



# NAP News

November 2023



NAP News is a monthly newsletter provided by the NAP staff to celebrate ministries and provide updates for the churches of North Alabama Presbytery.

Do you have news you'd like to have included? Send submissions to [adminoffice@napcusa.org](mailto:adminoffice@napcusa.org) by the 25th of each month.

### What's Inside this Month

Giving Thanks	1
Pictures from October 17th	2
Transitional Presbyter Letter	3
Dates & Announcements	4
Ministry Grants	4
Being Matthew 25	5
Letter from Lauren Rogers	6
Montreat College Conference	6
Old Brick: Building for the Future	7

### North Alabama Presbytery Staff

#### Transitional Presbyter

Dr. Tom Lovell

[execpresbyter@napcusa.org](mailto:execpresbyter@napcusa.org)

615-975-5693 (C)

#### Stated Clerk

Therese Howell

[thehowell@outlook.com](mailto:thehowell@outlook.com)

615-305-6795 (C)

#### Transitional Admin Asst

Krista Lovell

[adminoffice@napcusa.org](mailto:adminoffice@napcusa.org)

615-516-7011 (C)

#### NAP Email:

[adminoffice@napcusa.org](mailto:adminoffice@napcusa.org)

#### Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4031 Huntsville, AL 35815

Phone: 256-883-0855

[www.napcusa.org](http://www.napcusa.org)

Follow us on Facebook & YouTube



Actively Engaged in the World



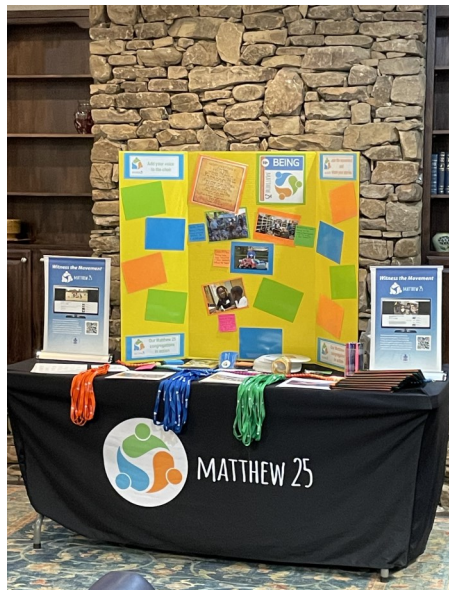
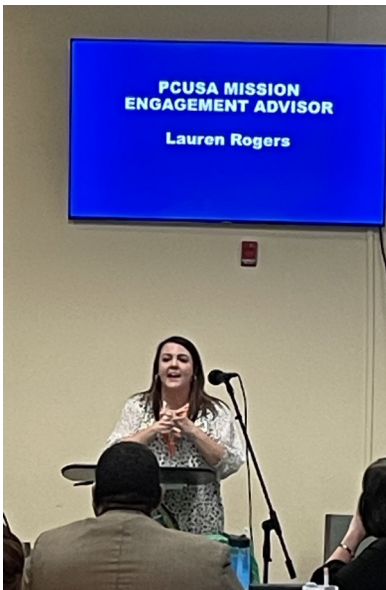
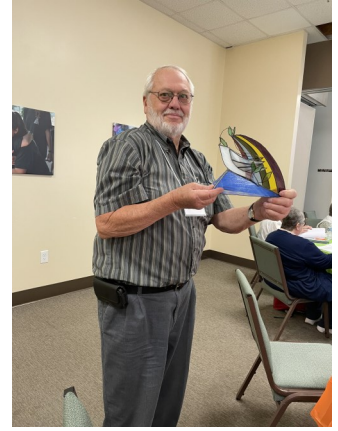
### Giving Thanks for the continuing ministry of North Alabama Presbytery.

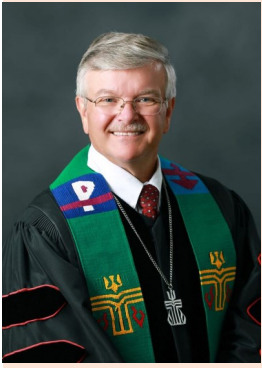
- ◆ On October 17th, 47 people gathered at Camp Maranatha for a time of fellowship, worship, celebration of ministry, business, and renewal.
- ◆ We were welcomed by **Harriet Bibb** (First, Huntsville) and **Pat Bishop** (First, Albertville) and blessed to be nourished by goodies provided by **First, Albertville**.
- ◆ We were encouraged and challenged by worship provided by **Brandon Miles** pastor of First, Florence, Ruling Elder, **Jennifer Smith** (liturgist), and **Beth Cape** (pianist from Faith, Huntsville).
- ◆ We welcomed Lauren Rogers, our **PC(U.S.A.) Mission Engagement Advisor**, who brought greetings, updates and resources from the Presbyterian Mission Agency.
- ◆ We received and/or approved reports from our Stated Clerk, Business Affairs & Personnel Team, Peacemaking Committee, Executive Commission, Committee on Ministry, Presbyterian Men, Committee on Representation and Nominations, Nominating Appointment Committee, Transitional EP, and welcomed guests from the **Presbyterian Home for Children, Maranatha Camp & Conference Center**. and **Stillman College** who shared their respective ministries with us.
- ◆ We were nourished by a delicious lunch provided by the gracious staff of **MCCC** and enjoyed an inspiring time of table fellowship sharing stories of ministry happening in our congregations and communities.
- ◆ We celebrated the efforts of our churches who have signed the Commitment to Peacemaking and passed the **Peace Dove** to the congregation of St. Andrew, Decatur so they can highlight and renew their ministry of peacemaking.
- ◆ The highlight of the day came when we voted to become a **Matthew 25 Mid-Council**, celebrating the five congregations who have already made that commitment and the many others who are doing the work of putting faith into action through word and deed in their communities.

### Giving Thanks for the continuing ministry of North Alabama Presbytery.

**Fall Stated Meeting of NAP  
October 17, 2023  
Camp Maranatha**

**A day of conversations, sharing stories,  
encouragement for ministry,  
and fellowship as the people of God!**





**From our Transitional Presbyter,  
Dr. Tom Lovell...**

Dear partners in ministry,

I pen this note to you just a few days prior to the observance of Reformation Sunday and All Saints Day, both of which encourage us to celebrate the gifts and witness of those who came before us. As I consider the rich legacy of faith left to us, I cannot help but recall these words from the twelfth chapter of Hebrews: ***“Therefore, since we are surrounded by so great a cloud of witnesses, let us also lay aside every weight and sin that clings to us so closely, and let us run with perseverance the race that is before us, looking to Jesus, the pioneer and perfecter of our faith....”***

As I read these words, a wonderful image pops into my mind. It is the image of a grand coliseum, one even more magnificent than we would find in Auburn or Tuscaloosa. Every seat is filled with the great saints of the Bible and the great saints of the church. Rising from their seats, they shout encouragement to us. It is as if they are saying, ***“We know it’s hard, but keep going. Trust us, we’ve been where you are. We know the struggle. Persevere! If God was faithful to us, God will be faithful to you. If we could make it through, so can you. Keep running the race, knowing that God is and will always be with you!”***

Prior to issuing this pep talk, the author of Hebrews provided his readers with a long list of biblical saints who lived out their faith, encouraging us to follow their example of courage and perseverance. We know these saints and their stories well and can take courage from their witness as we seek to live out our life of faith. We can also take courage from the faith and witness of the leaders of the Reformation: Martin Luther, John Calvin, John Knox, and many others who dared to stand up for what they believed and who also left us a rich legacy of faith upon which we can rely as we seek to be the church today.

In addition to the witness of the saints of scripture and the Reformation, my guess is that each one of us and each of our congregations has our own personal “cloud of witnesses,” our own particular list of those who have shaped and molded our faith and impacted the life and ministry of our churches. So let us take time to rejoice in the rich legacy of faith we have inherited and let us also take time to give thanks for the great saints of the past, and for the great saints of the present, whose life and witness inspire us and encourage us to bear faithful witness to the good news of Christ Jesus our Lord.

Dr. Lovell’s November schedule includes:  
Nov 1-4—Synod Executive Forum  
Nov 26—Preaching at First, Guntersville

He is available to preach December 10 & 17

Grace & Peace,  
**Tom Lovell**



Give



Serve



Attend



Grow

**Stewardship**

**The Stewardship season is upon us** as churches gather together to celebrate God’s many blessings and choose how to utilize all they have been given for the glory of God.

As an extension of local churches, North Alabama Presbytery has unique opportunities for supporting the larger community of faith.

**Please consider how your church can continue to be part of the NAP community** through financial gifts and volunteers who are willing to serve on committees and offer their talents for special events.

*Clerks have received a Presbytery Stewardship letter for per capita and unified giving. Volunteer opportunities are available from Rev. David Kling (David.kling@covhsv.org) or Tom Lovell (execpresbyter@napcusa.org)*

## November NAP Events

### Committee on Ministry

Thursday November 2 @ 6:00pm  
via Zoom

### Executive Commission

Thursday, November 14 @ 10:00am  
via Zoom

### Business Affairs Team

TBA



**Does your congregation wish** they had money to start new ministries or build relational ministries they already have?  
**Is your church building in need** of repairs or updates that have become a burden to your budget?  
**Are you a pastor who can't afford** to attend a conference because of financial limitations?  
**Do you have youth and/or young adults** who would love to go to Montreat but can't afford the entire cost?  
**Are you on a NAP Committee or Commission** that would love to sponsor an event or hire extra help for our churches?  
**Don't despair—help is on the way!**

The Business Affairs & Personnel Team is pleased to announce the formation of **Ministry Grants & Scholarships** to help congregations, pastors, youth & young adults, and NAP entities reach their ministry goals! Our Presbytery has been blessed to be blessing with funds to help our ministries grow and flourish as we spread God's love and grace to communities near and far. Details and applications for these Ministry Grants & Scholarships can be found on the NAP website at [www.napcusa.org](http://www.napcusa.org).

## Important Dates



### NAP Winter Stated Meeting Saturday, February 24, 2024

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church, Decatur

### NAP Summer Stated Meeting Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Location TBD

### NAP Fall Stated Meeting Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center



**Officer Training**  
**Saturday, December 9**  
**9:00am—12:00 noon**  
**via ZOOM**



Once again, our Stated Clerk, Therese Howell and Transitional Presbyter, Dr. Tom Lovell, will be providing virtual officer training for elders and deacons within North Alabama Presbytery.

This will be an excellent opportunity for newly elected or returning officers to refresh their understanding of the basics of what Presbyterians believe and how our beliefs impact the way our church is governed and organized.

To receive the zoom link for this training session, please send an email to [adminoffice@napcusa.org](mailto:adminoffice@napcusa.org) by November 30<sup>th</sup>.



The Executive Presbyter Search Committee is now receiving applications for NAP's next Executive Presbyter to lead us into the future. The position description is on the NAP website ([www.napcusa.org](http://www.napcusa.org))

**Applicants need to submit a letter and resume to Anita Raby at [araby123@gmail.com](mailto:araby123@gmail.com) by November 14, 2023.**



**GIVING  
TUESDAY**

**Save the Date**  
**November 28, 2023**



MATTHEW 25



pcusa.org/matthew25 | #BeingMatthew25

At the Fall Stated Meeting on October 17, 2023, North Alabama Presbytery voted to become a Matthew 25 Mid-Council celebrating the 5 congregations who have already joined the movement and challenging the other 21 to discern how God is calling them to become actively engaged in their communities and world.

Matthew 25 is not “another new program” your church has to take on. The Matthew 25 movement is a celebration of the many ministries that are already happening in your congregation. Ministries that build congregational vitality through worship, stewardship of time and resources. Ministries that

seek to dismantle structural racism by acknowledging that our society has not been just with all people and working to find ways to speak for the speechless and “change systems” that are unfair. Ministries that not only feed the hungry and house the homeless, but also look for the ways to partner with those who are working to make a better life for their families.

By committing to be a Matthew 25 Mid-Council, North Alabama Presbytery pledges to encourage congregations in their ministries, share their stories, provide resources, and celebrate being actively engaged in the world!



How is your congregation BEING MATTHEW 25 in your community?

Join the movement.  
Be actively engaged.  
Share your stories.

Post pictures on Facebook.  
#matthew25

# An Invitation to Innovation

NEW LIFE CHURCH  
ATLANTA, GA

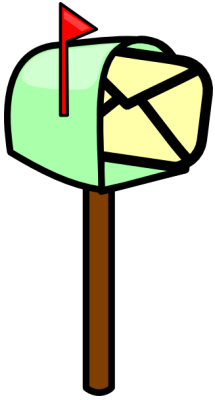
JANUARY 16-18,  
2024



THE MATTHEW 25  
SUMMIT  
AN INVITATION TO INNOVATION



The **Matthew 25 Summit** will bring mid-councils, churches, and individuals together to explore this vision. What does it mean to eradicate poverty; how can we begin dismantling systemic racism; how will we know if we are building a vital congregation? We are offering you an invitation to innovation. A chance to dialogue, learn with, and grow with others in exploration. Featuring innovative speakers, thriving ministries, transformative workshops, and space to imagine what’s next! The event cost is \$199 and includes two lunches, two dinners and conference materials. **Register online at [presbyterianmission.org](http://presbyterianmission.org).**



Friends in Christ,

Thank you so much for having me at North Alabama Presbytery last week for your stated meeting. It was such a privilege to be present as the body accepted the Matthew 25 invitation. We have two upcoming events that I wanted to share with you – one virtual and one in-person. On Monday, October 30, my colleagues in Compassion, Peace & Justice and World Mission will host a Matthew 25 webinar titled *In it for the Long Haul: International Accompaniment for Long-Term Sustainable Development*. Register today and join us for a discussion of what it means to listen deeply to and center those we accompany as we work together for long-term social change and sustainable development and seek to understand and eradicate systemic poverty. Our staff is also busy planning for the first-ever Matthew 25 Summit, scheduled for January 16-18 in Atlanta. It's not too far of a drive from North Alabama, so I hope to see some of you there for a time of listening, learning, and fellowship.

Several of you came up to me during breaks to ask about how you can introduce Matthew 25 to your congregations, and I wanted to share a couple of ideas to get started. First- consider hosting a movie night for your congregation. Art, and specifically film, can speak to us in unexpected ways, stirring emotions and sparking new ideas or new ways of thinking. Fortunately, the Presbyterian Mission Agency has created resources to help congregations explore the three foci of Matthew 25 through film: building congregational vitality, eradicating, systemic poverty, and dismantling structural racism.

Another suggestion would be to invite your Session to walk through the Matthew 25 Bible Study together. This can be done in one meeting or spread across multiple gatherings.

I look forward to the many ways I can celebrate and support your ministries. Please remember that I am just a phone call or an email away!

With joy,

Lauren W. Rogers

502-974-7697

lauren.rogers@pcusa.org



MATTHEW 25



**What do you do** if you're a **small church** with **limited funds** and resources for the **1-5 children** who come for less than **an hour** once a week?

**Gather** a set of children's Bible stories (like the God Loves Me Storybooks ) or a Children's Story Bible, simple art supplies, Legos, and a few simple costumes and props, and a poster of the Liturgical Year.



**Organize** your stories to fit the 52 Sundays and invite your children to Hear God's Story, Wonder Together, Respond to God's Story, and Share God's Story!

**Sounds complicated or too much work?**

Our own Krista Lovell, Certified Christian Educator, has a model already designed that she would love to share with you! It's being tested this year at Hope, Huntsville and may be the right fit for your small church.

Contact Krista (kristalovell@comcast.net /615-516-7011) to learn more about this Faith Formation model in for children in small churches!



**For your College Students!**



The College Conference @ Montreat is everything that you might have loved about Youth Conference, but with college students specifically in mind.

**We'd love to form a NAP group!**

Contact Jaina Glaze today at Revjainaanderson@gmail.com

**NAP Scholarships available!**

# Building for the Future at Old Brick

By Debbie Bell Bradford

Old Brick Presbyterian Church in the Ford City Community is building for the future!



An addition to the current fellowship hall is underway. “We could no longer comfortably accommodate our church family for events, and we needed additional classrooms. This addition will take care of all of our immediate growing challenges.” Said Heather Bowling Kimbrough, Old Brick Session Member.

The addition will expand the main area with an opening of 2 sets of French doors to close off when needed to add a classroom. A smaller classroom will be added to the back of the room.



The church had a capitol campaign to help off-set the cost of the building and recently had a chicken dinner fundraiser.



Old Brick Presbyterian Church added an Out-Door Pavilion a few years ago for outdoor worship, concerts and children’s activities. “Our congregation continues to grow with regular guest each week and three new members last week”, said Pastor Carl Malm.

Old Brick Presbyterian Church is located at 260 Mount Pleasant Road in Muscle Shoals where it was founded in 1820 and continues to thrive in 2023!