



# NAP News

February 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 by the 25th of each month.

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### North Alabama Presbytery Staff

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Follow us on Facebook & YouTube



Actively Engaged in the World

**TACKLE HUNGER**

**SOUPER BOWL OF CARING**

What if every person watching the Big Game donates just \$1 or 1 can of food to their local food charity?

HEALTHY MEALS. HAPPY HEARTS.

ERADICATING SYSTEMIC POVERTY

MATTHEW 25

pcusa.org/matthew25 | #BeingMatthew25

BEING

HEALTHY MEALS  
TACKLE HUNGER  
HAPPY HEARTS

Why not harness the energy and enthusiasm of Super Bowl weekend, a time when people come together for football, food, and fun, to unite communities around the country to do something huge? Individuals and groups collect money, canned foods, and non-perishable items for those in need by donating directly to local charities in their communities. A movement begun in in SC in 1990 has spread across the country and ties in with our **Matthew 25 #2 Focus: Eradicating Systemic Poverty!**

### HOW CAN YOUR CONGREGATION PARTICIPATE?

#### **FIRST DOWN—Select your local food charity.**

Feel free to choose any charity you wish. All donations collected stay in your local community.

#### **SECOND DOWN—Choose your path.**

How do you want to run your campaign? Will you run an in-person food drive? Collect cash donations in soup pots? Both? It really doesn't matter to us! We also make it easy to run a virtual campaign for both food and cash donations.

#### **THIRD DOWN—Register your fundraiser campaign with us.**

Tell us who you are. This is where you become a part of the Souper Bowl of Caring team! If you need any help at all, feel free to call us at 1-800-358-SOUP or email us at [info@tacklehunger.org](mailto:info@tacklehunger.org).

#### **FOURTH DOWN—Utilize the resources found at [tacklehunger.org/SBOC](http://tacklehunger.org/SBOC)**

We've done this part for you! There's no need to reinvent the wheel. Need posters? We've made them. Social media templates? We have those, too. You want coloring pages? Yup, we even have those.

#### **SCORE! - Report back to us**

Send us a quick email at [reports@tacklehunger.org](mailto:reports@tacklehunger.org) and tell us how many cans (or pounds of food) and/or dollars were donated. You can even call us at 1-800-358-SOUP (7687) and we will make sure to get your participation certificate to you as soon as possible.

## Welcome to our new Executive Presbyter—The Reverend Bob Phelps!

“After much prayer, discussion and deliberation, Rev. Bob Phelps was unanimously selected for recommendation as NAP’s next Executive Presbyter. In a called meeting of the Presbytery, Bob was unanimously approved!

Bob is no stranger to most of you. He led the worship service at the NAP meeting last Fall. Some of you will have served with Bob on the BAPT or COM committees.

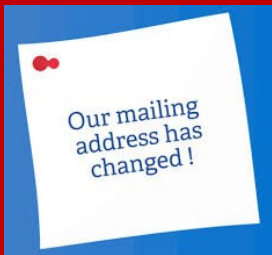
Since transferring to the PC(USA) in 2008, Bob has served churches in Florida, Tennessee and Mississippi while serving in various presbytery, synod and GA positions before retiring in December 2021. He has served as Stated Supply at First, Albertville since January 1, 2022.



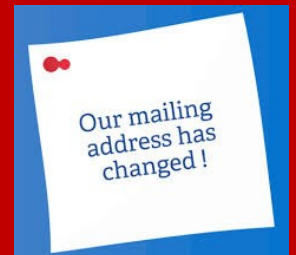
Deana and Bob Phelps

We feel God is calling Bob to lead NAP into the uncertainty facing the Church, both pastorally and boldly. We give thanks to God, and we give thanks to Bob for this exciting opportunity for all of us.”

Rev. Tripp Brogdon, EP Search Committee



North Alabama Presbytery  
P.O. Box 6  
Somerville, AL 35670



### **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 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 which will be presented at the February 22nd Stated Meeting.

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

### **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 Treasurers!**

#### **Per Capita was due January 31st.**

In September you received a Per Capita Apportionment Statement listing the breakdown of your apportionment based on our 2023 statistical report.

Thank you for mailing your apportionment now so the Presbytery can meet its fulfillments.

## February NAP Events

### Business Affairs Team

*Parker Moore, Moderator*

Thursday February 6 @ 4:00pm  
via Zoom

### Committee on Ministry

*Carol Copeland, Moderator*

Thursday February 6 @ 6:00pm  
via Zoom

### Executive Commission

*Robin Palmer, Moderator*

Monday, March 3 @ 10:00am  
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*

## NORTH ALABAMA PRESBYTERY WINTER STATED MEETING

FEBRUARY 22, 2025

8:30-3:00

COPELAND PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

27085 COPELAND RD

ATHENS, ALABAMA 35613

8:30am registration and fellowship

9:00am Worship with Communion & Necrology

Offering: CPM Candidates Fund

Installation of Moderator, Vice Moderator, and Executive Presbyter

10:00am Meeting begins

Reports from Stated Clerk & Presbytery Units

Reports from Ministry Teams & Mission Partners

Passing of the Peace Dove, Matthew 25 Celebrations

12:00 noon-Box lunch from Apple Lane Farms

Choice of ham, or turkey, or cheese only

\$13.00 payable at registration

1:00pm Meeting resumes

Amendments to the Book of Order

2:00pm Meeting adjourns

Clerks, please register your commissioner with lunch choice  
Pastors and guests, please register yourself with lunch choice.  
adminoffice@napcusa.org

benjaminwalshobers.blogspot.com



Fellowship Presbyterian Church USA

3406 Meridian Street ♦ Huntsville, Alabama 35811

## Presbyterian Women's Day Celebration

*"Celebrate the Gifts of Women"*  
*Theme: Saints and Widows:*  
*Seeing Through the Lens of God*

Sunday, March 23, 2025 | 11:00 a.m.



Reverend Cecelia Armstrong  
Co-Moderator of the 226th General Assembly of the  
Presbyterian Church USA



Each year, Church Treasurers and Clerks of Session receive a “Per Capita Apportionment Statement” from the Presbytery listing Per Capita amounts for PCUSA, Synod of Living Waters, and North Alabama Presbytery based on the membership of their congregation. Per Capita is due by January 31, 2025.

The 2025 Per Capita apportionments are based on membership statistics reported by Clerks at the end 2023. Each level of our denomination sets its own apportionment amount. The 2025 apportionments are : PCUSA—\$10.84; Synod—\$3.98; and Presbytery—\$6.00 for a total of \$20.82 per member.



## WHY PER CAPITA?

### We are a connectional church



No worshipping community is isolated. Congregations, presbyteries, synods, denominational offices, and more work with one another to offer support, guidance, collaboration, and other opportunities through per capita funding.



### All worshipping communities are equally important and valuable to God’s church

All congregations are given equal access to resources and support funded by per capita. Through sharing of financial responsibility, no congregation is privileged due to their financial capacity.



### We can only be the church with one another

Through sharing in generous support of per capita and participating in the opportunities per capita funds, the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) uplifts and empowers all worshipping communities as an integral part of being the church.



### We are a priesthood of all believers

All people are equally created and called by God to serve God’s church. As a part of this call, we share in the responsibility of supporting the church.



## Thank you!

The work of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) is only possible because members of the church have said they are "all in" and committed to connection through per capita support.

It takes all of us together to answer God's call.

Thank you for joining us in ministry.

Thank you for answering the call.

Thank you for your support of per capita.



Each congregation handles Per Capita differently. Some congregations ask their members to pay the apportionment outside their yearly pledge, while other congregations build it into their regular budget.

Your Presbytery forwards all money received for Per Capita to the PCUSA and Synod while retaining the NAP money for budgeted items. If congregations choose to pay only a percentage of their Per Capita or none of their Per Capita, your Presbytery pays the shortage from their budget.

Thank you congregations of North Alabama Presbytery for being part of the connectional church and for your support of the many ministries happening locally, regionally, and nationally.

## SPECIAL MINISTRIES of ST. ANDREW PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH , DECATUR

St. Andrew's, Decatur, Homeless Ministry includes first Sunday food collection, an October sock drive for homeless men and women, and a March collection of socks, underwear, toiletries, and feminine hygiene products for homeless women. Monthly we prepare and serve a hot meal to the homeless at Hands Across Decatur, a non-profit organization.

Twice monthly the Caring Hands Ministry makes hand-crafted cards which are sent to our members and our extended church community.

Our ministry for Decatur's Hope Place, an emergency shelter for domestic abuse victims and their children, includes fulfilling requests, and this past November we stuffed 45 purses with cosmetics, jewelry, and toiletries for the abused women who flee with nothing.

Our Children's Ministry includes school supplies for DHR and CCC foster children, Holiday Hope Chests, and purchasing wipes, paper products, and hand sanitizers for Decatur's Austinville Elementary teachers who must purchase their own supplies. Our cash donations purchase various instruments for the students there.

*Submitted by Barbara Allen*



**Congratulations to Ruling Elder Carol Copeland  
who was installed as  
Moderator of the Synod of Living Waters  
on January 27, 2025!**



Also serving the Synod from NAP are Rev. Tom Lewis and Rev. David Kling.

**Thank you all for your extended service to our denomination!**



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!

# MONTREAT® CONFERENCE CENTER



For your Rising 9th thru 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.*

**NAP Youth are attending Montreat: July 6-12, 2025**

Youth/Young Adult Cost: \_\_\_\_\_  
Deposit of \$\_\_\_\_\_ due to NAP by \_\_\_\_\_  
Adult Sponsor Cost: \$\_\_\_\_\_ due to NAP by \_\_\_\_\_

**(The Presbytery will be providing limited scholarships this year.)**

**For additional questions:  
Rev. Jaina Glaze (256-206-1855)**





# MARANATHA

Camp and Conference Center

Some people love New Year's Resolutions, while others really don't even give them a thought. Regardless of your stance, we can all agree that the new year brings thoughts of fresh starts and new beginnings. Here at camp, we are stepping into this year with hopeful anticipation. We've already been planning our summer programs (and trust us, you don't want to miss out), booking retreat groups for the 2025 and 2026 seasons, and kicking off all the projects that need to be wrapped up before summer.

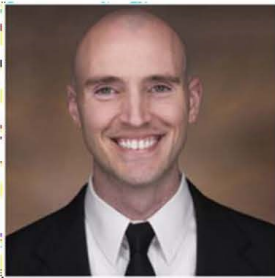
One of the most exciting projects that was recently completed, has been our dining hall renovation project. We now have new, spacious restroom facilities, a revamped serving line area, and our latest addition...heat and air conditioning!!!! That's right! Our dining hall now features heating and A/C units for those sweltering summer nights and chilly winter retreats. We can't wait for you to come and experience these fantastic upgrades!

Summer Camp registration is open! Visit the Maranatha website to register your child or youth for a life-changing week of fellowship, friendships, spiritual growth, and, most of all, FUN!

<https://maranatha.camp/summer-camp>

Summer 2025 Schedule	Day Camp K-5th	Overnight Camp 5th-12th	Adventure Camp 6th-12th	TLT Program 10th-12th
Session 1 June 1-6	Day Camp K-5th (Huntsville)	Overnight Camp 5th-8th	Adventure Camp FULL	TLT Program 10th-12th
Session 2 June 8-13	Day Camp K-5th (Hampton Cove)	Overnight Camp 5th-8th	Adventure Camp 6th-12th	TLT Program 10th-12th
Session 3 June 15-20	Day Camp K-5th (Huntsville)	Overnight Camp 6th-12th	Adventure Camp FULL	TLT Program FULL
Session 4 June 22-27	Day Camp K-5th (Madison)	Overnight Camp 5th-8th	Adventure Camp 6th-12th	TLT Program 10th-12th
Session 5 July 6-11	Day Camp K-5th (Huntsville)	Overnight Camp 5th-8th	Adventure Camp FULL	TLT Program 10th-12th
Session 6 July 13-18	Day Camp K-5th (Madison)	Overnight Camp 5th-8th	Adventure Camp 6th-12th	TLT Program 10th-12th
Session 7 July 20-25	Day Camp K-5th (Huntsville)	Overnight Camp 6th-12th	Adventure Camp FULL	TLT Program FULL
Session 8 July 27-August 1	Day Camp K-5th (Hampton Cove)	Overnight Camp 5th-8th	Adventure Camp FULL	TLT Program 10th-12th
	<b>\$355</b>	<b>\$570</b>	<b>\$799</b>	<b>\$200</b>

**Churches. Are you providing scholarships for your children/youth to attend Maranatha? It's the best investment you'll make this year!**



**Keenan Rodgers**  
Church Consultant

m: 215-341-8143

[krodgers@pensions.org](mailto:krodgers@pensions.org)

### January/February 2025

We at the Board of Pensions are working hard to serve our churches, ministers, and employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA). I am here to support you and your congregation should you have any questions about the Board's benefits and programs. I look forward to our continued partnership in the new year.

*The Board of Pensions is a national agency of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), offering a broad range of benefits to PC(USA) churches, agencies, and mid councils, as well as affiliated employers.*

**Member/Employer Services:** 800-773-7752, M-F 8:30 am to 6:00 pm ET

## Shared Ministry Program

The new Shared Ministry Program encourages two or more Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) congregations to covenant to create sustainable pastoral positions for ordained ministers. Participating congregations enter into a five-year dues subsidy program with the Board to receive a subsidy of the cost of benefits for pastors. Shared Ministry is not a merger of churches; rather, it is multiple, individual congregations sharing a minister with a living wage and benefits that helps ministry flourish and be sustained for the long term. [Learn more about the program](#), including key considerations and how to get started.

## Assistance Program Updates

As part of our commitment to mutual care and wholeness, the Board of Pensions continues to expand access to grants through the Assistance Program to serve more ministers, employees, retirees, and surviving spouses who have financial need. In 2024, the Assistance Program distributed over 2,500 grants for a total of approximately \$8.5 million in funds. [Read about potential grant opportunities.](#)

## Other important information:

**Employee Assistance Plan (EAP):** Effective Jan. 1, 2025, Spring Health replaced Cigna as the provider for the EAP. Spring Health offers mental health care navigation with a broader network of providers in addition to the EAP services with which members are familiar. [Learn more about Spring Health.](#)

**Remember to update Effective Salaries for the new year:** Any changes to effective salaries must be reported to the Board of Pensions via Benefits Connect within 30 days of the effective date. Details about forms of compensation included in effective salary are found in [Understanding Effective Salary.](#)

**Call to Health well-being program begins a new year:** Call to Health is a well-being program that focuses on self-care in all areas: spiritual, health, financial, and vocational. It offers members in the medical plan the opportunity to reduce their medical deductible(s) and earn Tango cards, which can be redeemed for gift cards or used to make charitable donations. [Learn more](#) and start today.

