

Intern Reports, Presbytery of the Mississippi Valley, White Book May 2015

Name	Start Date	Mentor	Church	Intern Report?
Bert, Luke	08-14	Ken Pierce	Trinity	x
Brent, Kyle	11-13	Matt Giesman	Providence	x
Brock, Cory	05-12	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	oral
Brown, Chris	05-13	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	oral
Bullock, Nick	08-11	Matt Giesman	Providence	x
Canevaro, Addison	11-14	Ken Pierce	Trinity	x
Duhs, Seth	11-14	Robert Lane	1 st Madison	x
Forrest, Anthony	11-14	Michael Campbell	Redeemer	x
Hammond, Ian	11-14	Rob Hill	Pinehaven	x
Irving, David	02-13	Bebo Elkin	Raymond	complete
Jackson, Kelly	02-15	Ralph Kelley	1 st Jackson	x
Kahan, Devin	02-13	Brad Mercer	Highlands	x
Meenan, Billy	02-13	Brad Mercer	Highlands	x
Meyer, Greg	02-13	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	x
Morgan, Davis	08-14	Caleb Cangelosi	Pear Orchard	x
Owens, Zack	11-11	Ryan Dean	Redeemer	x
Phipps, Kevin	05-12	Ligon Duncan	1 st Jackson	oral
Pillsbury, Justin	02-13	Ralph Kelley	1 st Jackson	
Ritchey, James	02-15	Billy Dempsey	1 st Jackson	x
Santos, Danillo	05-13	Carl Kalberkamp	Pear Orchard	oral
Suber, Aaron	05-14	<i>Candidate Only</i>		oral
Tisby, Jemar	11-12	Michael Campbell	Redeemer	x
Williams, Josh	11-10	Richard Wiman	1 st Belzoni	

Bert, Luke

Name of mentor: _____ TE Ken Pierce _____

Church where you are serving as an intern: ___ Trinity PCA _____

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

I have begun to work with the Youth Group in their weekly gatherings. In general I have committed to attending Youth Group on Wednesday nights to serve in an assistant role to James Logan. I have also begun a lesson series on the book of Judges in which my goal is to teach the youth how to engage the text of scripture and discover the Biblical Theological messages presented there for themselves. I also regularly work with James in more standalone lessons on Wednesday nights.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

Pastor Ken meets with Addison and myself for an hour every Wednesday afternoon. Our discussions have been focused on how to be prepared for the daily life of a pastor in a local church. We have also begun a study of the PCA constitution in order to insure that Addison and I are fully aware of the details of the Westminster Standards and the BCO.

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?

While I taught in a church on a weekly basis prior to attending RTS since beginning my studies here I have only taught 2-3 times a month. In the last 2 months I have taught every week and sometimes twice a week. This has required a renewed focus on the practical application of Scripture to the life of the church in contrast to a more academic study which I had been privileged to have during the previous year and half. I have been encouraged by working with the Youth Group on a more regular basis which has strengthen my desire to pursue a call in youth and full family ministry

Brent, Kyle

Name of intern: Kyle Brent

Name of mentor: Matt Geisman

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

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

This quarter has been devoted to monthly preaching on Sunday nights at Providence as well as supplying both Wesson Presbyterian Church and Pine Ridge Presbyterian Church on Sunday mornings.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

The content of Matt and my meetings have been going through Johannes Vos's commentary on the Larger Catechism and has been very helpful for me to the doctrines contained therein in solid application. We also have been sharing various ways in which we can pray for one another and talking about my future plans that are solidifying and, Lord willing, will be executed in the next 3 months.

I could probably benefit from Matt more if he critiqued my sermons. I get that in small doses in my preaching classes, but would like more of that, especially in the context of the 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?

Once again, my gift of preaching, I believe, is being honed. There have been a few sermons that have felt like duds but that have had generous comments from the congregation at Providence. They are constantly giving me feedback on how the Lord has used my sermons to give them new insights and encouragement. My call to the ministry is, though after preaching seems to me to be questionable at times, is often confirmed by the congregation's positive response.

Bullock, Nick

Name of mentor: _Rev. Matt Giesman w. oversight of Rev. Dr. Terry Johnson__

Church where you are serving as an intern: Providence via The Independent Presbyterian Church of Savannah, Ga

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

I lead and teach all the functions of IPC's Singles Ministry, as well as preach some Wednesday worship services, and Sunday evening services, and lead order of worship for Sunday morning services. I teach Sunday School for our young married parents weekly. I also do pastoral visitation, and counseling for our members. I have been teaching a drug court Bible study called Coastal Jail Ministries of Savannah. This manifests in my teaching/preaching 34 times weekly.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

I meet with Terry twice weekly for a time of encouragement and constructive criticism of my sermons, prayers, leading of worship, and personal piety. I feel that through the time I have with him I am growing and being given honest and constructive criticism that I have never received

before. It is sometimes painful, but is always holy, and profitable for my soul. Since coming to IPC I feel that one of the most valuable things I have learned is the pace of pastoral ministry, and how to maintain my life in the midst of it. I believe that Terry has intentionally set me to the work I am doing to prepare me by experience for every ministerial duty short of administration of the sacraments.

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 selfexamination what is your sense of your call to the ministry?

I feel that the sheer amount of time I am required to prepare for my various weekly times of teaching/preaching (34x weekly) has pressed me to be precise, and also to use my time most wisely. I feel that this has further galvanized my sense of call and desire for ordained ministry

Canevaro, Addison

Name of mentor: Ken Pierce

Church where you are serving as an intern: Trinity Church PCA

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

I continue to lead a small group every other Thursday night. We recently began a study on the book of Revelation. Also, Trinity gave me two opportunities to preach during the evening service, both of which were well received by the congregation.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

We spend a lot of time discussing the challenges that we will face as pastors. Also, we

sometimes discuss theological issues. For example, at the last meeting we discussed what the confession says about the Sabbath and the creation debate. I didn't grow up PCA, so I had some questions about the confession's position on these 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? The opportunities I have had for preaching and teaching confirm to me that God is calling me into pulpit ministry. This thought scares me, and I feel inadequate to the task, but I suppose that's exactly where I should be.

Duhs, Seth

Name of mentor: ----~ Bob Lane -----

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

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

I have thoroughly enjoyed my continued responsibilities in planning and hosting all Youth Group activities and events from November to the present. I have been helping with Sunday school occasionally, have preached three times during morning worship, continued preaching through the RTS circuit once a month, and have been given the responsibility and joy of leading an Adult Bible Study every other Tuesday night. The first one was this past Tuesday, February 10.

I have also been attending Session and Diaconate meetings, as well as various committee meetings as they meet each month.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could

further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

Our meetings are going well. We discuss current church issues, updates on the youth program, theology, school, etc. We try to meet once a week, but lately it has been when I felt like we need to meet and catch up.

At this point, I have only done one thing with my mentor and that was visit four people from our congregation on a Sunday afternoon for about an hour and a half. Communication seems to be an issue and I feel like I have missed many opportunities to get some internship requirements completed. I have had to contact a few other people to do intern assignments with, such as TE Earl Adams from Trinity Presbyterian. I addressed the communication issue with Bob and he admitted that it was his fault because he is used to doing things on his own and will try to do better at contacting me before he makes pastoral visits.

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 definitely feel that my patience is being tested and I am learning that people can be forgetful, just like I can be. I need to realize that everyone's schedule doesn't perfectly revolve around mine whenever I want it to. I also have to remind myself of Matthew 6, reassuring myself that I do not need to be anxious and that God always provides. If he provides for the sparrows on the ground, surely he will provide for me and my wife during this time.

Despite these minor incidents, I still feel called to pastoral ministry and serving in the u.s. Military as an Air Force Chaplain.

Forrest, Anthony

Name of mentor: Dr. Michael Campbell

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

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

The internship consists of co-teaching a Sunday school class, serving in a ministry area based on the church's need and my desire, which is the Mission to Broadmoor ministry, leadership in the Sunday worship gathering, attending weekly staff meetings, and going into the church offices weekly for ministry preparation, planning, meeting with Mike Campbell, and session/diaconate meeting attendance, when scheduled.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

The meetings with my mentor will pertain to ministry responsibilities for a PCA minister/pastor and personal spiritual growth. I believe the moments we share will be vital to forming my affection for ministry and mentoring later. I also anticipate the meetings to benefit me through the ways that I will personally be stretched beyond my own limitations of thought and knowledge.

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 expectation is to be tested in terms of gifts and graces from God. This period of opportunity will help to know my gifts in a much more clear way than can be known otherwise. I anticipate this period potentially being very instrumental in pointing me toward strengths to a degree that will strongly aid in my understanding of what it is that I am burdened and gifted to do in ministry. It will also reveal weaknesses that I quite possibly have not considered and expected.

Hammond, Ian

Name of mentor: Rev. Rob Hill

Church where you are serving as an intern: Pinehaven Presbyterian

Give a description of your duties as an intern this quarter: (1) Occasionally teaching Sunday school, (2) regularly attending activities of the Church, (3) attending monthly pastoral theology meetings.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

The content of our meetings are pastoral theology. Rev. Rob Hill is a wonderful example of devotion to both the Lord and the flock under his care. I would like opportunities to preach and receive feedback. I believe those will come sooner than later.

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 had the opportunity to lead adult Sunday school and receive feedback; I also have been preaching on the circuit and receiving positive feedback as well. I feel strongly certain of my call to the ministry.

Jackson, Kelly

Name of mentor: __Ralph Kelley__

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

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

As an intern at First Presbyterian Church in Jackson, I lead the college ministry at FPC and at Millsaps college where we do an RUF-like ministry called Millsaps Christian Fellowship. I am regularly teaching Bible studies on Tuesday nights at Millsaps College and on Sunday mornings at First Pres. I also get meals and coffee with students to talk about how they are doing and to discuss what was studied on Tuesday and/or Sunday. In addition to these college-specific duties, I give children's sermons on Sunday nights once or twice a quarter, help usher on Sunday mornings, and fill in whenever there is a need to usher funerals. First Pres does a great job giving us a well rounded experience, even putting on monthly intern meetings and taking us through a set of readings and lectures with reports.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

Ralph and I are just beginning this process officially, but he has already been able to listen to and critique one of my sermons, meet with me several times just to check in and see how I'm doing, and take my wife and me out to lunch!

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 am growing in my teaching abilities, in my (lacking) administration abilities, in my own personal holiness, and in the way that I think about ministry and how it should be done. I would say that most helpful thing practically is that supplementing my seminary learning with this job makes everything that is going into my head and heart more meaningful.

Kahan, Devin

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:

Leading the Jr. High ministry in all facets from teaching Sunday School, to leading youth group and small groups. I have assisted in Worship services a few times as well.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

We meet weekly to discuss the Jr. High ministry and the life of the church as a whole. He is there to help in any way that he can. He is also a great encourager.

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 sense my calling in ministry to be in youth ministry full-time. My internship is confirming this calling.

Meenan, Billy

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 continue to lead the ministry to High School students (teaching Sunday School, organizing and leading weekly small groups, and youth group), I have preached once and been assisting in the worship service regularly. I am preparing to lead students on a conference in Colorado and a Mission Trip to the Yakama Indian reservation in Washington this summer.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

I meet with Brad at least once a week to discuss daily church issues and long term pastoral concerns. It is very helpful to be able to ask him questions, which he can answer from his many years of experience. I appreciate that he makes himself available for me any time I need him.

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 grow in patience and sensitivity, as well as in my conviction that Scripture is the only Truth in a world of foolishness. I also continue to learn and embrace that the goal and task of ministry is to glorify God! When I get off track and stressed out, it is because I have wandered from my task of glorifying God. I am more and more convinced of my calling to ministry.

Meyer, Greg

Name of mentor: Rev. Billy Dempsey

Church where you are serving as an intern: FPC Jackson

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

- Meeting weekly with 4-5 Junior/Senior High students over breakfast and lunch (I am going through a book of the Bible with a few Senior High students on a bi-weekly basis as part of this.)
- Teaching a weekly Senior High small group (*The Enemy Within* by Kris Lundgaard)
- Preaching 1-2 times a month for Senior High large group meetings (1 Peter)
- Preaching 1-2 times a month for Junior High large group meetings (Acts)
- Preparing the weekly Sunday School lesson
- Leading the music weekly for Sunday School, Junior High large group meeting, and Senior High large group meeting
- Attending the sporting and fine arts events of our students
- Helping plan and lead our Junior High Spring Retreat at The Grove Camp (April 10-12)

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

Our meetings consist of discussing recent encouragements or discouragements in ministry, theology, ministry methods, as well as other topics. Billy has been faithful to encourage me in these meetings while also asking me penetrating questions about my ministry and personal walk. The ways that I benefit from my relationship with Billy are through his encouragement and having the opportunity to ask him questions about ministry. It is a blessing to have regular access to a minister who has a great deal of experience and wisdom.

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 see my gifts and graces being tested through this internship in learning patience, in learning to trust God's sovereignty in salvation, in developing discipline in my personal devotional and family life, in learning

creativity in preaching and teaching, and in learning simplicity in teaching. My sense of call to the ministry remains strong and has been further confirmed through the last three years of ministry here at FPC Jackson and my studies at RTS.

Morgan, Davis

Name of mentor: Caleb Cangelosi

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

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

I have continued to facilitate a new ministry to and among young post-college singles in our church. One of my primary duties is to a community group for this new pocket of members in the church. This quarter I have taken the trajectory of that group in a more teaching-oriented direction. I have also begun to brainstorm with members of the group on how we can expand our ministry in the church and the city. My teaching outside of the group has been limited this quarter, especially due to the fact that my wife and I just had a baby in December.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

Caleb and I meet regularly and discuss ministry matters and usually pray together. We have recently begun a study of the Confession as well.

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 am learning to be more administrative, which does not come naturally to me at all. This is a steep incline for me, and a better way to phrase it might be that I'm learning how bad I am at administrative and how necessary it is, whether I like it or not or am good at it or not. I'm having to learn to not think of administrative tasks as un-spiritual. I still feel called to ministry. I'm just learning that that ministry will involve more responsibilities that lay outside my comfort zone.

Zach 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:

My duties include, but are not limited to:

- *Leading in Worship*
- *Teaching:*
 - *The Gospel of Matthew*
 - *Series on the Promises of God*
 - *The Children's Catechism*
- *Facilitation of church events and programs*
- *Regular involvement in committee meetings*
- *Family visitation (special events/sports)*
- *Hospital Visits*
- *Discipleship meetings with men in the church.*

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

We have been able to discuss misunderstandings in a fruitful way, and I have grown in my knowledge of the nature of ordained, pastoral ministry. I worked in lay-ministry for so long on my own – developing a philosophy of ministry simply from what I have read and seen. This was frustrating and lonely at times, and I had to learn from all of my own mistakes. But now it is so good to learn from other like-minded men who know and love God's Word and 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?

I have grown through a few minor conflicts with people in the church (ministry leaders/Sunday School teachers) regarding church policy. My mentor and other ministry staff helped walk with me through the situations, and thankfully both situations were resolved without injuring the unity of the church. Through these situations, I grew in learning how to stand for what is right without sacrificing gentleness.

I have also grown in teaching. There are not many seminary-trained children's ministers, and some volunteers were not used to simple, expository teaching for kids. Instead, they expected our large group time to rely on visual aids and activities (these are not bad - we use them frequently in other Christian Education times). I had to face my own pride when I received critique from some of my volunteers, and admit that some of their concerns were valid. Going forward, I hope that the Holy Spirit continues to give me thick skin yet a soft heart towards the people I serve. I want to be able to receive negative feedback with grace.

Teaching children forces me to exegete well, communicate without watering down God's Word, and work hard to prepare. I can only imagine that this will serve me well in preparing to preach.

Ritchey, James

Name of intern: James Ritchey, Jr.

Name of mentor: Billy Dempsey

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

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

I teach 7th and 8th grade Sunday school and teach 7th-9th grades on Wednesday evenings. I also participate in one on one meetings with students from 7th-12th grades. This spring break, I will accompany the senior high students on a mission trip to the Yakama nation in Toppenish, Washington.

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

My mentor and I discuss my work and performance at the church, and we also discuss issues of personal holiness. He has been a continual encouragement to me, and I am continually learning about various aspects of ministry from him. One area in particular that I continually learn from him is what it means to truly love the people of the congregation. It seems to me that he is helping me in all of the necessary ways for this Presbytery internship.

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 that I am being challenged to make deep truths simple enough for a 7th grader to understand. I am also being challenged to find avenues for spiritual conversation with students from 7th-12th grades. I currently sense that I am called to full-time pastoral ministry, and I believe that this testing has thus far helped to confirm that calling. I look forward to further evaluation and feedback from credentials committee and my mentor.

Tisby, Jemar

Name of mentor: Rev. Michael Campbell

Church where you are serving as an intern: Redeemer Church, PCA (Jackson, MS)

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

- Assist with Sunday morning worship
- Lead small group ministry
 - Compose questions for small groups
 - Recruit and coach small group leaders
- Coordinate efforts for Midtown Church Plant
 - Mentor Midtown Ministry Coordinator, Curtis Anderson
 - Visit contacts in Midtown bi-weekly
 - Lead prayer walks and outreach events

Describe the content of your meetings with your mentor and the ways you believe you are benefiting from your relationship with him. Are there any ways in which you believe you could further benefit from your relationship with your mentor?

Much of my meetings with Pastor Campbell have focused on the topic of what I might do after seminary. Pastor Campbell has been most helpful in two ways. First, he encourages me as a father in the ministry. He expresses confidence in my gifts, skills, and calling to pastoral ministry. This encouragement has spurred me on in the pursuit of the call. Secondly, Pastor Campbell has helped me consider the workload inherent in various ministry possibilities. He knows that I am active in many ways, so he has helped me give consideration to how much time various ministry possibilities might take. Such counsel helps me protect my faith, my family, and my ministry from possible overwork.

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?

Helping lay the groundwork for the Midtown church plant has been a challenge and a joy. I enjoy making contacts in the community and mobilizing a network of pastors, staff, and members from existing PCA churches to help in the effort. My gifts of management are being tested as I act as the main contact for our newly hired Midtown Ministry Coordinator. I also had the opportunity to preach my first sermon at Redeemer in November. As a result of this period of trial and self-examination, I now have a clearer sense of my own internal call and an external

one. The elders and other members of my congregation have affirmed my gifts in teaching and preaching. I continue to grow in my understanding of the day-to-day trials and triumphs that ministry offers and I am eager to graduate from seminary in May 2015 and pursue ordination in the PCA.

