

NAP News



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 Staff

Executive Presbyter
Dr. Tom Lovell
ecpresbyter@napcusa.or

execpresbyter@napcusa.org 615-975-5693 (C)

Stated Clerk Rev. Tom Lewis

Statedclerk@napcusa.org 256-468-0383 (C)

Transitional Administrative Assistant Krista Lovell

adminoffice@napcusa.org 615-516-7011 (C)

NAP Email: adminoffice@napcusa.org

Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 4031 Huntsville, AL 35815 **Phone:** 256-883-0855

www.napcusa.org

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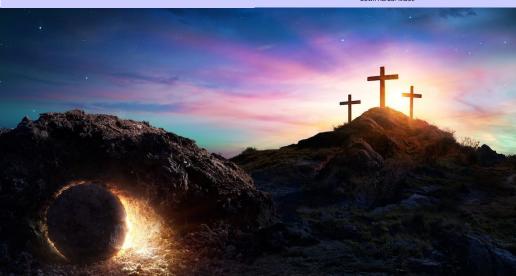


March 2024 brings us the unique opportunity to complete our observance of Lent, celebrate Jesus' arrival in Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, move through the events of Holy Week and celebrate the glorious resurrection of our Lord and Savior on Easter Sunday!

How will you mark these Holy Days? Who will you invite to join you? How will you proclaim the Gospel? "Lord I lift Your name on high Lord I love to sing Your praises I'm so glad You're in my life I'm so glad You came to save us

You came from heaven to earth
to show the way
From the earth to the cross, my debt to pay
From the cross to the grave,
from the grave to the sky
Lord I lift Your name on high"

Lord, I Lift Your Name on High lyrics © Universal Music - Brentwood Benson Publ.,





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

Dear Partners in Ministry,

It is a story we know quite well. Once there was a man who had two sons. One was the perfect child: quiet and courteous, hardworking, and dependable, well-behaved and well-mannered. The other son,

however, was a problem child: rebellious and reckless, stubborn, and careless, full of energy and full of mischief. It is also a story with a plot twist as it is the reckless son whose behavior is rewarded, which flies in the face of proper protocol.

Why throw him a party? Wasn't his desperate situation of his own doing? Why not throw a party for the son who respected the traditions of the family, stayed home, and helped take care of the family farm? Throwing such an outlandish bash for this wayward son certainly doesn't seem like the best way to teach this young whippersnapper a lesson. Yet, here comes the prodigal child, smelling of cheap booze and stale perfume, and his father throws him the biggest party this side of Jerusalem. It just doesn't make sense, and it especially doesn't make sense for us to read of such a party during Lent. Lent is supposed to be a time of confession and repentance. When a prodigal child dares to come home after wasting away the family fortune, it ought to be in sackcloth and ashes. Yet, this father has the chef prepare his finest meal and dresses this unkempt, ungrateful son in patent leather shoes and a tuxedo. It's a travesty of justice. The next thing you know, the father will give his wayward son his old room back, buy him a new wardrobe, and accept him back into the family as if nothing at all has happened. Such actions rub directly against the grain of the Lenten season. What happened to the good ol' days when the focus of Lent was on the pain and suffering of the cross and preachers pounded their pulpits and proclaimed the need to repent of our sin, take up our cross daily and follow Jesus? What happened to the fire and brimstone? Here in the middle of Lent, we aren't supposed to talk about parties, we are supposed to be challenged to confess and repent.

Let me suggest to you that repentance is exactly what this last parable in the fifteenth chapter of Luke is about. As the prodigal realized his plight, Luke writes: "That brought him to his senses. He said, 'I'm going back to my father. I'll say to him, Father, I've sinned against God, I've sinned before you; I don't deserve to be called your son. Take me on as a hired hand.' He got right up and went home to his father." Is that not a story of repentance? What is repentance if it is not coming to our senses, realizing our sin, turning our lives around, and returning home? As we traverse these remaining days of Lent, perhaps we prodigal sons and daughters would do well to realize our plight, come to our senses, and return home, confident that our loving and gracious God will embrace us and invite us to the party of his kingdom.

Grace & Peace, Tom

<u>Dr. Lovell's Preaching Schedule</u>
March 10—Big Cove, Brownsboro

March 24—Westminster, Decatur



Welcome to our new Stated Clerk, Rev. Tom Lewis who was elected to a three-year term on February 24, 2024 at the Winter Stated Meeting! Tom is no stranger to North Alabama Presbytery. He currently

serves as Pastor at Copeland Presbyterian Church in Athens and has served our Presbytery on various committees and commissions in the past, as well as serving as our Moderator in 2017. Tom is a self-proclaimed "polity geek" and stands ready to help our Presbytery and congregations navigate what it means to be Presbyterian in today's world!

Gans you

Thank you to Ruling Elder Therese Howell for her wonderful work as Stated Clerk from 2020-2024! Therese, who lives in

Franklin, TN, traveled to help our Presbytery in numerous ways during our transition and we are grateful for her service!

In February, we bid a sad good-bye to our precious friend and long-time servant, Rev. Dr. Jim Roberts as he slipped the bonds of earth to enter God's Triumphal Kingdom. Jim's ministry included serving as Pastor at Hope, Huntsville and as Parish Associate at First, Huntsville. Jim also blessed us with his leadership on many committees and was a guiding hand to many pastors and elders alike.

Jim's Memorial Service will be held at First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville at 2:00 pm on March 3, 2024. Please remember Diane and his family in your prayers.



Attention: Clerks

The **2024 Terms of Call Forms** for Pastors and Temporary Pastors are available on the NAP website.

These are due ASAP.

Send to: adminoffice@napcusa.org

Attention: Treasurers

Please return your <u>Per Capita Apportionment</u> and your <u>2024 NAP Pledge Form</u> ASAP so our Business Affairs and Personnel Team can meet NAP's financial obligations for 2024.

Send to: adminoffice@napcusa.org

Attention: Treasurers

The **Annual Church Debt Reporting** form

is available on the NAP website.

Please complete this form and submit it to our Business Affairs and Personnel Team by March 15, 2024.

Send to: adminoffice@napcusa.org

Winter Stated Meeting Highlights

- We gathered as a body of 69 Presbyterians (including 8 first-time ruling elder commissioner), along with special
 guest presenters to glorify God, enjoy fellowship, share ministry, and conduct the needed business of North
 Alabama Presbytery.
- We were greeted by enthusiastic volunteers from St. Andrew Presbyterian Church and nourished by delicious refreshments provided by the St. Andrew Presbyterian Women.
- We were inspired in worship led by Rev. Kim Mitchel, which included the celebration of the Lord's Supper.
- We remembered Teaching and Ruling Elders who entered God's Kingdom in the past year.
- We installed Rev. Tripp Brogdon as Moderator for 2024 and Ruling Elder Anita Raby as Vice Moderator for 2024.
- ♦ We gave \$461 to the Committee on Preparation for Ministry Fund for our Inquirers and Candidates.
- We celebrated the leadership of Rev. Robin Palmer as the 2023 Moderator.
- We installed Dr. Tom Lovell as our Executive Presbyter and the Rev. Tom Lewis as our new Stated Clerk.
- We thanked Ruling Elder Therese Howell for her good work as Stated Clerk from 2020-Feb. 2024.
- We rejoiced in the election of faithful Presbyterians who have agreed to serve on our NAP Commissions and Teams.
- We celebrated our connectional denomination as we heard updates from the recent Synod of Living Waters annual meeting.
- **We honored** our continuing commitment to Peacemaking by passing the *Peacemaking Dove* to First Presbyterian, Albertville, our newest Matthew 25 congregation.
- We celebrated our commitment to Being a Matthew 25 Presbytery and the many churches who are living into that calling as disciples of Christ. We also learned about how we can work to **Eradicate Systemic Poverty.**
- We approved the 2024 Budget in the amount of 153,908.61 and we rejoiced that our finances are in good order.
- We celebrated the Ministry Grants that have been awarded and heard from the pastors of Hope, Grace, and Big Cove about the exciting and innovative ways this grant money will be used to further their ministries.
- We strengthened our partnerships with Presbyterian Home for Children, as we heard from Doug Marshall about the many exciting changes at the Home, and with Maranatha Camp & Conference Center, hearing from Executive Director, Micah Beard about the plans for the 2024 camping season.
- ♦ **We renewed** our partnership with Living Waters for the World as we heard from Executive Director, Steve Young about the many new water system installations being done around the world and the new Legacy Fund, begun by gifts from Trinity, Huntsville and First, Decatur that is being initiated for future ministry.
- We concluded our meeting with a time of sharing upcoming events and celebrations.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, June 18, 2024 at Faith Presbyterian Church, Huntsville.

As we begin a new year of leadership in North Alabama Presbytery, we want to express our gratitude for those who have led our Presbytery through 2023 as Moderators....

- ♦ Robin Palmer— NAP Moderator
- ◆ David Stumbaugh—Executive Commission Moderator
- David Kling—Committee on Representation and Nominating Moderator
- Tripp Brogdon—Business Affairs and Personnel Team Moderator



I want to say thanks to the Presbytery of North Alabama for allowing me to serve as Stated Clerk these past four years. I have enjoyed visiting some of the churches, although I feel I spent a lot of time driving in circles on I-565. I also enjoyed Presbytery meetings at Maranatha – what a wonderful

place! North Alabama is truly blessed.

I was so surprised by the gift of the beautiful handmade cross at Saturday's Presbytery meeting, and humbled by the many kind words. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve among you, and to get to know so many faithful people. May God continue to bless you all.

Therese Howell, Stated Clerk 2020-Feb 2024

Winter Stated Meeting Highlights

























Celebrating Ministry Grants to Hope, Grace, & Big Cove

Celebrating & Strengthening Partnerships with

Camp Maranatha

Living Waters for the World

Presbyterian Home for Children

Alabama Pilgrimage

Presbyterian Women











Thank you St. Andrew Presbyterian for your gracious hospitality!



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March NAP Events

Executive Commission

Robin Palmer, Moderator **Tuesday, March 5 @ 10:00 am**Grace Presbyterian, Madison

Commission on Ministry

Carol Copeland, Moderator

Thursday, March 7 @ 6:00 pm

via zoom

Business Affairs and Personnel Team
Meet quarterly or as needed.

via zoom



CHURCH PROPERTY WEBINAR Sunday, March 3rd @ 5:00 pm via Zoom

Are you interested in learning about the value of your church's property or how this tremendous asset might be used to further your congregation's ministry? If so, please join us as we view a presentation by

entrepreneur, nonprofit executive, author, and speaker, the Rev. Mark Eldson and the Rev. Traci McDowell, Editor of *The Presbyterian Outlook*.

To receive the Zoom link for this webinar, email Tom Lovell at execpresbyter@napcusa.org



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





Important Dates

<u>Presbyterian Women Spring Gathering</u> Saturday, April, 20,2024

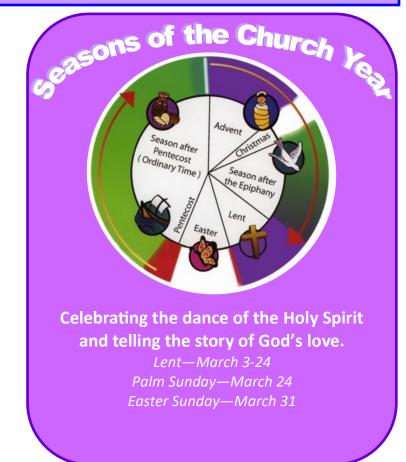
Location: First PC, Athens

NAP Summer Stated Meeting Tuesday, June 18,2024

Location: Faith PC, Huntsville

NAP Fall Stated Meeting Tuesday, October 22,2024

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center Scottsboro, AL





Fellowship, Huntsville's Food Distribution Success Runs on Volunteerism

Fellowship's food distribution began nearly 12 years ago, and volunteers have been 100% essential to every aspect of it. Their faithfulness to this vibrant ministry precedes the Matthew 25 designation. The church was already living into the verses by serving the marginalized in the community. Although several volunteers have relocated, died, or health problems have sidelined them, new friends have come onboard.

The food distribution ministry, funded by the church and individual contributions, serves families throughout the community by providing food for two weeks. Serving others, in fact, is the major motivator expressed by the volunteers. Debra Buie's statement sums up numerous attitudes. "The most important thing about working with the food program is knowing it is a faithful and steadfast part of the community, and it is meeting a critical need of many in the community," she says. "... [The] food program identifies to me how important it is to give of one's self for worthwhile causes."

Spirit

Mrs. Dorothy B. Johnson, the creative procurer of food and an original volunteer when the food program was born during the leadership of Elder Joyce

Pettis Temple, has been fully committed to locating nutritious foods, especially fresh vegetables and fruits. "I can't stand to see anybody going hungry," she has fervently stated.

Although all volunteers perform numerous tasks, Mary Peagler, the 'greeter' to arriving families, hears families' stories, learns about disappointments and mountain highs, and receives prayer requests. "I have gotten to know so many of the recipients personally," she says. "They share their joys, sorrows and fears with me. One special opportunity my volunteering gives . . . is when they ask for prayer. I can pause and do it right then. Many of them are like family to me, and I feel that they would say the same."

The food program relies on retired volunteers because of its weekdays requirements. "After retirement I was looking for something to do," Maureen Young confesses. "I mentioned my desire to volunteer somewhere, and thanks to Mary Mitchell, the rest is history. This happened about ten years ago. [The food program] has been a wonderful experience." "The food distribution program is a reminder to us all that at any time, any one of us could be on the other end …receiving the box. If we are lucky," retired and relocated members Mary B. and Herbert

| Peagler add.



The volunteers' work requires three days but on distribution day—each 3rd Wednesday of the month— it is arduous, lasting from 8:30 am—3:00 pm, or longer. Among the tasks are reminder robo calls to families about the pick-up date; enforcing the banana boxes used; maintaining records for the program; transporting the food, unloading and sorting it; loading the boxes over two mornings; driving to literally pick up the food; maintaining records of families picking up; and delivering food to some families without transportation. Reverend Gregory Bentley may be seen lending a helping hand and enjoying lunch, too.

Lois Thompson cooks a hot meal for the volunteers. She considers her work a ministry. "Approximately two or more years ago," Lois says, "I was asked to help monthly with feeding the volunteers on Tuesday and Wednesday. I learned that this is my true ministry, preparing food for the workers. [It] allows me to continue to bless others as well as continue participating in the Food Distribution Program."

Elder Jackie Bennett oversees this significant ministry of the church as convener of the Witness and Service Ministry Team. She is in her second three-year term. It is 'a lot of work,' Jackie says.

Congratulations to the volunteers and supporters of the Food Distribution Program for unselfishly living into Matthew 25, and also reflecting Hebrews 13:16: "Do not neglect to do good and to share what you have, for such sacrifices are pleasing to God." This successful and meaningful program indeed runs on volunteers.

Submitted by Joyce Pettis Temple

Celebrating Legacies



At the beginning of March, we bid a fond farewell to Newell and Mary Witherspoon as they move from Huntsville to Birmingham to be nearer to their daughters. The Witherspoons are truly a legacy here in North Alabama Presbytery through their work on the Peacemaking Committee, Presbyterian Women, and tireless energy serving on various commissions and committees. THANK YOU NEWELL & MARY! Our love and gratitude go with you as you enter this new chapter of life!



We're thrilled to share updates from our LATEST PROJECT!

Thanks to a generous donation from Trinity Presbyterian Church of Huntsville when the church sadly closed in 2023, we're transforming the old thrift store into a new staff training center. This space will be instrumental in providing ongoing training, including Trust Based Relational Intervention (TBRI), to our dedicated staff.

At PHFC, we're not just a Home; we're a place of healing. By investing in our staff's training and development, we're better equipped to provide the love and support that vulnerable children need on their journey to healing.

Thank you to all our donors for helping us make a difference in the lives of those we serve! Together, we're building a brighter future.











Celebrating 30 years of partnering with churches and communities around the world, Living Waters for the World is pleased to announce their new LWW Legacy Fund!

Waters for the This fund was begun, in part, by generous donations from two of North Alabama Presbytery's churches, Trinity Presbyterian in Huntsville and First Presbyterian in Decatur, who closed their doors in 2023, will provide a lasting legacy for ministry

going forward. Both churches were long time supporters of the impactful ministry of Living Waters for the World who provides access to clean water through water purification systems that are built in communities around the world who do not have access to clean water.



LWW offers training classes in administration, education, and installation through it's Clean Water U program where volunteers from all walks of life gather together for one week to become trainers themselves. As Water Teams are formed, they are given the opportunity to partner with churches and communities in another country where relationships are formed, partnerships become real, and water systems are built! Check out the ministry of LWW and talk with others in your congregation to discern your calling to this ministry just as Trinity and First did!



JUSTICE and PEACE

- DISCUSS THE BOOKS WITH OTHERS VIA ZOOM

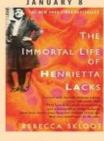
 The J&P Book Discussion Group is open to all!
- DISCUSSION GROUP MEETS EVERY OTHER MONTH

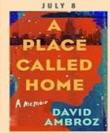
 Read and discuss any or all books that appeal to you. Registration will be needed to join the discussion on Zoom.
- RECEIVE STUDY GUIDES TO INFORM YOUR READING
 Questions for discussion or reflection will be sent with your registration confirmation.

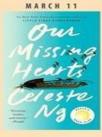


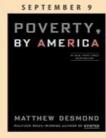
To register, scan the QR code with your smart phone or go to presbyterianwomen.org/justice.

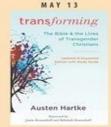
Reading Selections (6:30 PM - 8:30 PM Eastern Time)





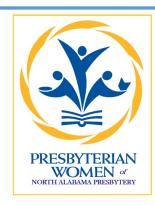








Selections are recommended by the Justice & Peace Committee of PW's Board of Directors.



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

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

CELEBRATE MR. ROGERS DAY MARCH 20, 2024



"Imagine what our real neighborhoods would be like if each of us offered, as a matter of course, just one kind word to another person."

-Fred Rogers



A Family Legacy Workshop

Disclaimer: THIS WORKSHOP IS FOR INFORMATION PURPOSES ONLY







The Family Legacy Workshop is designed to provide information to help families understand the purpose and benefits of a family legacy through life insurance and how it can generate wealth for families. The workshop is being sponsored and presented by State Farm Insurance, but is NOT an advertisement for State Farm Insurance.

Free lunch will be provided to registered participants
The deadline for lunch reservations is
March 7, 2024.

Sunday, March 17, 2024

12:30 p.m. Dorothy B. Johnson Fellowship Hall

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



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 <u>Maryville College</u>, 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!



NAP YOUTH WILL BE ATTENDING WEEK 3: **JULY 7-13.2024**

HOUSING: Reynolds Lodge

COST: \$650.00

DEPOSIT OF \$350 IS DUE ASAP!

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.





MARANATHA

camp & conference center

For over 60 years, Maranatha has served North Alabama and beyond as a safe gathering place for retreats, summer camps, and group events. It has been, and will continue to be, a place where differences are set aside and our humanity, spirituality, and commonality are re-ignited.

Nestled on the banks of the Tennessee River on beautiful Lake Guntersville, the beauty of creation provides our campers a unique chance to unplug and experience Maranatha... and find what it means to them.

Join us this year at Maranatha for the Best Summer Ever! Visit www.maranatha.camp to learn more and register!

		Programs & Days	Available Week of						
			June 2	June 9	June 16	June 23	July 7	July 14	July 21
		Day Camp Pickup Location	Huntsville	HCove	Huntsville	Madison	Huntsville	Madison	Huntsville
Rising Into Grade	K - 3rd	Day Camp (M-F)	✓	√	√	√	√	√	√
	4th	Day Camp (M-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√
		Overnight Camp (Sun-F)	✓		✓		✓		√
	5th	Day Camp (M-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√
		Overnight Camp (Sun-F)	✓		✓		✓		✓
	6th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√
		Adventure Camp (Sun-F)					✓		√
	7th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√
		Adventure Camp (Sun-F)					✓		√
	8th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	√
		Adventure Camp (Sun-F)		√		√	√		√
	9th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)		✓		√		✓	
		Adventure Camp (Sun-F)		✓		✓			
	10th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)		✓		√		√	
		Adventure Camp (Sun-F)		√		√			
		Tiimothy Leadership (Sun-F)	✓	√	√	√	√		√
	11th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)						√	
		Adventure Camp (Sun-F)		√		√			
		Tiimothy Leadership (Sun-F)	✓	√	√	√	√		√
	12th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)						✓	
		Adventure Camp (Sun-F)		√		√			
		Tiimothy Leadership (Sun-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		√

Camp Fees for 2024:

Overnight Camp (for 4th-12th) - \$565 week
Day Camp (for K-5th) - \$325 week
Adventure Camp (6th-12th) - \$795 week
TLT (Timothy Leadership Training for 10th-12) - \$200 week

