

Yearly Report to Presbytery 2015-2016

1. I am still working full time with the Vet Center. I am the Veteran Outreach Specialist or VOS. I am to engage the combat veteran and get them to come to the Vet Center. I try to get out into the community throughout the state and speak about the work of the Vet Center and how it can help veterans and their families. We do marriage counseling, military sexual trauma counseling and bereavement counseling.
2. I am teaching part time at Belhaven. I am teaching in the Aspire program. I taught Old Testament Survey, Evangelism, New Testament Survey, Old Testament Poets and Pauline Epistles. I teach world view courses helping students see the big picture.
3. I have also taught Sunday School at Providence Presbyterian Church and preached a few times at our home church. We continue to seek a pastor for Providence Presbyterian Church.
4. I am also the chairman of the Mission to the Military Committee for the Presbytery of Mississippi Valley. Our goals are to help men who want to be Chaplains. We try to help them understand what they will be doing. We also help Doug Hudson with his Mission to the Military International as he seeks to put Reformed pastors in churches next to military bases primarily overseas. He wants to do this here in the United States also. Finally, we want to help veterans that return to their home and are having problems. We want to help the pastor by getting him the information and resources to help their men and women.
5. I am the Commander of Post 3685 Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW). We meet monthly at Providence Presbyterian church talk about events coming up for the VFW and other veterans. Many of our members are involved in other veteran events.
6. I am President of our Toastmasters club. We are the Jackson VA Toastmaster's #6930. The goal of Toastmasters is to develop communication and leadership skills.
7. The big project of the 2015-2016 year was making the new film, "Honoring the Code." This is a film similar to Invisible Scars but deals with Moral Injury. Often times helping a veteran come back from war deal with Post Traumatic Stress Disorder (PTSD) doesn't seem to get better but when diagnosed as Moral Injury and help the veteran deal with their guilt and shame then there is progress! This was put together by Crosswinds Foundation and CrossSwords Connection. Go to www.CrossSwords.org.

8. The last year has been heart breaking.. Our family was touched with three deaths in a 6 month period. My dad passed away the day before Thanksgiving last year! My mother passed away April 10, 2016 and my mother in law passed away two weeks later. I performed the funeral for my mother in law Nancy Sutherland. My parents were cremated and my brother Mark and sister Val and I along with our spouses are taking the remains to Pittsburgh to be interred in a cemetery in June. We would appreciate prayers for the family as we handle our loss.

Respectfully,

Rev. Don Malin