



NAP News

January 2024



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

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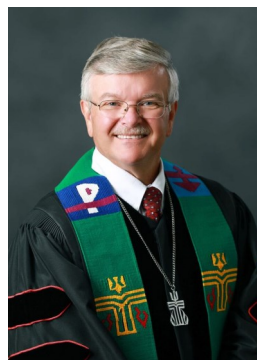


North Alabama Presbytery is pleased to welcome our new Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell!

After an active and thorough search and interview process, the Executive Presbyter Search Committee presented Dr. Lovell to the Presbytery during a Called Meeting on January 4, 2024 where his election was approved unanimously!

Tom has served the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) for over 40 years in North Carolina, Virginia, and Alabama where he followed his calling as a pastor, presbytery and synod leader. Tom moved to Huntsville in 2009 where he was called to serve Faith Presbyterian Church until his retirement in 2021. Tom has been a most active member of North Alabama Presbytery serving on COM, task forces, as Moderator, and, for the past two years, as our Transitional Presbyter leading us through a time of discernment, re-organization, and transition.

Tom has also served the Synod of Living Waters as a NAP Commissioner, as Moderator, and as Moderator of the Permanent Administrative Commission.



Tom brings excellent organizational skills to this position along with a heart for ministry that has permeated throughout our congregations and among our ministers.

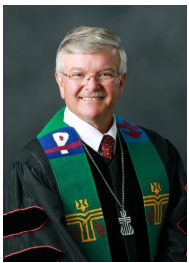
Tom and Krista have three children and six grandsons who bring joy to their lives and miles on their van!

Please keep Tom in your prayers and reach out to him with your congratulations, ideas, and concerns! As a strong extrovert (who admittedly has "failed" retirement) Tom is always willing to sit with you and listen as he offers a guiding hand to our Presbytery!



Congratulations to Hope Presbyterian, Huntsville for becoming the recipients of the first two Ministry Grants! We look forward to seeing your building improvements and hearing more about your ministry enhancements made possible through these grants!

Does your church have building or ministry needs? Learn more about the Ministry Grants available to churches and individuals on the NAP webpage.



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

Dear Colleagues in Ministry,

I hope that as we begin this new year you are still basking in the glow of your celebration of Christmas. I know I am. For me, one of the most meaningful experiences I have had over my forty-plus years of ministry is leading the annual Christmas Eve Candlelight Service. As the lights are darkened in the sanctuary and the outer candles of the Advent Wreath are extinguished, all that is left is the flickering flame of the Christ Candle, leaving the sanctuary in almost total darkness. Yet, within a matter of a few seconds, the light of the Christ Candle fills the worship space with a vivid reminder of the truth of the opening words of John’s gospel, **“In him was life, and that life was the light of all humankind. The light shines in the darkness, and the darkness cannot overcome it.”** Then, as the light of this single candle is shared with worshipers, the sanctuary is filled with light, providing a vivid reminder of the possibilities for ministry if we would but share the light of Christ with others. Later in John’s gospel, Jesus proclaims, **“I am the Light of the World.”** In the Sermon on the Mount, Jesus says that **we** are the light of the world and charges us to share his Light in all that we say and do.

The beginning of a new year is often a time for us to make resolutions, to pledge to make improvements in our lives which will enhance our physical, emotional, or financial well-being. While there is nothing wrong with such aspirations, they are pretty much all about us. But what if we chose to reach beyond ourselves at the beginning of this new year? What if we challenged ourselves, our churches, our presbytery to resolve to discover and implement ways in which we could better let Christ’s light shine through our daily witness in the world, through our ministry to our communities, through our care for one another and through our care for those most vulnerable? What if we resolved to be disciples, congregations, and a presbytery whose light would shine as brightly as the star which led the Magi to the Christ-Child? What if we followed the advice of that wonderful song many of us learned as children? **“This little light of mine, I’m going to let it shine. Let it shine! Let it shine! Let it shine!”**

**May the Light of Christ shine brightly
through us throughout 2024!**

Tom Lovell

Dr. Lovell’s Preaching Schedule

- January 14—Westminster, Florence
- January 21—First, Athens
- January 28—Westminster, Decatur
- February 11—First, Ft. Payne

**From our Stated Clerk,
Therese Howell...**

REPORTS! REPORTS! REPORTS!

Clerks of Sessions: Just another reminder about the Session Annual Statistical Report! Data entry is now open – the web address is below which will take you to the site to file your session’s information. If you need your login ID and/or password, let me know (615-305-6795, thehowell@outlook.com).

The deadline for this report is Feb. 15, 2024.

If you need me to file your report, email it to me by **March 1, 2024.**

A link to the worksheets is below, along with a blank report form.

**Session Annual Statistical Report
Worksheets**

**Statistical Report Form (PDF)
Statistical Report Form (Word)**

Data Entry Website Address -

<https://oga.pcusa.org/stats>



We will honor and remember all our Teaching and Ruling Elders who entered the Triumphal Kingdom at our February 24th Stated Meeting. **Clerks are asked to email names to be included to our Stated Clerk, Therese Howell at thehowell@outlook.com**

The Presbytery was heartbroken to learn of the death of our good friend and colleague in ministry, the Rev. John J. McKell on Friday, December 8, 2023. Rev. McKell was ordained as a Minister of the Word and Sacrament in September 1988. During the first years of his ministry, Rev. McKell served congregations in North Carolina and Mississippi, and held other roles at churches in his hometown of Tampa, Florida and in Scotland. On September 20, 1998, John was installed as the fourth pastor of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Florence, AL where he served faithfully for over 25 years. John was a dedicated and active member of North Alabama Presbytery who made sure our actions and decisions were always decent and in order. John served the Presbytery in numerous ways over the past 25 years, including serving as the Moderator of the Presbytery in 2013 and as the Presbytery’s Teaching Elder Commissioner to the 225th General Assembly of the PCUSA in 2022. We give thanks to God and rejoice in the life and ministry of Rev. John J. McKell and continue our heartfelt prayers for his wife, Janice, and the congregation of Westminster Presbyterian Church in Florence.

“Blessed are those who die in the Lord, for they shall rest from their labors.”



PER CAPITA

COMMITTING TO CONNECTION

WHY PER CAPITA

Per capita is crucial to the overall health of the PC(USA), because it binds presbyteries, synods, and congregations together in one church.

REV. DR. J. HERBERT NELSON, II, PAST STATED CLERK OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Each year, Presbyterians across the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) make a commitment to support one another through per capita giving.

This call to generosity is deeply rooted in the values that guide what it means to be a Presbyterian:

We are a priesthood of all believers.

All people are equally created and called by God to serve God's church. As a part of this call, we share in the responsibility of supporting the church.

We are a connectional church.

No worshipping community is isolated. Rather, the whole of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is called to work with one another in making ministry possible.

Congregations, presbyteries, synods, denominational offices, and more work with one another to offer support, guidance, collaboration, and other opportunities through per capita funding.

All worshipping communities are equally important and valuable to God's church.

All congregations are given equal access to resources and support funded by per capita. Through sharing of financial responsibility, no congregation is privileged due to their financial capacity.

We can only be the church with one another.

Through sharing in generous support of per capita and participating in the opportunities per capita funds, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) uplifts and empowers all worshipping communities as an integral part of being the church.

In these and in many other ways, per capita giving is shaped by the call that God has extended for us all to join in the pursuit and formation of God's kin-dom. **By gathering together in per capita giving, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) commits to connection and is empowered to live out the ministry of the church.**

LET'S DO THE MATH:

2023 Per Capita Giving is based on 2022 membership



\$9.80

times total membership of North Alabama Presbytery
X 2822

\$27,655.60



\$3.98

x 2822

\$ 11,231.56



\$6.00

x 2822

\$ 16,932.00

How does NAP handle per capita funds?

Each year. The NAP office sends out statements to each Clerk of Session indicating what their church's per capita dues are for the coming year.

What happens to these per capita funds collected?

PCUSA funds are remitted to the PCUSA.
Synod funds are remitted to the Synod.
NAP funds become a part of the NAP budget.

What happens if a church doesn't pay per capita?

The Presbytery receives an invoice from the PCUSA each year based upon our membership. Thus, per capita funds not received from churches become an additional expense to our presbytery.

Churches are asked to pay their Per Capita Apportionment by January 15, 2024.

January NAP Events

NAP CALLED MEETING

Thursday, January 4 @ 4:00pm
via Zoom

Executive Commission

David Stumbaugh, Moderator
Tuesday, January 16 @10:00am
Covenant, Huntsville

Committee on Ministry Training

Carol Copeland, Moderator
Saturday, January 27 10:00-3:00
First, Athens

Business Affairs/Personnel Team

Tripp Brogdon/Bob Phelps



**January 21 2023
Via ZOOM**

NAP Commissioners

Ruling Elder
Carol Copeland
Teaching Elder
David Kling



**Alabama Pilgrimage Jubilee Weekend
April 19-21, 2024
Maranatha Camp & Conference Center
www.alabamapilgrimage.com**



**Important
Dates**

NAP Winter Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 24, 2024

St. Andrew Presbyterian Church
Decatur, AL

NAP Summer Stated Meeting

Tuesday, June 11, 2024

Location: TBD

NAP Fall Stated Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

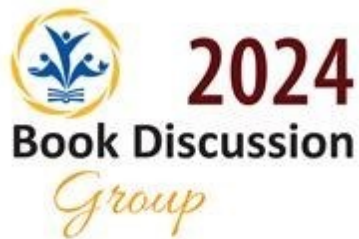
Maranatha Camp & Conference Center
Scottsboro, AL

Seasons of the Church Year






Celebrating the dance of the Holy Spirit and telling the story of God's love.

January 6—Day of Epiphany
January 7—Baptism of the Lord Sunday



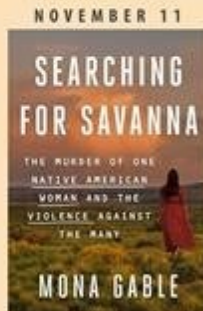
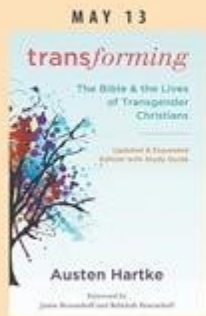
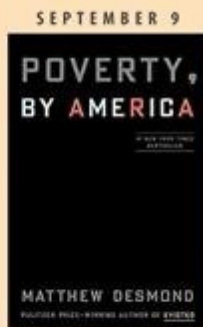
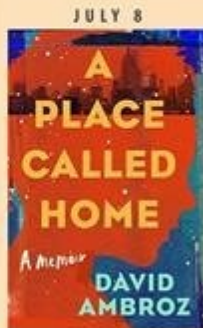
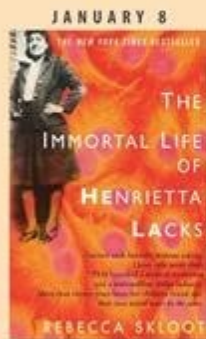
JUSTICE and PEACE

- 
 DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM
 - The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!
- 
 DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH
 - Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.
- 
 RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING
 - Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.



To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

Reading Selections (6:30 PM – 8:30 PM Eastern Time)



Selections are recommended by the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.



Dates to Remember

March 10, 2024
Celebrate the Gifts of Women Sunday

April 17, 2024
Come See Columbia Day
Decatur, GA

April 20, 2024
PW-NAP Spring Gathering
First Presbyterian, Athens
June 10, 2024

August 8-11, 2024
PW National Gathering
St. Louis, MO



Presbyterian Men's Association
Winter Meeting
First Presbyterian Church, Athens
Roger's Center
January 22, 2024
6:00 pm

Come one, come all!

Let's start the year off right with food and fellowship. First Presbyterian Athens has graciously agreed to host the first meeting of the year. The Men's Association is a mission partner with the North Alabama Presbytery. Therefore, we want to team up with churches to help them serve the world through mission. One of First Presbyterian's mission partners is Limestone County Churches Involved (LCCI). Chaplain Thom Porter, Executive Director for LCCI, has agreed to come share what they are doing and the impact on the community.

Please RSVP to my NEW email: mbowe@presby.org

For Youth who will complete 5th-8th grade by summer 2024!



MONTREAT MIDDLE
SCHOOL CONFERENCE
July 17-21, 2024
montreat.org/msc-24

The Middle School Conference is a great introduction to Montreat Conferences for younger youth and their adult leaders!

Adults must be fully registered and housed with their youth in campus housing. **The daily schedule includes keynote, worship, recreation, singing, small groups, and many other activities.**

The conference will be held at Maryville College, located in Maryville, TN.

Registration fees for youth and adults include conference, housing, and food.

Work Camp opportunities are also available for Senior High Students!

Fee before April 1—\$435 with a deposit of \$100 due at registration. For more information, visit www.montreat.org.

NAP would love to send a group to this conference! If you are interested in organizing a Presbytery group, please contact Jaina Glaze!

For Youth entering 9th grade through graduating seniors!

PLANTING PEACE

Montreat Youth
Conference 2024

NAP YOUTH WILL BE ATTENDING WEEK 3:

JULY 7-13, 2024

HOUSING: Reynolds Lodge

COST: \$650.00

DEPOSIT OF \$350 IS DUE JANUARY 15, 2024

**MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY
AND MAIL TO PO BOX 4031, HUNTSVILLE, AL 35815
ATTENTION: KRISTA LOVELL**

*Please include full name of youth/adult and their church
on the check.*

Churches are asked to pay \$150 per adult
to offset their room/board

**QUESTIONS? Contact Rev. Jaina Glaze at
rev.jainaanderson@gmail.com**

Montreat Youth Conference affirms youth in their calling to be and to shape the church of Jesus Christ. Our desire is to help youth come to know and believe that they are the beloved of God and to be a place where authenticity, community, connection, and God's truth thrive. We seek to be an inclusive space where each voice can be heard and where each heart can be molded; where change is invited, challenge is expected, and where all are embraced.

This summer, we will build an accepting community of unconditional love where every story matters. Through engaging worship, lively music, practices of gratitude and fun, we will offer youth different opportunities to cultivate their spiritual faith journeys and practice sabbath. We will provide a secure space that is loving, holy, and authentic so that we may glorify God in all that we do, inspiring and equipping a lifetime of faith.

Youth leave Montreat knowing that:

- Their faith matters.
- They are loved as they are.

They are part of a community of faith.

Montreat Youth Conference is open to rising 9th graders through graduating 12 graders.



MONTREAT
CONFERENCE CENTER



Your gift can help families in need while honoring a good friend

A seed planted in the 1960s with some roots in Huntsville needs help to serve a new generation. Whitfield Cottage opened on the campus of the Presbyterian Home for Children in 1963, built with a generous donation from the estate of Dr. Sydney “Sid” Thomas Whitfield.

Anne Whitfield, a beloved member of First Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, is related to Dr. Whitfield, and when she visited the Home’s campus as a board member when Rev. Ben Booth was president, she was proud to see her family’s name on one of the cottages.



Jennifer Braxton, PHFC, Anne Whitfield, and Janis Williams, Board Member



The Home now plans to renovate Whitfield Cottage for an important new purpose: to provide safe, temporary housing for moms and their kids who have no place to go.

Our Secure Dwellings program on our Talladega campus is full, but there are many more families that need help. To serve more boys and girls along with their moms, we’re giving Whitfield Cottage a top-to-bottom renovation with interior painting, and professional cleaning with fresh bedding and furniture.

Anne Whitfield, who has devoted her life to helping children through her work with Girl Scouts of America, said she is delighted to see a building that bears her family’s name meet this need.

A gift in honor of the Whitfield family can help us create more space for children and their mothers who are homeless or struggling in unstable, even dangerous, living conditions.



***As Anne put it:
“Every little bit helps.”***

To help young families in peril while honoring the Whitfield family, donate through First Presbyterian Church of Huntsville or mail your donation to Presbyterian Home for Children P O Drawer 577 Talladega, AL 35161

We estimate it will take about \$30,000 to prepare Whitfield Cottage to serve the young families who need a safe place to stay as they prepare to live independently.

