



# TRANSITIONS

*A Special Briefing for friends of Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry*



## DEAR FRIENDS,

In 2013, when I was appointed the Director of this ministry under the oversight of the Harpeth Hills Church of Christ, the decision was made to move TPOM to a nonprofit status. This meant the formation of a Board of Directors and three of the men from the leadership at Harpeth, were placed on the board: Stan Ezell, Paul Cates, and the late Paul Locke. We then immediately asked Martez Coleman to serve on the board and he

willingly agreed. These men were with us when all we had was a small, rented house in Madison and they have led us through a time of huge growth in the ministry. They contributed so much to our current status as a growing nonprofit in South Nashville with a reentry center, a duplex for men, and a recently-completed duplex for women leaving incarceration.

According to TPOM bylaws, board members can serve three terms of three years each and so after completing nine years of service, they have now served their maximum length of terms and have now completed their service on the Board of Directors. I appreciate these men greatly and will miss their leadership.

Martez Coleman has not only faithfully served on our board, but he has also directed prison ministry for the Rural Hills Church of Christ. Martez has been serving as a volunteer with this ministry for over 20 years, preaching on a monthly basis at the Deberry prison in Nashville. Thank you, Martez, for your tremendous service to TPOM.

Paul Cates, not only helped lead this ministry to its current state, but he was instrumental in forming our counseling center at TPOM and he trained our initial interns from Lipscomb. Because of Paul's leadership, TPOM is a state-licensed mental health outpatient facility. Thank you, Paul.

Stan Ezell served as our Board President and personally took the lead in renovating the entire Rains Avenue building that was donated to us by the Hillsboro congregation. Stan also served as a mentor to me since he knew that I had no experience in leading a nonprofit. Stan and I spent many hours together and I will always be indebted to Stan for his great leadership at TPOM.

May God continue to bless Martez, Paul, and Stan, and I am forever grateful to them for leading TPOM to where we are today. Thank you for all you have accomplished in this ministry.

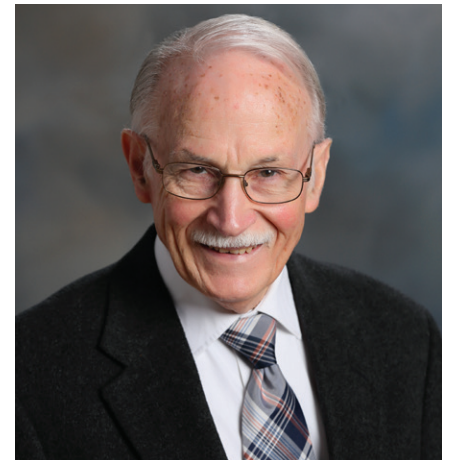
Sincerely,

**Thomas Snow**

*Director, Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry*



**Stan Ezell**



**Paul Cates**



**Martez Coleman**



## STAFF SPOTLIGHT

# WILLIAM MURPHY

**William Murphy** recently left TPOM after serving as a House Shepherd for the last year and a half. His story illustrates the TPOM mission and the potential for long-term transformation.

“Murphy” finished his work as a House Shepherd at TPOM last month and moves to the Gallatin area to share a house with his sister. He leaves behind a fine example and a legacy of leadership for others to follow.

While he lived in the maximum security facility at Riverbend, Murphy came to know Jim Pounders who would serve as his mentor for more than three years. Other volunteers like James Kelley, Jim Wilson, and others encouraged him in his growth. A man who had once been on death row got a second chance. Slowly, his childhood faith was rekindled and he could start to think about what a new life might look like when his opportunity came.

TPOM loves to welcome men and women who have begun their transformation behind the bars, taking advantage of life skills classes and mentoring offered in prison. When Murphy came to TPOM Reentry, he was ready to fully utilize the opportunities the program gave him. “They get you going with basic needs and a job,” he says. “It made my transition go so smoothly.” He also became an active member of Northside Church of Christ where a number of our residents find a supportive environment. In the work world, Murphy applies his skills to maintain a group of 36 McDonald’s restaurants located across Middle Tennessee. He focuses on saving for his future as he works plenty of overtime to close the gap for what he needs.

As Murphy approached graduation from the program, TPOM asked him to serve as a House Shepherd in the Men’s House. He brought his experience to the task and guided new arrivals, answered questions, and provided supervision for the residents. Now Murphy takes up a new role with TPOM as a member of the Advisory Board. This board meets four times a year to review programs and make recommendations for improving our services. We are so grateful for the leadership and example that Murphy continues to give to those coming to our program.



Scan the QR Code (left) to donate or you may contact Thomas Snow at [tsnow@tnprisonministry.org](mailto:tsnow@tnprisonministry.org) or 615-668-8281 for more information.

# CONGRATULATIONS GRADUATES

We congratulate our recent graduates **Hayley Keener, Nikkie Abrams, Dinah Justice, Michael Barnes, Patrick Roper, and Gerome Smith**. How thrilling to see so many completing the program and preparing to move ahead building a constructive life. There are so many stories that inspire. Gerome spent 25 years in prison and is now equipped to live a very different kind of life. Michael has organized an effort among the residents to feed the homeless in the neighborhood. He and Patrick are training to serve as House Shepherds for the Men’s House. We are so proud of these graduates and thank TPOM supporters for making these second chances possible.



Hayley Keener & Nikkie Abrams



Dinah Justice



Michael Barnes



Patrick Roper



Gerome Smith

## UPCOMING EVENTS *Register on our website*

### Mentor Gathering

January 19, 2022, 6:30-8:30 pm, TPOM Reentry Center

Those who are actively mentoring have much to learn from each other. In our mentor gatherings, we come together to support one another and learn new ways to deal with mentoring challenges. The theme for this session will be resilience.

### Basic Training for New Volunteers

February 5, 2022, 8:30-12:30 am, TPOM Reentry Center

If you would like to volunteer or mentor with TPOM, whether with those in either our men’s or women’s reentry homes, or those who are still incarcerated, this is a required training. This in-person workshop will be held at TPOM, 136 Rains Avenue, Nashville 37203. Register at [tnprisonministry.org/events](https://tnprisonministry.org/events).

### Advanced Volunteer Training

February 26, 2021, 8:30 am-12:00 pm, TPOM Reentry Center

For those who have already attended the required basic training, we offer advanced training on a variety of subjects that can help you gain deeper understanding in your work with justice-involved individuals. This in-person workshop will be held at TPOM, 136 Rains Avenue, Nashville 37203. Register at [tnprisonministry.org/events](https://tnprisonministry.org/events).

### Volunteer Dinner

April 5, 2022, Hillsboro Church of Christ. We look forward to hosting a Volunteer Dinner in the spring of this year. We’ll celebrate the many ways volunteers serve the incarcerated and their families.

### 2022 Annual Benefit Dinner - TPOM and Tokens

September 27, 2022, George Shinn Center at Lipscomb University. The Tokens Show plans to return! Mark your calendar for this Fall event.

# UPDATES & OPPORTUNITIES

# TPOM NEWS

## THANKS FOR YOUR GENEROSITY

**Keyce Gaw** gave a gift in memory of **William (Willo) Taylor**.

**Dr. Barry Farris** made a donation in honor of **Kenneth M. Farris**.

**Kim Haley** gave a gift in honor of **Shirley Wallace**.

**Gary** and **Elaine King** made a donation in honor of **Ron Goodman**.

**Doug Downey** made a donation in honor of **Jeff Castle**.

**Janelle Varlas** gave a gift in honor of **Ed Solack**.

**Susan Rector** made a donation in memory of **Laray Rector**.

**Bill** and **Julia Merry** gave a gift in memory of **William (Willo) Taylor**.

**Mark Mitchell** made a donation in honor of **Ellen Abbott and Tony Mitchell**.

**J. Gambill** made a donation in honor of **Ron Gambill**.

**V. Sue Anderson** made a donation in honor of **William Bennett**.

**Thomas** and **Amy Dixon** gave in memory of **Martha Whitman**.

**Timothy Gordan** gave in memory of **Harold E. Gore**.

**Northside Church of Christ** gave in memory of **William Larry Hughes**.

**Dea Shackelford** made a donation in memory of **Don Shackelford**.



## TRUCKS MAKE GREAT GIFTS

**Jim** and **Charlene Hadley** recently donated a fully refurbished 1993 GMC truck to TPOM. What a generous gift this is to the ministry! Some vehicles are sold to benefit

the ministry. Older vehicles can be purchased by residents at an affordable price and provide reliable transportation. If you have a vehicle that could be a blessing to the ministry or a resident, **contact Thomas Snow at 615-840-7668**.

## FOLLOW US ON SOCIAL MEDIA

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## RESIDENT SPOTLIGHT

## AUTUMN PIEHL

**Autumn Piehl** is enthusiastic in her praise for the women's program at TPOM. She has done well and currently is training to serve as a House Shepherd for the women after her coming graduation.

**How did you hear about TPOM and what interested you in the program?** I was in a work program in Chattanooga and some of the girls I knew there left to go to TPOM and I heard from them how much they loved it here.

**What were some of the things you were thinking about when you first arrived?** I was wondering about visitation with my children and whether or not I would be able to start seeing them. When I got here, I was really pleased. It was so nice and the staff were wonderful and even the volunteers were so supportive. The whole program has been so amazing and I'm so glad I came here.

**How has TPOM been able to help with your reentry?** Fred was so amazing with his help finding me a place to work. When I was in prison, I learned carpentry and now I'm working for a company that builds museum exhibits. I do finish carpentry and the painting of the finished products and make \$20 per hour. Alice was so helpful with reentry needs and everyone was so encouraging.

**What's the best thing about being in the Women's House?** It's a little community that's like a family. Most everyone wants to do better and they have goals for the future. Everyone is willing to help each other.

**What goals do you have for the future?** I was from Knox County, but I think it's best if I stay in the area here. I'll stay with my carpentry and work on getting my girls with me. In the meantime, I'll graduate in January and I've got the chance to be a House Shepherd. I've always wanted to work with people in some setting like this and I think I would be good at it.

**What advice would you give others who are considering the program?** I would say that you won't fail if you do what's required. This is definitely a good place with a supportive community. You can see that the staff really care and their work here is more than just a job.

Listen for TPOM ads on  
**94.1 FM, The FISH**



**TENNESSEE PRISON  
OUTREACH MINISTRY**

136 Rains Avenue • Nashville, TN 37203

## BOARD SPOTLIGHT



During this time of transition for the TPOM board, three capable new members have been added who will be introduced in this and coming issues. Suzie Smith is a former employee of a sister organization, Hope Works (Memphis), and a long-time supporter of TPOM. She has been active in the launch of the women's program and often participates in the Sunday evening worship with the women. Suzie comments on the ministry and her new role: "It's exciting to see how God is blessing and expanding the ministry of TPOM. I'm especially excited about the new women's transitional house

because this meets such a great need in our community. These women are so blessed to have this beautiful safe place to live in as they re-enter society and begin to rebuild their lives. And most importantly, they have the support of TPOM staff and volunteers who continually point them to Jesus. It's been a real blessing to get to know the women, hear about their lives and hopes for the future, witness their growth, and watch them graduate and prepare to step out into the world. What a contrast to the many men and women who walk out of prison with no support and no place to go! I'm so thankful for TPOM, and I'm truly honored to serve with this ministry." Suzie and her husband Bill have been married for 40 years and they have three sons, three daughters-in-law, and six grandchildren. Welcome, Suzie!

### BOARD MEMBERS

Randi Baxter, *President*

Harold Bryant

Greg Hardeman

Larry Hartselle

James Kelley

Jeff Castle

Steve Church

Walt Leaver

Suzie Smith

Kimberly McCall

Cindy Story

### STAFF MEMBERS

Thomas Snow, *Executive Director*

Dr. Cynthia Stewart, *Program Manager*

David Phipps, *Spiritual Development Director*

Alice Clark, *Recovery Coordinator*

Tommy Gore, *Development and Outreach Manager*

Pamela Walls, *Office Manager*

Randy Halstead, *Director of Clinical Counseling*

Fred Lopez, *Re-Entry Specialist*

Michelle Kevorkian, *Volunteer Coordinator*

Patrick Murphy, *House Shepherd*

Michael Barnes, *House Shepherd*

Valerie Reed, *House Shepherd*

Jo Kay, *Case Manager*

**Tennessee Prison Outreach Ministry**  
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