



NAP News

July 2024



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

What's Inside this Month

General Assembly	1
Executive Presbyter Letter	2
Eucharistic Elder Training	2
Important Dates to Remember	3
Montreat Youth Conference	3
Highlights of Stated Meeting	4
Pictures of Stated Meeting	5
Being Matthew 25	6
Front Porch @ Big Cove	6
Camp Maranatha Schedule	6

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

Follow us on Facebook & YouTube



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 have the following people serving as Commissioners:

Teaching Elder—Rev. Tom Lewis
(Copeland, Athens)

Committee Assignment: General Assembly Entity **Coordination** *Receives all items related to the operation and functions of assembly entities, including amendments to the Organization for Mission, reports from the Unification Commission, and approval of workplans.*

Ruling Elder—Mark Icenogle
(Covenant, Huntsville)

Committee Assignment: Race, Sexuality, and Gender **Justice** *Receives items of business related to justice actions regarding race, sexuality, and gender identity. Includes items related to reproductive justice, anti-racism, and anti-trans legislation.*

Youth Advisory Delegate—Avy Elmore
(Westminster, Decatur)

Committee Assignment: Polity *Receives items recommending constitutional changes to the Book of Order and the Book of Confessions. Some items with constitutional changes may be referred to other committees for discernment alongside of relevant topics.*

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.

Want to stay up to date on all things GA226?

PC-Biz includes the most current text of all overtures and reports that will be considered by the assembly.

These will be updated throughout the assembly with any amendments and votes by both committees and plenary sessions.

<https://hubs.ly/002D1ccg0>

#PCUSA

#GA226

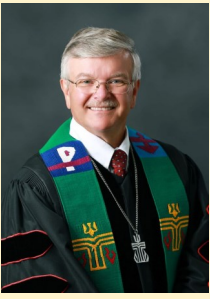
Follow along with

GA226

on



You can also follow LIVE FEEDS at PCUSA.org and on the PCUSA Facebook page.



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

Dear Partners in Ministry,

By the time this newsletter reaches your inbox, the 226th General Assembly of the PCUSA will be in full swing. The work of the Assembly will begin with virtual committee meetings which will convene June 25-28 and conclude with in-person plenary gatherings in Salt Lake City, Utah from June 30 – July 4. Please be in prayer for all of the nearly 600 commissioners who have been called to make important decisions concerning the life and ministry of the PCUSA. The Rev. Tom Lewis, Pastor of Copeland Presbyterian Church and our Stated Clerk, will serve as North Alabama Presbytery’s Teaching Elder Commissioner, while Mark Icenogle, from Covenant Presbyterian Church will serve as our Ruling Elder Commissioner. Avy Elmore, from Westminster Presbyterian Church, Decatur, will serve as our Youth and Young Adult Advisory Delegate. While I will not have voice or vote at the Assembly, I will also be in attendance to observe and learn from the proceedings as well as to support Tom, Mark, and Avy.

Nearly 150 items of business have been referred to the Assembly. Discussion of these items will be divided among 15 separate committees whose members will review, discuss, debate, and by the end of their meeting session on June 28th, prepare a recommendation to present to the full Assembly during the Plenary gathering. The business before the Assembly ranges from routine items such as receiving reports from partner agencies, reviewing minutes, confirming seminary presidents, to discerning if the Assembly wishes to make a statement on social, environmental, or political concerns, to electing a new Stated Clerk and co-Moderators, to changes in the Book of Order. A complete list of the business coming before the Assembly can be found at PCUSA.org/ga. That site also has the link to watch the live stream of the plenary sessions. If you want to follow the Assembly, please note that the times listed are the local time of Salt Lake City, which is Mountain Daylight Time.

While the commissioners at the Assembly have the authority to elect officials, make policy statements on behalf of the PCUSA and make decisions regarding the structure of the denomination, any decision which requires a change in the Book of Order will be forwarded to the Presbyteries for their affirmative or negative votes, with a simple majority of Presbyteries required for approval. To my knowledge there are no recommendations coming before the Assembly which would result in a change to the Book of Confessions. It is the tradition of North Alabama Presbytery to discuss and vote on any recommended changes to the Book of Order at the Winter Stated Meeting which will be held on Saturday, February 22, 2025.

If you would like a summary of the General Assembly decisions, I would suggest that you visit PCUSA.org or order bulletin inserts (\$30) from The Presbyterian Outlook which will be emailed to your church by July 10th for you to copy and place in your worship bulletin.

Again, let me encourage you to keep Tom, Mark, Avy, and the other commissioners in your prayers as they seek to discern God’s will for our church.

**Grace & Peace,
Tom**

Dr. Lovell’s Schedule

- June 30-July 4—General Assembly, Utah
- July 14—First, Athens
- July 27—Eucharistic Elder Training, Faith, Huntsville



EUCHARISTIC 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.**

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

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

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

June NAP Events

Commission on Ministry

Carol Copeland, Moderator

TBA

via zoom

Business Affairs & Personnel Team

Parker Moore, Chair

Thursday, July 11 @ 4:00 pm

via zoom

Executive Commission

Robin Palmer, Moderator

Monday, July 15 @ 10:00am

via zoom

Eucharistic Elder Training

Tom Lovell & Tom Lewis, Trainers

Saturday, July 27th, 9:00am—12:00pm

Faith Presbyterian Church

5003 Whitesburg Drive SE

Huntsville, AL 35802



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.

Current registrants include:

Westminster, Decatur

Joanna Rogers, Miller Roberts, Claire Frazier—Youth; Sally McLemore, Jacob Roberts, Isaac Englund—Work Crew; Katie McLemore, Janie Rogers, Sherry Frazier—Adults.

Fellowship, Huntsville

Johari Bentley, Kaylin Houston—Youth; Miriam Bentley—Planning Team; Greg Bentley, Diann Bentley—Adults.

First, Athens

Avery Paysinger, Colleen King—Youth; Suzanne Paysinger, Kristin Kling—Adults.

First, Sheffield

Libby Brake—Planning Team; Hannah Brake, Jaina Glaze—Adults.

Faith, Huntsville

Ayden Bolding—Youth.

Please keep these youth and adults in your prayers!



Important Dates

PC(USA) 226th General Assembly

June 24—July 4

Salt Lake City, Utah

NAP Fall Stated Meeting

Tuesday, October 15, 2024

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center

Scottsboro, AL

Highlights of the Summer Stated Meeting June 18, 2024 at Faith Presbyterian Church, Huntsville, AL

- ◆ **We gathered** as a body of 52 Presbyterians (including 10 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 Faith Presbyterian Church and **nourished** by delicious refreshments provided by a faithful crew of Faith members
- ◆ **We were inspired** in worship led by Rev. Gregory Bentley, Ruling Elder Laretta Moore and a talented quartet from Faith who gave us a most beautiful rendering of “There Is A Balm In Gilead.”
- ◆ **We gave** \$627 to “Sleep in Heavenly Peace,” a nation-wide ministry providing safe beds for children.
- ◆ **We were blessed** by the skillful leadership of Rev. Trip Brogdon, Moderator, Rev. Tom Lewis, Stated Clerk, and Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell, Executive Presbyter, who kept our worship and meeting running smoothly, efficiently, decently, and in order.
- ◆ **We approved** the newest addition to our NAP Manual of Operations that detail our geographic boundaries.
- ◆ **We rejoiced** that our finances are in good order and **we thanked** the congregations who have paid their Per Capita Allocations.
- ◆ **We celebrated** the Ministry Grants that have been awarded to seven of our congregations in May and June.
- ◆ **We congratulated Stacey White**, candidate for ministry, on her May graduation from Dubuque Seminary and were advised on the new Dissolution Policy that has been approved by the COM.
- ◆ **We welcomed** Rev. Dana Waters from the Presbyterian Foundation who brought good news to struggling churches about a new program, Project Regeneration, that is available for free from the Foundation.
- ◆ **We strengthened** our partnerships with Presbyterian Home for Children, as we heard from Cindy Fisher about the many exciting changes at the Home, and with Maranatha Camp & Conference Center, as we heard from Board member, Kathy Gilmore about the exciting renovations that have been done and the many campers who are signed up for the 2024 summer camping season.
- ◆ **We celebrated** the good work of our Presbyterian Women and our Presbyterian Men as they continue to meet and serve in local congregations and gather as ministry groups.
- ◆ **We welcomed** Ruling Elder Lin Veasley, who presented a generous check to NAP from the Calhoun Presbyterian Apartments Foundation, along with the opportunity to apply for grants over the next four years from CPAF to be used for housing ministries.
- ◆ **We rejoiced** at the work done by our Committee on Representation and Nominating who presented a parity report as a prelude to their work of finding faithful volunteers to fill our Commissions, Teams, and Committees for 2025.
- ◆ **We celebrated** the 23 youth and adults who will be attending the 2024 Montreat Youth Conference July 6-13 in North Carolina under the inspiring leadership of Rev. Jaina Glaze.
- ◆ **We honored** our continuing commitment to Peacemaking by passing the *Peacemaking Dove* to Fellowship Presbyterian, Huntsville, for their continuing good work in building beds and supporting the local chapter of “Sleep in Heavenly Peace.”
- ◆ **We recognized** the 17 congregations who have signed the Commitment to Peacemaking and challenged ALL our churches to renew or sign up to be Peacemaking congregations and offer one volunteer per congregation to serve on our Peacemaking/Matthew 25 Committee/Task Force/Ministry Group that is in the process of reconstituting itself.
- ◆ **We celebrated** our newest Matthew 25 congregation, First Presbyterian, Cullman, and **challenged** each congregation in our Presbytery to add their voice to the Matthew 25 choir by becoming a Matthew 25 congregation.
- ◆ **We learned** about how we can work to **Dismantle Structural Racism** through a presentation by Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell, Executive Presbyter, which included table discussions and a call for members to form a Presbytery Task Force who would craft an Anti-Racism Policy for our Presbytery in accordance with the new Book of Order requirements.
- ◆ **We concluded** our meeting with a time of sharing upcoming events and celebrations and a time of Laying On Of Hands for two of our GA Commissioners, Rev. Tom Lewis and Ruling Elder Mark Icenogle.

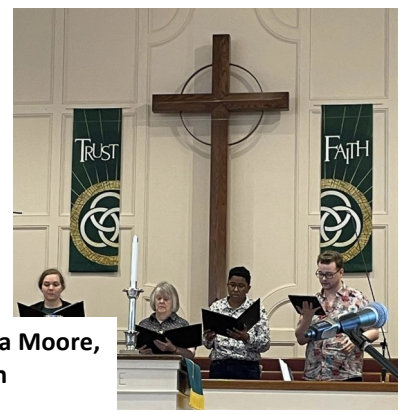
Our next meeting will be Tuesday, October 15, 2024 at Camp Maranatha in Scottsboro.



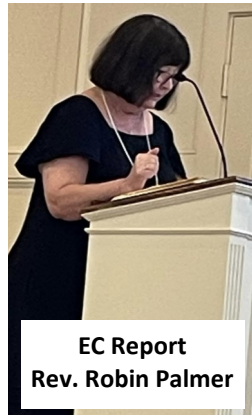
Summer Stated Meeting
June 18, 2024



Opening Worship led by Rev. Gregory Bentley, RE Laretta Moore, and the musicians from Faith Presbyterian Church



Outstanding leadership from Rev. Tripp Brogdon, Moderator & Rev. Tom Lewis, Stated Clerk



EC Report
Rev. Robin Palmer



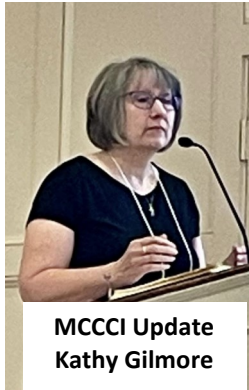
BAPT Report
RE Parker Moore



COM Report
RE Carol Copeland



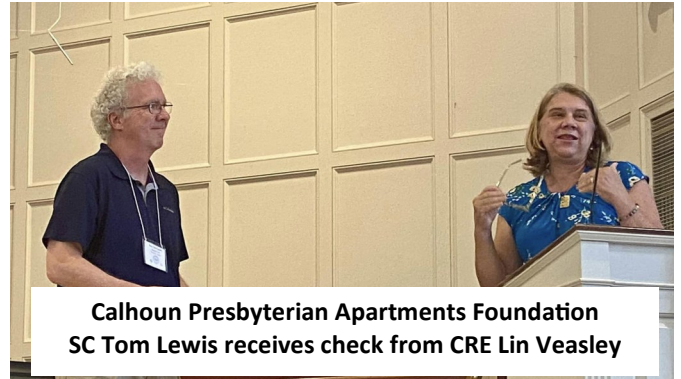
PHFC Update
Cindy Fisher



MCCCI Update
Kathy Gilmore



Presbyterian Foundation
Rev. Dana Waters



Calhoun Presbyterian Apartments Foundation
SC Tom Lewis receives check from CRE Lin Veasley



Presbyterian Women
RE Barbara Allen



Presbyterian Men
Rev. Dr. Michael Bowe



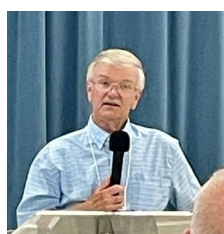
CORN & Montreat Reports
Rev. Jaina Glaze



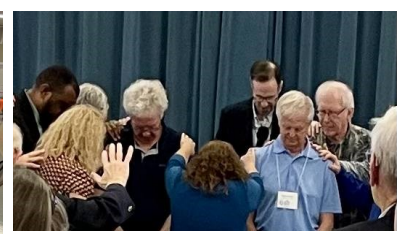
A delicious BBQ lunch prepared by the faithful members of Faith Presbyterian

**WE ARE A
MATTHEW 25 PRESBYTERY**

**Building Congregational Vitality
Dismantling Structural Racism
Eradicating Systemic Poverty**



Executive Presbyter, Rev. Dr. Tom Lovell
And our table discussions on Dismantling Structural Racism



Closing Prayer & Laying on of
Hands for our GA Commissioners



Welcome to our newest Matthew 25 congregation, First Presbyterian Church, Cullman!

First Presbyterian Cullman blessed their food boxes on Sunday June 23 for distribution Wednesday June 25.

Items included easy microwavable meals and a few treats for kids who are out of school and not receiving free lunches and breakfasts.

Rev. James Fields of St. James UMC was a tremendous help in securing food donations. Local food pantries helped with publicity and prayer support for this project.



Photo: Jeff Underburg

Follow First Presbyterian, Cullman on Facebook to see more about their witness in their community as a Matthew 25 congregation!

Story Time!

Big Cove Church Invites you to Story Time!
Ages 0-K (accompanied by a parent or caregiver)
Stories read and silly songs enjoyed!
Wednesdays at 11 am: June 26-July 31
175 Campground Road
(behind the Greenery off 431)

With the public libraries overloaded in the summer with children coming for story times, Big Cove decided to respond to a community need “over the mountain” where children’s activities are scarce and create their own Story Time at their church as part of their Front Porch Ministry!

Led by Pastor Kim Mitchel and volunteers from the church and community, young children and their adult caregivers will be offered the opportunity to explore books, sing silly songs, and more! Follow their activities on the Big Cove Presbyterian Church Facebook page!



The summer camp season is NOW!

Please keep the counselors, staff, campers and their families in your prayers as they grow in their faith and meet new friends at camp!

	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)	✓		✓		✓		✓
	Overnight Camp (Sun-F)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓
6th	Adventure Camp (Sun-F)					✓		✓
	Overnight 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)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓		✓