



NAP News

May 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 Staff

Executive Presbyter

Dr. Tom Lovell

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

Stated Clerk

Rev. Tom Lewis

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

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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COME HOLY SPIRIT

POUR OUT YOUR POWER ON US!

Acts 2 ¹⁻⁴When the Feast of Pentecost came, they were all together in one place. Without warning there was a sound like a strong wind, gale force—no one could tell where it came from. It filled the whole building. Then, like a wildfire, the Holy Spirit spread through their ranks, and they started speaking in a number of different languages as the Spirit prompted them .

³⁸⁻³⁹Peter said, “Change your life. Turn to God and be baptized, each of you, in the name of Jesus Christ, so your sins are forgiven. Receive the gift of the Holy Spirit. The promise is targeted to you and your children, but also to all who are far away—whomever, in fact, our Master God invites.”

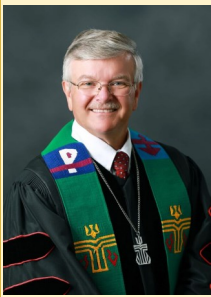
⁴¹⁻⁴²That day about three thousand took him at his word, were baptized and were signed up. They committed themselves to the teaching of the apostles, the life together, the common meal, and the prayers.

⁴³⁻⁴⁵Everyone around was in awe—all those wonders and signs done through the apostles! And all the believers lived in a wonderful harmony, holding everything in common. They sold whatever they owned and pooled their resources so that each person’s need was met.

⁴⁶⁻⁴⁷They followed a daily discipline of worship in the Temple followed by meals at home, every meal a celebration, exuberant and joyful, as they praised God. People in general liked what they saw. Every day their number grew as God added those who were saved.

The Message

The Holy Spirit that appeared on the day of Pentecost, continues to pour power into the lives of disciples today. You are invited to turn through these pages celebrating the Spirit at work throughout North Alabama Presbytery and the communities that surround our 26 churches. Be inspired! Celebrate! Pray for the lives we are touching and share your stories! NAP is blessed to be a blessing!



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

Dear Partners in Ministry,

Grace and peace to you in the name of our risen Lord, Jesus Christ, who, through the power of the Holy Spirit gives us new life. As we move through the first few weeks of May, the liturgical calendar reminds us that it is still Eastertide and beckons us to continue to reflect on what it means to live as God's Easter people. Then, on May 19th, the focus will shift a bit as we celebrate the Day of Pentecost and seek to discover what it means for God's Easter people to also live as God's Spirit-filled people. The story of Pentecost described for us in the Book of Acts is one of the most dramatic stories within the Bible. Imagine what it would have been like to have been among those gathered in Jerusalem as the mighty wind of God's Spirit rushed through the windows and doors and flaming tongues of fire danced around the room. Imagine what it would have been like to hear the good news of Jesus Christ in your own language. Imagine what it would have been like to be touched by God's Holy Spirit and have your life changed forever, for that is what God's Holy Spirit does. It changes everything it touches.

Change: perhaps that is why we sometimes seem fearful of God's Holy Spirit. As those who study the Bible, we know that whenever God's Spirit shows up some pretty dramatic, strange, unusual, frightening, and uncontrollable things happen. But I hope we also know not only from our study of the scriptures, but from our own experience that when God's Holy Spirit shows up some pretty incredible, amazing, and life-giving things happen as well. The opening words of Genesis tell us that it was God's Spirit which gave life to the world and everything in it and breathed life into the first humans. It was God's Spirit that enlivened the dry bones in Ezekiel's vision and emboldened the prophets to speak God's Word to the people. The angel Gabriel told Mary that God's Spirit would come upon her and empower her to give birth to the Savior of the world. And on the Day of Pentecost, amidst the wind, fire, and smoke, God's Holy Spirit blew into Jerusalem and not only filled Jesus' disciples, but all who were gathered in such a powerful and personal way that over 3,000 people came to believe in Jesus Christ and the Christian Church was born. Yes, when God's Holy Spirit shows up, some pretty incredible, and even miraculous things happen. And while the presence and power of the Holy Spirit may be a bit frightening, my hope and prayer is that as we celebrate Pentecost on May 19th we will do so with open minds and hearts that we may discover what it means to live as God's Spirit-filled people.

Dr. Lovell's Schedule
April 29—May 2 Board of Pensions gathering
May 5—Trinity, Gadsden
May 19—Grace, Madison

**Grace & Peace,
Tom**



EUCCHARISTIC ELDER TRAINING

One of the responsibilities of the Presbytery is to provide worship leadership for our congregations. While the majority of our congregations have ordained pastoral leadership, almost one-third of our congregations do not. That reality often makes it difficult for those congregations to celebrate the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper on a regular basis.

In response to that reality, and in accord with the authority granted by the Book of Order, the Commission on Ministry (COM) is seeking Ruling Elders who are interested in being trained to serve the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in those congregations without ordained worship leadership. These elders will be called, "Eucharistic Elders," and upon completion of their training will be authorized by the COM to serve the Sacrament of the Lord's Supper in specific circumstances and congregations.

The training will be conducted by our Executive Presbyter, Dr. Tom Lovell, and our Stated Clerk, the Rev. Tom Lewis.

**The training will be
Saturday, July 27, 2024
at Faith Presbyterian Church, Huntsville
from 9:00am until 12:00 Noon.**

Eucharistic Elders will need to be endorsed by their Pastor or the Session.

Those interested in serving as an Eucharistic Elder should email the Presbytery at adminoffice@napcusa.org to receive an application form.

If you have any questions, please contact Dr. Lovell at execpresbyter@napcusa.org or 615-975-5693.

May NAP Events

Commission on Ministry

Carol Copeland, Moderator

Thursday, May 2 @ 6:00 pm

via zoom

Executive Commission

Robin Palmer, Moderator

Monday, May 13 @ 10:00 am

via zoom

CELEBRATIONS:

Westminster Presbyterian, Decatur

Sunday, May 19 @ 10:30am

Celebrating 135 years of ministry!

&

First Presbyterian, Cullman

Sunday, May 19 @ 10:30am

Celebrating 70 years of ministry!



North Alabama Presbytery

Summer Stated Meeting

June 18, 2024

Faith Presbyterian Church

5003 Whitesburg Drive, Huntsville, AL 35802

Registration & Fellowship - 8:30am

Clerks, please pre-register your Elders.

Pastors, please pre-register yourselves.

Call to Order & Worship - 9:00am

Rev. Gregory Bentley preaching.

Meeting 10:00am—2:15pm

Committee reports, ministry guests, presentations, & a group Bible Study.

Lunch will be provided

Cost: \$13

Please reserve your lunch in advance.

(adminoffice@napcusa.org)



Important Dates

NAP Summer Stated Meeting

Tuesday, June 18, 2024

Faith Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

226th General Assembly

June 26—July 4, 2024

Salt Lake City, Utah

NAP Fall Stated Meeting

Tuesday, October 22, 2024

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center
Scottsboro, AL



**The PC(USA)
226th General Assembly
will be meeting
June 25—July 4, 2024
In Salt Lake City, Utah**

North Alabama Presbytery is blessed to be sending the following people as Commissioners:

Teaching Elder—Rev. Tom Lewis

(Copeland, Athens)

Ruling Elder—Mark Icenogle

(Covenant, Huntsville)

Youth Advisory Delegate—Avy Elmore

(Westminster, Decatur)

Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell will be attending the plenary sessions June 30–July 4.

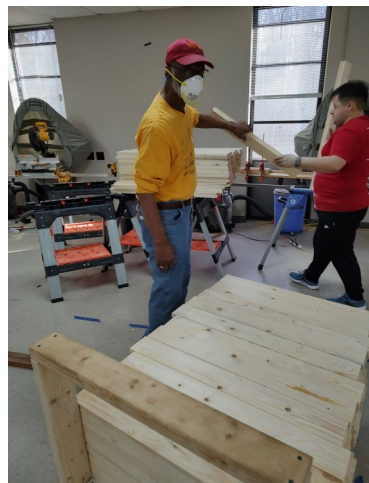
Please keep our Commissioners and all who are involved in the planning of this bi-annual meeting in your prayers.



Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville. The Presbyterian Women Community Involvement Project rolled up their sleeves and helped build bunk beds on April 20th for *Sleep in Heavenly Peace*, a national foundation, with a chapter in Huntsville, that works to provide safe beds and bedding for children who don't have a good place to sleep. In partnership with Church St. Cumberland Presbyterian Church and the Honor Students from Alabama A & M University, Fellowship was able to build several beds and providing bedding sets for children in the greater Huntsville community. To help fund this project, the youth of Fellowship held a Bake Sale that raised \$4,800!



Betty Dixie, organizer



The vision of *Sleep in Heavenly Peace* is a simple one—**No child in our town sleeps on the floor!**

This national foundation fully believes that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs and is striving to make a difference in the quality of life for children across the country.

How it works:

Donations—individuals, businesses and organizations donate bedding and building materials.

Volunteers— individuals and groups team up with local chapters and organize a build day.

Build Day—volunteers from the community build beds together.

Applications—are received from families in the community who are in need of a child's bed.

Delivery—volunteers deliver and set up beds for families in need.

NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN! - Kids sleep peacefully in hand-build beds of their own!

To learn more about this ministry, visit www.shpbeds.org/chapter/al-huntsville



First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville. One of the Presbyterian Women Circles gathered together, under the supervision of Karen Madison, to pack food bags for **The Backpack Ministry** that provides weekend food bags for students at AAA and lunch supplements for children at Second Mile Preschool. The Backpack Ministry at First Presbyterian involves all ages in partnership with the Food Bank of

North Alabama, to provide food for children and youth in Huntsville who are living with food insecurity.

How it works:

Donations—food donations of shelf staple items such as milk, juice boxes, ready to eat meals, and fruit are received, sorted, and readied for packing.

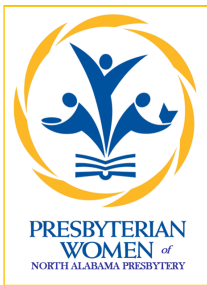
Volunteers—pack paper bags and deliver them to AAA or Second Mile Preschool.

School Counselors—each Friday, the bags are discreetly placed in the backpacks of children who are living with food insecurity.

To learn more about how your congregation can get involved in a Backpack Ministry, visit www.foodbanknorthal.org



How is your church living out Matthew 25 in your community?
We'd love to share your stories to inspire others!
Send your story and pictures to Krista at adminoffice@napcusa.org



Thirty-three women, from seven churches in North Alabama Presbytery, gathered together on April 20, 2024 for their annual Spring Gathering— a morning of fellowship, worship with communion, ministry presentations, installation of new officers, business and lunch at First Presbyterian Church in Athens.

It was a glorious day of celebration led by Moderator Barbara Allen and graciously hosted by the Presbyterian Women of First, Athens.

The Rev. Christie Ashton, pastor of Hope Presbyterian Church in Huntsville, led worship with an inspiring sermon that brought new light to the lives and ministries of Martha and Mary in the Bible. An offering was taken for the Athens Limestone Family Resource Center and communion was served.

Following worship, the women enjoyed hearing from Eddgra Fallin, who spoke about Mission Haven and the Synod PW, Suzanne Cornett, who gave updates from Presbyterian Home for Children, and Anna Carr, who shared about the ministry of Athens Limestone Family Resource Center.

During the business portion of the meeting, the women heard from Patti Andrews, Vice Moderator, Harriet Bibb, Secretary, Marsha Stone-Bullock, Search Committee Chair, Krista Lovell, Treasurer, and Barbara Allen, Moderator. New officers were elected for a 2024-2026 term.

Harriet Bibb, Secretary, and Linda Faulk, Historian, were honored and thanked for their work as they “retire.” and Janis Williams installed the newly elected officers.

A delicious lunch was provided for everyone with ceramic crosses, handmade by The Potter’s Hand ministry at First, Athens adorning the tables as parting gifts for each the participants.



The North Alabama Presbyterian Men’s Association enjoyed a night out at Toyota Field watching the Trash Pandas play! Joining the men was Doug Marshall from the Presbyterian Home for Children who shared updates on their ministry!

NAPMA meets on a quarterly basis and is always welcome to new outings and participation. Contact Rev. Dr. Michael Bowe, President, to learn more!



Celebrating Ministry Grants !

North Alabama Presbytery congratulates the following churches who received Ministry Grants in April:



Fellowship Presbyterian, Huntsville

1. **Grant awarded** for damage and mold repairs due to flooding caused by broken pipes this past winter.
2. **Grant awarded** for ministry with 40 college students attending Alabama A & M University who gather at Fellowship for Bible Study, dinner and fellowship on a monthly basis.



First Presbyterian, Ft. Payne

3. **Grant awarded** for Sanctuary upgrades and repair to enhance worship and welcome the community.
4. **Grant awarded** for salary support of the church's two part-time ministers in the wake of rising property insurance rates and other expenses.



First Presbyterian, Guntersville

5. **Grant awarded** for roof repairs and other building maintenance that has been delayed due to budget constraints.



First Presbyterian, Florence

6. **Grant awarded** to supplement the shared All Saints College Ministry that serves the students at UNA on a weekly basis with fellowship, meals, Bible study, and mission endeavors.



Westminster Presbyterian, Florence

7. **Grant awarded** to upgrade the sound system and video capabilities needed for online worship that reaches at-home members and the wider community as well.



The NAP Ministry Grant program has funds available to help churches and congregations with ministry to college students, mission projects, and building upgrades. Congregational grants are capped at \$25,000 and ministry grants are capped at \$5,000.

Applications and details are on the NAP website—www.napcusa.org



NAP Youth and Adults are headed to MYC24 in July!

The Montreat Youth Conference is an annual event in the beautiful North Carolina mountains where youth and adults come together to fellowship, sing, play, and deepen their relationship with God. Often called “God’s thin place”, Montreat provides a unique experience for spiritual growth among peers and loving adults who walk alongside youth on their journey of faith.

While early registration has closed, there is still time to register any youth who will be entering 9th grade thru graduating 12th graders.

Contact Rev. Jaina Glaze (revjainaanderson@gmail.com) ASAP if you have a youth who would like to attend and stay with the NAP group at Reynolds Lodge. There’s plenty of room and the NAP group would love to add more youth!



MARANATHA

camp & conference center

Summer Camps:

- Overnight Camp - 2024-144 campers
- Day Camp - 2024-116 campers
- Adventure Camp - 2024-11 campers
- TLT - 2024-10 campers

Staff:

- We have one adventure camp girl that we need to hire and we are still in need of about 5 guy counselors.
- We are ahead of last year at this time but we really could use a couple more.
- Staff Training starts May 24th.

Program:

- Camp Starts on June 2nd for Overnight Camp and June 3rd for Day Camp.
- The theme for this summer is Survivor. Our theme verse is Romans 8:37.
- We are separating Overnight Camp and Day Camp a little more this summer. The only thing they will really be doing together is the morning rally.

We are going to add a water slide to our inflatables this summer to expand the waterfront area a little more.

Dining Hall:

- We are working on the punch list to finish up the project. We have about 50 things on the final punch list. Many of them are duplicates because of multiple bathrooms and most of them are little things to finish up.
- We have built the serving line walls and have ordered the shutters for that area.

Projects:

- We received the wood to re-deck the dock. We will be working on this in the next couple of weeks to get ready for summer.
- We are painting the bathhouse and putting up partitions for changing areas. We have fixed the roof leaks and re-run the electrical in the building. This should be a great area for the day campers this summer.

- We have to re-run some of our guy wires for the zip line tower per our inspections.
- From the last storm, we had several trees come down at our outdoor chapel area and throughout camp. We had three trees fall on the power lines at the cabin circle. No buildings were damaged, but it did bring the power lines down. The power company came and fixed the poles and re-ran the wire the same day. We still have to remove the debris.

Donations:

- We received a generous donation of \$38,000 this month.
- We are receiving about \$1,500 in monthly giving. TV Cursillo has donated some sound equipment, meeting room equipment, coffee pots, skit supplies and several other items to the camp.

Prayers:

- Summer Camp Registrations
- Guy Summer Staff
- Master/Site Vision Plan
- Youth Groups for retreats in the Bunkhouse Cabins

Micah Beard | Executive Director

Maranatha Camp and Conference Center

256-574-4539

	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
K - 3rd	Day Camp (M-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
	Day Camp (M-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
4th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)	✓		✓		✓		✓
	Day Camp (M-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
5th	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)	✓		✓		✓		✓
	Day Camp (M-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)		✓		✓			
11th	Timothy Leadership (Sun-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓
	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)						✓	
12th	Adventure Camp (Sun-F)		✓		✓			
	Timothy Leadership (Sun-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓

