positives and difficulties.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

Again, though I have only been under care a few weeks, it has been a good time for reflection. It has been an affirming time in which I have sensed (both internally and externally) the ways in which God has called me to serve the church where I currently work, but also a desire to see His name shared throughout the kingdom. I'm thankful and very much looking forward to the ways in which the internship will further prepare me to accomplish this task.

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Date: 5/26/16

Name of intern: Luke Bert

Name of mentor: Ben McLain

Church where you are serving as an intern: Trinity

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

I have taught the youth group Wednesday night study where we went through the five points of Calvinism.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

RE Ben McLain has been a great example of Godly wisdom. He has taken time to listen to my sermons and meet with me to discuss them. This summer I will be at Hope Presbyterian church in Shippensburg PA serving as the intern to TE David Fidati. For this reason I will not be able to give an oral report to presbytery. David and I will meet weekly to discuss the ministry at hope and we will focus on meeting the requirements of my internship that have been made more difficult since Ken Pierce was removed from Trinity.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

I have been actively looking at work in Quebec Canada. The internship has allowed me to gain skills for teaching that are needed to train church leaders in the Old Testament. I believe my call will involve local church ministry and mission work in Quebec possibly through MTW or MNA. In order to accomplish work in Quebec I will need to pursue a PhD. So I can better teach the OT to pastors.

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Date: 5/27/2016

Name of intern: Kyle Brent

Name of mentor: Dr. Charlie Wingard

Church where you are serving as an intern: Independent Presbyterian Church (Savannah, GA)

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

This quarter has been devoted to teaching a Sunday School class on the doctrine of the person of Christ, teaching the Coastal Jail Ministries transitional bible study, teaching a small group bible study on the prayers of Paul to college students at Armstrong State University, assisting in worship, and preaching.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

I have touched base with Dr. Wingard only a few times. We talked about my various responsibilities at IPC and how they are going. Further, he asks me about my spiritual walk with the Lord and my own disciplines and growth in grace. I'm thankful for Dr. Wingard, and look forward to being back in the Jackson area so that our meetings will be more substantial.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

I believe I'm getting better at small group teaching and fostering discussion, which was one of the things that I acknowledged previously as a weakness. My preaching has remained relatively strong and have been greatly encouraged by the feedback from Dr. Johnson and the other ministers at IPC. In light of these things, my sense of call is still pretty strong.

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Date: 5/24/16

Name of intern: Anthony Forrest

Name of mentor: Rev. Ryan Dean

Church where you are serving as an intern: Redeemer Church, PCA

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

This quarter, my intern duties are continuing to be as in times past. I must attend staff meetings weekly, assist in the worship service on assignment, help/lead a small group in the ministry of the Word to high schoolers, and teach in one of the designated adult Sunday school classes. There is also a requirement that we have an internship focus, and my internship focus is the Broadmoor area behind Redeemer Church, where the aim is to love our neighbors through being present, being evangelistic in effort, and hopefully seeing them come to know the Lord through sitting under the preaching and proclamation of his word.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

My meetings with Ryan normally include the content of call, family, and things pertaining to the practical life of the Christian in the world. We also talk about the life of the church and the impact of the gospel in the lives of the teens we serve. There is much to celebrate (and deliberate) that comes out of all of our interactions, particularly the mentor/mentee meetings. I believe I am benefiting from my relationship with him in a couple of ways, at least. One of the benefits is the direction that his wisdom can offer me where I am uncertain and searching for clarity, whether about a text or about ministry. Another benefit is the constant spurring on in joy that having him as friend gives.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

The gifts and graces that God has allowed in my life are being tested in the internship in the teaching opportunities. Each of them are testing me in the areas of preparation, presentation, and even precision. I am grateful for the ways that my gifts are being solidified in my own thinking as I get to teach regularly. Also, I am experiencing testing in having to do outreach in the community, a focus of my internship- one that Rev. Mike Campbell thought to be a specific gift from God to me. I am certainly pleased to get to "hone" this gift in a number of ways through being intentional about evangelizing and missional-saturated activity in Broadmoor. The sense of call I have to the ministry is somewhat general, as I can find place in a position that offers both of these privileges and yearn to not simply be regularly preaching, but also in an outreach ministry that goes hand-in-hand with the preaching/teaching. If that makes sense...

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Date: 5/24/16

Name of intern: Ian Hammond

Name of mentor: Jeff Jordan

Church where you are serving as an intern: RUF Mississippi College

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

Welcome internationals with hospitality. Explore the gospel through inductive Bible studies. Equip Christian world leaders. In addition, help out with the RUF students and events.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

The content of our meetings are spiritual and relational. Jeff mentors me in terms of the role pastor/teacher and in terms of being a faithful husband. These have helped me both in my ministry life and my family life.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

I have many opportunities to preach, teach, counsel, share the gospel, plan and execute ministry goals. This has greatly strengthened my sense of calling.

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Date: 5/30/16

Name of intern: Kelly Jackson

Name of mentor: Ralph Kelley

Church where you are serving as an intern: First Presbyterian Church

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

This Spring I spent my internship serving First Presbyterian's college ministry on the campus of Millsaps College with our ministry to the students there through Bible study, one-to-one ministry, and fellowship events. I also taught College Sunday school at First Presbyterian, hosted meals at the church and in my home twice a month, and ran a Wednesday night activity for students called "Dinner and Discussion" where we examined topics like Race, Sexuality, Work, and Dating.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

Ralph and I have continued to get together on a monthly basis to discuss my internship requirements, the struggles and joys of ministry, and my personal life. The most encouraging thing to me about my time with Ralph is his honesty about his own life and ministry, and I look forward to continuing to get together with him over the months to come as I finish out my time at RTS and FPC.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

The long I am in this internship, the more comfortable and bold I am to own the ministry I am a part of, and the more encouraged I am to see God's faithfulness to work in and through me, my co-intern, our spouses, and our students. I am seeing the Lord encouraged me little by little in my teaching, in one-to-one get-togethers with students, peers, and others, and with administrative tasks that must take place in order for things to get done. God is growing my patience, and He is growing my awareness that I need to be firmly rooted in His word on a regular basis if I want to have gas in the tank for ministry, for my family, and for my personal holiness. I am really benefitting from this Summer Break, and I look forward to continuing to learn, teach, and preach His Word.

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Date: 5/18/2016

Name of intern: William (Billy) Meenan

Name of mentor: Brad Mercer

Church where you are serving as an intern: Highlands

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

I am responsible for all ministry to students in High School. This includes teaching Sunday School, recruiting and training small group leaders, and organizing and leading weekly youth group. I also plan and lead a trip to summer conference in Colorado, and a mission trip to Washington State. I regularly assist in worship and occasionally preach.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

I continue to benefit from my mentor as we discuss both daily and long term pastoral issues.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

I continue to feel strengthened in my call to ministry. Recently I have been convicted in my time management, and how I prioritize my time with family, ministry, and seminary. My internship has been a blessing.

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Date: 5-24-16

Name of intern: Zack Owens

Name of mentor: Ryan Dean

Church where you are serving as an intern: Redeemer Church, PCA

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

I continue to serve the church through teaching (series on the Covenants, The Gospel of Mark, The Children's Catechism & corresponding scriptures, communicants class) as well as discipleship meetings, hospital visitations, leading in worship, and administrative duties (coordinating Sunday School, Wednesday night children's ministry, missions conference, etc).

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

Ryan and I continue to meet regularly and work together on the Children and Youth Committee. I am learning the nature of committee work, and how to successfully lead different ministries of the church to function in unity.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

My inward call to ministry is confirmed more and more as I continue to serve in the church. I praise God that Pastor Elbert and our session voted to alter a few details of my responsibilities and job description to allow me to finish seminary sooner than expected. Lord willing, I hope to finish seminary within 2 years. After graduation, I hope to continue serving at Redeemer and pursue ordination.

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Date: 24 May 2016

Name of intern: John Rakshith Prabhakar

Name of mentor: Ed Hartman

Church where you are serving as an intern: First Presbyterian Church of Jackson

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

Since my becoming an intern in May, I have been able to/plan to:

- teach Sunday School
- preach in a Wednesday night prayer meeting
- go on hospital visits
- Attend a funeral service
- Attend a baptismal service

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

My wife and I have been able to meet with Ed and his wife once since the time I have become a presbytery intern. He and his wife have been encouraging to us in sharing their lives - wisdom through a life lived and present hardships - and this way, inviting us into their lives. I have met with Ed on other occasions. I have learnt much from him concerning discipline in gospel ministry, patience toward those who do not keep their promises, and leaning upon Christ for grace and strength to be a light in a fallen world and in gospel service to imperfect saints.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

My gift of teaching and preaching have already begun to be tested. I have been encouraged by several members of the congregation and ministers who have heard me preach or teach to hone those skills. I hope to continue to grow in this area during the remainder of my time as a presbytery intern and seminary intern at FPC Jackson. I have also been able to and hope to grow in learning about the pastoral office as I make hospital visits, home visits, and prison visits with the ministers. I hope to learn more about pursuing Christ and being filled with His fullness while occupying the pastoral office from various ministers, particularly at FPC Jackson. In all of this, I have been humbled to see the solemnity of the task that lies ahead of me in gospel ministry, the idols that the Holy Spirit has exposed and is working to weed me of, and my dependence upon Christ, apart from Whom I can do nothing. And through it all, I am strengthened in my sense of call to the ministry.

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Date: 5/20/2016

Name of intern: Chris Rehers

Name of mentor: Rev. Chris Wright

Church where you are serving as an intern: Lebanon Presbyterian Church

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

My primary functions have been to labor in the Word and caring for the flock. I have been teaching Sunday school through the Westminster Confession, James on Sunday morning, and a devotion followed by a season of prayer on Wednesday nights. I am continuing to visit both members and non-members in their homes on a rotation and by need basis.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

The content of our meetings have been an exchange concerning my experience here at Lebanon. Chris has been pastorally assisting me and providing instruction in my service to the church here.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

All of the gifts that God has given me to serve the people of God have been tested and I see and confirmed in my life and the life of God's people are strengthened. My sense of call to the ministry has only grown whither and hotter in all my trials for the glory of God and the joy of His people.

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Date: _____ 5-30-2016 _____

Name of intern: _____ James Ritchey _____

Name of mentor: _____ Billy Dempsey _____

Church where you are serving as an intern: _____ First Presbyterian Church of Jackson _____

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter: My duties have mostly involved teaching, various one on one meetings with students, conversations with parents of our students and organizing and planning different events in the student ministry. I have been reading various books that have been helpful for student ministry as well.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

My meetings with my mentor consist of discussions regarding ministry, calling, presbytery intern requirements and spiritual growth. He has taught me much about loving others, serving when it is costly and devotion to the Lord and to His Church.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry:

There have been many opportunities to teach in different settings to different age groups. This has helped me better understand how to communicate the same truth to different audiences in a way that is effective. Also, the internship has allowed me to be involved in much relational ministry which has tested many gifts and graces and taught me much about compassion.

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Date: 5/28/2016

Name of intern: Nick Robison

Name of mentor: Scott Huber

Church where you are serving as an intern: FPC Lexington

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

I have been continuing to preach a series on 1 Thessalonians on the first Sunday of every month. Also, I am currently teaching a Sunday school series on the doctrines of grace. This has been in addition to the visits that I make to members of the congregation with Pastor Huber.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

I sit down with Pastor Huber every Sunday (and sometimes during the week) to go over my sermon prep, as well as a review of the sermon after I have preached. He is also in the Sunday school class that I teach. This allows him to give me some feedback on the progress of our class lessons. Another thing that we have been doing this quarter is going through the BCO's requirements for eldership, membership, and church discipline.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

I have benefitted greatly through being able to preach on a more regular basis. Judging from the feedback that I have received from Pastor Huber and the elders of FPC Lexington, I have become a better communicator from the pulpit through the experience that I have gained. I still have a lot of room to grow, however. Because the congregation at FPC Lexington has become more comfortable with me, I have had the chance to engage many of them in one on one discussions concerning sermons, Sunday school lessons, and even their own personal Bible study. This has forced me to think quickly on my feet. Although I do have a keen sense of a need for growth in this area, I do enjoy our conversations and always look forward to them. I feel that through my time at FPC Lexington that the Lord has given me more assurance concerning my call to ministry. I truly love the work that He has given me here.

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Date: 5-16-16

Name of intern: Aaron Suber

Name of mentor: Caleb Cangelosi

Church where you are serving as an intern: Pear Orchard Presbyterian Church

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

While my main duties this semester were to graduate from seminary and do well on all of my exams and to welcome my first born son into the world, I was able to continue to learn more about the church. I had meetings with different elders and deacons to talk about different aspects of the church such as audio/visual issues, budget, and further education.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

During this quarter, I was blessed with several opportunities to meet with my mentor along with other seminary students. We had discussions about different theological topics as well as ministry in the church. It is very beneficial to have someone who has actually run a session meeting, tell you the things you need to know about session meetings. We benefited greatly under Pastor Caleb's teaching and wisdom. Pastor Caleb was also very helpful and kind while I looked for, interviewed, and accepted a new position. His wisdom throughout the process as well as his prayers were much appreciated and needed. We talked about job descriptions, salary, finances, moving, and many other things.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

This internship has been very good for me. I have been able to not only preach and teach, but also to attend session meetings and learn about the leadership of the church. I have come to respect the elders and deacons in whole new ways. I am very appreciative of their work and realize that it is an absolute necessity to have them. I have greatly enjoyed the opportunity to also serve at Christ Covenant School and teach a class this year with Pastor Caleb. This has shown me a love for teaching that I did not know I had. I look forward to pursuing this further in the near future at my new position. Above all, it has continually confirmed my call to the ministry and a strong desire to work in and with the church.

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Date: June, 2016

Name of intern: Jemar Tisby

Name of mentor: Elbert McGowan, Jr.

Church where you are serving as an intern: Redeemer Church

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter:

I accepted a position as the Interim Principal of Midtown Public Charter School in Jackson, MS. I currently work there full-time. In this capacity I continue to make connections in the Midtown community for the proposed Redeemer church plant in Midtown.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him:

Rev. McGowan and I have met several times in the last few months. Our conversations have centered around his transition to full-time Senior Minister of Redeemer Church and the lessons I have learned from several years as a member and intern with the congregation. We have also discussed community engagement to find ways in which Redeemer church can be a light to the city of Jackson. Rev. McGowan is teaching me what it looks like to pour into young men and disciple them into leadership.

In what ways do you see your gifts and graces being tested through this internship, and as a result of this period of trial and self-examination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

In my current role as a principal, I serve low-income minority students in a high-need area. All of my pastoral training is being put to work counseling students who have lost their homes and possessions in house fires, helping a grieving student whose mother died recently and unexpectedly, and constantly laboring to develop the social and emotional capacity of children who are filled with rage and sadness but do not know how to constructively process their roiling emotional life.

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