



NAP News

December 2024



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 by the 25th of each month.

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North Alabama Presbytery Staff

Executive Presbyter
VACANT

Stated Clerk

Rev. Tom Lewis

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

Interim Administrative Assistant

Krista Lovell

adminoffice@napcusa.org
615-516-7011

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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Actively Engaged in the World



The Advent season is upon us and churches are busy with adorning their sanctuaries with festive colors to mark this season of hope and expectation. Special services are being planned, choirs are rehearsing, and costumes are being readied. All to tell the good news of Christ's birth and celebrate God's gift to us in human form. Yes. You're probably well-versed in how to prepare for those inside the church.

But, what about those who are on the outside of your church building; those searching for meaning in this holiday season; those looking for a place to be invited in and welcomed with outstretched arms of grace and love?

Advent is a time when the internet is buzzing with those searching for connections. **NOW is your opportunity to take a new look at your website and social media platforms so they are ready and welcoming for searchers!**

Is your website easy to find? Are you using key words that will be picked up by search engines? Do you have a "what to expect when you visit" page so visitors can be prepared? Are your special services front and center with times, locations, and nursery options? Does your mission page show how you are actively engaged in your community and beyond?

When was the last time you updated your social media platforms? Are your special services pinned to the top of your page? Do you have pictures so searchers can see you? Are their links to your YouTube services?

How do you record and broadcast your worship services? Do you have a YouTube channel? How do people find it? Do you provide links on your other social media platforms so searchers can find your worship services?

Advent is a season of hope for those in your pews and can be a season of connecting for those who are searching. It is a time to reach out to the many who drive past your building and invite them in to hear God's story and experience God's abundant grace. **"Behold, I bring you good news of great joy which will be to all the people."**



CHRISTMAS JOY SPECIAL OFFERINGS

LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

The Christmas Joy Offering has been a cherished Presbyterian tradition since the 1930s. The Offering distributes gifts equally to the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions and to Presbyterian-related schools and colleges equipping communities of color. The Assistance Program provides critical financial support to church workers and their families. Presbyterian-related schools and colleges provide education and leadership development while nurturing racial and ethnic heritage. This has been a Presbyterian commitment for nearly 140 years.

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22



We celebrate
leaders like retired pastors, church workers and their families who have faithfully guided and led us. Our gifts restore hope and stability through the Assistance Program of the Board of Pensions

Thank You

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.

WHEN WE ALL DO A LITTLE,
IT ADDS UP TO A LOT.

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22

Christmas Joy Offerings should be sent directly to Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) P.O. Box 643700 152644-3700.

CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22



We celebrate
emerging leaders in schools and colleges equipping communities of color, honing talents and skills to serve God, the Church and the world for years to come.

The perfect gift.

Through the Christmas Joy Offering, we come together to support past, present and future leaders, embodying God's perfect gift to us, Jesus Christ.



CHRISTMAS JOY
SPECIAL OFFERINGS
LEADERSHIP: PAST, PRESENT, AND FUTURE

DECEMBER 1 - DECEMBER 22



From our Stated Clerk....

As we move toward 2025, some big changes have come to the North Alabama Presbytery. As I sit here to write this article our Executive Presbyter, Tom Lovell, and our Administrative Assistant, Krista Lovell, have retired. We wish them Godspeed as they begin the next chapter of their lives.

That has left me as the sole remaining permanent paid staff member for the moment. I just want to reassure you that the Presbytery is going to continue to function for the present.

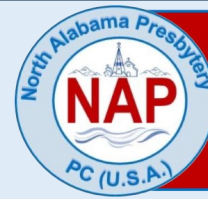
Emails sent to the administrative assistant will be read. Phone calls made to the Presbytery office will be answered. Bills will be paid. Committees and commissions will continue to meet. Any questions regarding the Presbytery can be sent to me or to the administrative assistant.

So, far as I know, there are no major developments pending in the Presbytery at the moment. I will do whatever I can to keep things going, under the direction of the Executive Commission and our other units until a new Executive Presbyter is hired.

Some of you may not be aware that Mrs. Tanja Miller, who was hired to serve as our new Administrative Assistant, has decided that she cannot fulfill the duties of the position after all and resigned. We wish her well. Krista has agreed to return and work virtually for a short stint until a new individual can be hired.

May God bless you and grant you a joyous Christmas and a Happy New Year.

Tom Lewis



WE'RE HIRING!

ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT
40 hours per month

The Business and Personnel Team is once again looking for a part-time Administrative Assistant to manage the filing and business work of the Presbytery. The position description is on the website (www.napcusa.org)

Applicants need to submit a letter and resume to Parker Moore at pdmoore2@gmail.com

Attention Clerks!

GA Per Capita rates are going up!

2025 GA Per capita—\$10.84 (based on 2023 membership)

2026 GA Per Capita—\$11.26 (based on 2024 membership)

SO.....NOW IS THE TIME

to take a good look at your membership rolls to ensure that your numbers reflect your active membership! The Statistical Reports that you file in January 2025 will be used for your 2026 Per Capita.

Attention Treasurers!

Thank you for your generous support of our Presbytery in 2024!

If you have not paid your Per Capita—please do so immediately as NAP is required to pay the full amount regardless of what it receives from churches.

In this time of office transition, we ask that all contributions be in by December 15th to be counted in 2024 giving.



Give



Serve



Attend



Grow

Stewardship

The end of the year 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.

Questions concerning the NAP budget can be address to members of BAPT: Parker Moore, Tripp Brogdon, Carol Mebane, Robert Peagler, Randy Pettus or Mac Martinson.

Volunteer opportunities are available from the Executive Commission.

Contact Robin Palmer, Tripp Brogdon, Anita Raby, Carol Copeland, Jaina Glaze or Parker Moore.

December NAP Events

Executive Commission

Robin Palmer, Moderator

Monday, December 2 @ 10:00am
via Zoom

Committee on Ministry

Carol Copeland, Moderator

Thursday December 5 @ 6:00pm
via Zoom

Business Affairs Team

Parker Moore, Moderator

Thursday December 12 @ 4:00pm
via Zoom

2025 Important Dates

NAP Winter Stated Meeting

Saturday, February 22, 2025

Copeland Presbyterian Church, Athens

Meeting includes: Worship with Communion, 2024 Necrology, Installation of Moderator & Vice Moderator, Voting on GA Constitutional Amendments, Adoption of budget, Receive Related Ministry reports of membership

PW Spring Gathering

Saturday, April 12, 2025

Fellowship Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

Meeting includes: Worship with Communion, Installation of new officers, Mission Partner reports, Business meeting and lunch.

NAP Summer Stated Meeting

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

First Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

Meeting includes: Annual Parity Report, Election of NAC member-at-large, Commission/Committee reports

PW Fall Gathering

Tuesday, September 9, 2025

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center, Scottsboro, AL

Meeting includes: Worship, 2026 Bible Study overview, Mission Partner reports, Business meeting with adoption of the 2026 budget, and lunch.

NAP Fall Stated Meeting

Tuesday, October 21, 2025

Maranatha Camp & Conference Center, Scottsboro, AL

Meeting includes: Election of Committee/Commission members for the class of 2028, Commission/Committee reports



Congratulations to the congregations who received Ministry Grants in November:

First, Ft. Payne—\$800 for repairs to their Sanctuary floor incurred in their recent renovation.

Copeland, Athens—\$8500 for building repairs and sanctuary upgrades.

Copeland, Athens—\$5540 for upgrades to their streaming services and website redesign.

First, Albertville—\$4235 for dangerous tree removal and repairs.

Since it's inception in 2023, the NAP Ministry Grants program has provided \$324,487.00 through 26 grants made to 13 churches and 2 of our apartment agencies! We are thankful to the Trinity Legacy Fund and the Calhoun Apartment Fund for the money provided for these grants.

Ministry Grant applications are available on the NAP website (www.napcusa.org) and should be submitted to the Business Affairs and Personnel Team through adminoffice@napcusa.org



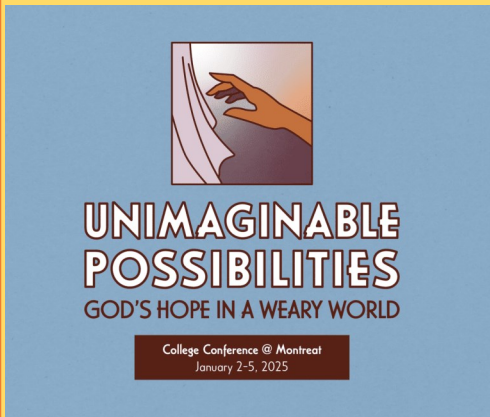
How is your congregation **BEING MATTHEW 25** in your community? Join the movement. Be actively engaged. Share your stories. Post pictures on Facebook. #matthew25



GIVING TUESDAY

**SAVE THE DATE
DECEMBER 3, 2024**

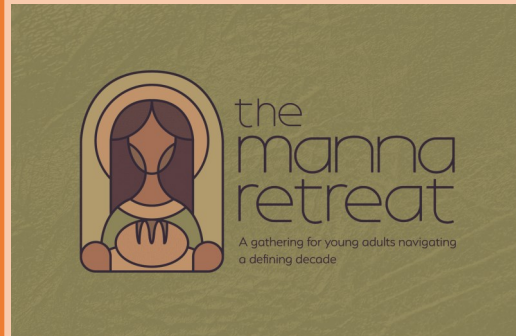
For your College Students!



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

For your Young Adults



The Manna Retreat January 24-26, 2025

The Manna Retreat is three days, 100 young adults, one old hotel, and ten small groups dedicated to creating deeper faith and deeper relationships. If your faith could use a deep laugh, if your heart could use some new friendships, or if your body could use a place to belong, then this is for you.

Hosted by Montreat Conference Center

For your Rising 9th—graduating 12 graders— The 2025 Montreat Youth Conference



Light My Path

“Your word is a lamp to my feet and a light to my path.” Psalm 119:105. Drawing from the biblical text and our chosen theme Light My Path, this summer we will build an accepting community of unconditional love where every story matters. Through engaging worship, lively music, and 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 brave, loving, holy, and authentic so that we may glorify God in all that we do, inspiring and equipping a lifetime of faith.



Grace Presbyterian Church's Caregivers Support Group

Approximately seven years so ago, Grace Presbyterian Church, as part of their Stephen Ministry and outreach program, decided that there was a need in the community. It was help for caregivers. So, on the first Monday of every month at 6:30 PM, Grace facilitates a caregiver's support group of men and women who need information and support. There are ground rules. Since our Stephen Ministers do the facilitating, everything said in the meeting is confidential. It allows the caregivers the ability to "let their hair down". This is a safe place to vent. Sometimes there are tears, sometime anger, sometimes questions to be answered. The beauty of the group is that others, who have

or are going through the same problems, can pass on what has helped them. The group size varies from month to month. Some cannot come every month because of babysitting problems, some only come to get information and do not come back because of those babysitting problems. A large number of our caregivers have loved ones with dementia. We try to have as much information as possible to give to them. Others have loved ones at home with a debilitating illness. Some have loved ones far away, which can be frustrating, and we have ideas for them too. We discuss when to "take the keys away". We give them a list of helpful websites and legal information. If it comes down to having to put a loved one in an assisted or memory care facility, we have information to help them make it. If we don't have an answer to a question we try to find the answer. About a week before the meeting, we send out email reminders and we are available by phone if they need help between meetings.

We welcome the surrounding community, so if you need help, please join us. No need to let us know, just show up. If you are a caregiver, sometimes your best made plans can go out the window the day of the meeting. You can reach out to me if you have any questions. You can call this number 256-520-0710 and leave a message. I will get back to you as soon as possible. Blessings to you all, Valerie McLaughlin, Congregational Care Team Lead and Stephen Ministry Leader.



Christ caring for people through people

**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**



*Do you have a story to share
about a special ministry
in your congregation?*

*Email your article and pictures to
adminoffice@napcusa.org
by the 25th of the month
to be included in the next newsletter!*