



# NAP News

January 2025

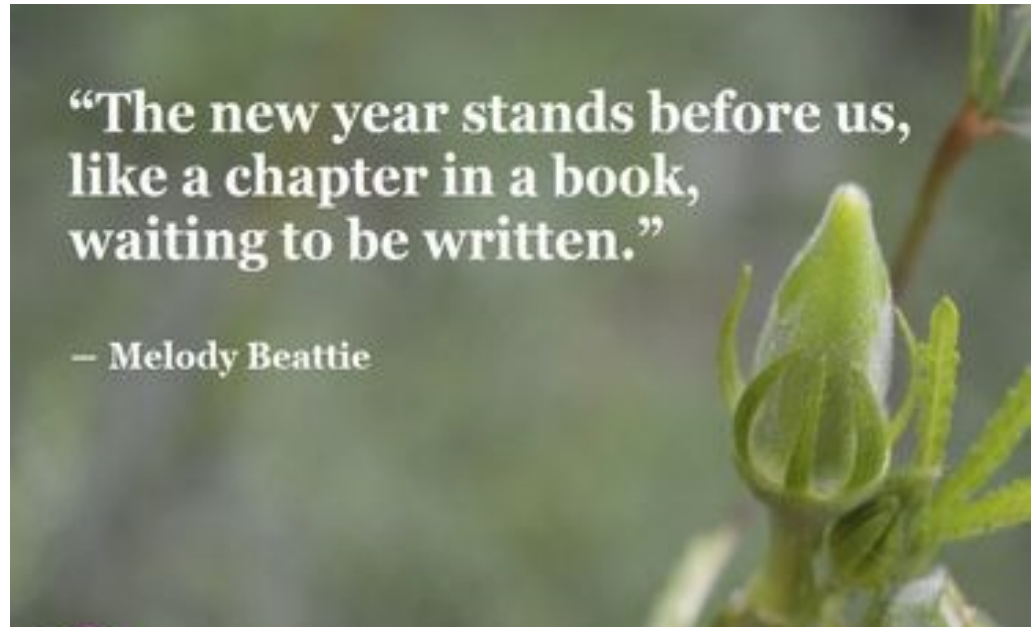


NAP News is a monthly newsletter provided by the NAP staff to celebrate ministries and provide updates for the churches of North Alabama Presbytery.

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

### What's Inside this Month

A New Year—A New Beginning	1
For Clerks & Treasurers	2
Dates & Announcements	3
Staff News	3
Montreat Opportunities	4
Matthew 25 Celebrations	5



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Let THIS BE THE YEAR that your church becomes a Matthew 25 congregation by adopting Focus #1: "Building

### Congregational Vitality!"

Launched in 2018 by the 223rd General Assembly, this movement has energized more than 1,000 congregations across the nation to grow in their faith and spread the Gospel through their work in communities who are eager for a church that is "putting their faith into action," not just "talking the talk." Consider 2025 as THE YEAR!

Learn more and SIGN UP at [pcusa.org/matthew25](http://pcusa.org/matthew25)



Is your church ready to attract new members and make a difference in your community?

Registration to become an Earth Care Congregation (or get re-certified) is Jan 1—Feb 14.

In 1990, the 202th General Assembly adopted "Restoring Creation through Ecology and Justice," and urged congregations to take responsibility for creation through Worship, Education, Facilities, and Outreach. When congregations sign the "Earth Care Pledge," they are on the path to becoming better stewards of creation.

Learn more and TAKE THE PLEDGE at [pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations](http://pcusa.org/earthcarecongregations)

### **Attention Clerks!**

There will be an **OFFICER TRAINING EVENT** held via Zoom on Saturday, January 4th, 2025 at 10:00am, This training will last four hours and be recorded for those who cannot attend.

Please share this info with your elders and have them register with me at [napstatedclerk@napcusa.org](mailto:napstatedclerk@napcusa.org).

Tom Lewis, Stated Clerk

### **Attention Clerks!**

It's **STATISTICAL REPORTS** season! The Office of the General Assembly has announced that the online reporting platform for Clerks to upload their congregation's statistical reports will be opening on January 2, 2025. Tom Lewis, Stated Clerk will be sending out the links you need and be available to help you with your reports.

### **Attention Clerks!**

Each year, Clerks are required to submit a new **TERMS OF CALL** for their Pastor (regardless of their title.)

The forms you need are available on the NAP website ([www.napcusa.org](http://www.napcusa.org)) Please download the appropriate form, fill it out and return it digitally to Tom Lewis, [statedclerk@napcusa.org](mailto:statedclerk@napcusa.org), for reporting to COM.

### **Attention Clerks!**

Our February Stated Meeting will include a time of honoring and celebrating the Teaching and Ruling Elders who entered the Kingdom Triumphant in 2024.

Please send the names of your Elders for the **2024 Necrology Report** to Tom Lewis at [statedclerk@napcusa.org](mailto:statedclerk@napcusa.org) so they can be included in this time of remembrance.

# Attention to Detail ✓

## *THANK YOU*

FAITHFUL CLERKS AND TREASURERS

FOR YOUR DEDICATION TO KEEPING

EVERYTHING IN ORDER SO OUR

PRESBYTERY (AND YOUR CHURCH) CAN

CONTINUE TO RUN SMOOTHLY!

## *YOU ARE APPRECIATED!*

### **Attention Treasurers!**

#### **We need your 2025 pledges**

Pledge forms were emailed to you in September and they need to be returned ASAP so our Business Affairs & Personnel Team can form the 2025 budget.

Please email your pledge to [adminoffice@napcusa.org](mailto:adminoffice@napcusa.org)

## December NAP Events

### Committee on Ministry

*Carol Copeland, Moderator*  
Thursday January 2 @ 6:00pm  
via Zoom

### Executive Commission

*Robin Palmer, Moderator*  
Monday, January 6 @ 10:00am  
via Zoom

### Business Affairs Team

*Parker Moore, Moderator*  
Thursday January 9 @ 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 16, 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*



After months of diligent searching, the Business Affairs & Personnel Team is pleased to announce the hiring of a new **Administrative Assistant!**

Sheila Gilliam will be joining our staff officially on January 6, 2025, but will begin her training with Krista Lovell during late December. We look forward to having



Sheila on our ministry team and appreciate your prayers and patience in this time of transition. We are grateful to Krista for her willingness to fill in and “keep us going” for these past few months.



Keep watching your email box for big news coming from our Executive Presbyter Search Committee!

### For your College Students!



**UNIMAGINABLE  
POSSIBILITIES**  
GOD'S HOPE IN A WEARY WORLD

College Conference @ Montreat  
January 2-5, 2025

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  
A gathering for young adults navigating  
a defining decade

### 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.*



## Congratulations to Grace Presbyterian Church, Madison, AL on becoming a MATTHEW 25 CONGREGATION!

Grace joins Faith, Huntsville; Fellowship, Huntsville; First, Albertville; First, Florence; Westminster, Decatur; First, Ft. Payne; First, Cullman in celebrating how their congregation is Building Church Vitality, Dismantling Structural Racism, and Eradicating Systemic Poverty! How is your church at work in your community?

After using the Matthew 25 Bible Study from the Presbyterian Mission Agency as the devotional at the beginning of their meetings, the Session of **Grace Presbyterian** became interested in becoming a Matthew 25 Congregation. The Session wanted the congregation to know more about it before taking a vote, so Rev. Robin Palmer preached a four-week Stewardship sermon series to help the congregation learn more about the movement. The first week of Stewardship season, the sermon introduced Matthew 25, and each area of focus was the topic of the next three sermons. At their Dec. 1 meeting, the Session voted unanimously to become a Matthew 25 Congregation, with the chosen area of focus being eradicating systemic poverty. The Session realized that all three areas of focus intersect and will strive to learn more about building congregational vitality and dismantling structural racism in the future, but will begin with systemic poverty because that is an area the congregation is already involved in through the Harvest of Grace Community Garden, the St. Elizabeth CPCA food pantry, and support for Enable of Madison County as well as the Presbyterian Home for Children.

**Rev. Robin Palmer**, Pastor, Grace Presbyterian Church, Madison, AL

*Neither rain or cold can slow down the ministry of a Matthew 25 congregation!*



**First Cullman** experienced a day of soggy blessings distributing holiday food boxes. Our Moderator-on-Loan, Rev. Bob Phelps (FPC Albertville), is hidden in his hoodie in these photos. We were helped with donations from our neighbors at Christ Lutheran. Received this text the following morning: *" I just wanted to say thank you very much for the ham and food box. I was second to last person but I made it. My mom and I greatly appreciate your church's generosity! I'm so sorry you were out in the rain. Merry Christmas! "*

Rev. Robin Lambert, Bridge Pastor



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

Email your article and pictures to  
[adminoffice@napcusa.org](mailto:adminoffice@napcusa.org)  
by the 25th of the month  
to be included in the next newsletter!