



NAP News

May 2026



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

Rev. Bob Phelps

execpresbyter@napcusa.org
601-996-9656 (C)

Stated Clerk

Rev. Jaina Glaze

statedclerk@napcusa.org
256-206-1855(C)

Administrative Assistant

Sheila Gilliam

adminoffice@napcusa.org
256-227-4918 (C)

NAP Email:

adminoffice@napcusa.org

NEW Mailing Address:

P.O. Box 6, Somerville, AL 35670

Phone: 256-883-0855



Worship is rooted in prayer, preaching, and the sacraments-especially Baptism and the Lord's Supper-as signs of God's covenant. It also stresses the importance of community , justice, and service, calling members to love their neighbors, care for those in need, and work toward peace and reconciliation.



Actively Engaged in the World

WHAT'S HAPPENING!

IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING SPECIAL HAPPENING PLEASE LET US KNOW!

*****Time to sign up for Montreat...Montreat Youth Conference 2026!**

Sign up by giving your names to Jaina Glaze

RevJainaAndeson@gmail.com 256-206-1855 Total cost is around \$650.00 per participant, rising eighth graders through graduated seniors.

Churches of adult sponsors are asked to contribute \$150.00/adult to offset food and lodging costs.

First payment of \$150.00 per youth is due now. Make one check from your church and send it to North Alabama Presbytery office. Questions, call Jaina Glaze!

Thanks to all Men that helped clean up Camp Maranatha this past weekend. I hope to have pictures to share next month.

Please see attached an article that celebrates achievement in the community as a result of work by Fellowship members. (continued on next page)

PLEASE LET US KNOW IF YOU HAVE ANY SPECIAL EVENTS HAPPENING! Or a story tell!

**Thank you Fellowship for this beautiful community program.
Hopefully next month I can share some pictures.**

FAITH Initiative Scholarship Recipients Celebrated

On Saturday, April 25, 2026, the FAITH Initiative recognized outstanding academic achievement and community service by awarding \$1,000 scholarships to thirteen high school students and three college students.

From its inception in 2017, the occasion is not solely an awards ceremony. Titled the Annual Event, the vibe of the event is celebration, and celebration requires music? Since the first program, music, primarily live jazz, has been a standard alongside excellent food and fellowship. The celebration on April 25 was held in the multipurpose room at the Bob Harrison Center for Wellness and Advocacy, located off Pulaski Pike, Huntsville. The event provided an opportunity for students, their families, members of the community, and scholarship donors to come together and celebrate the accomplishments of the young scholars from nine area high schools, Alabama A & M University, University of North Alabama, and Fisk University.

FAITH scholarships are named for the families that financially support them. However, the Henderson and Anthony Family Choral Scholarship, is purposed for local college choir singers to sing with Fellowship's choir. This spring, two choral scholarships were funded by Fellowship. One recipient sings in the Alabama A & M University choir, and the other is an alto with the historically famous Fisk Jubilee Singers of Fisk University, Nashville, TN.

The FAITH Initiative, a 501(c)3 nonprofit, its board primarily from Fellowship PC USA, was envisioned as a means to broaden the church's service efforts within the Huntsville community. Alongside its scholarship program, the FAITH Initiative has adopted Martin Luther King Jr. Elementary School. FAITH provides targeted support to the school, offering tutoring for students and supplying lunch to faculty and staff during Teachers' Appreciation Week, along with other assistance.

In other community service, FAITH has united with Fellowship Presbyterian women and Church Street Cumberland Presbyterian Church to donate funds to the Build a Bed program for children without beds and to provide hygiene kits for the homeless.

FAITH's only mission is serving the community.

The Presbytery Women had a beautiful time at their Spring Gathering 4/11/2026

St. Andrew Decatur, Al



The Presbytery Men worked at Camp Maranatha getting things ready for camp this summer. Thank you to these wonderful men that gave of their time and to John McClendon and Micah Beard for all you do!!

Here's the report from John:

We tore down a damaged deck and replaced it. Helped dig a trench for wiring for cabins, installed wire at boat dock for lights and outlet, sawed up some of the downed oak trees. Don Payne from Athens was the supervisor of the deck project. Jim Truesdell brought Barbecue for dinner one night and helped with the construction.

By my thinking we had over 150 hours of work donated by 11 people involved. We all got to see how luck the camp is to have Micah Beard and his wife leading the camp.

Don Payne, Jim Trusdale, Wade Sadler, Sidney Hoyt, Roland Waller, Charles Ayers, Scott Cullum a friend of Scott's, a person from Athen's church made barbecue for us and another person was going to help on Saturday but due to rain was not able to.



Presbytery Home For Children



SAFE HOMES. STRONGER FUTURES.



For 158 years, Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega has been a place of hope and new beginnings. Today, the Home is still answering the call, providing safe shelter for homeless children and their female caregivers through the Secure Dwellings Program, guiding young women toward independence in the Transition to Adult Living Program, and strengthening families across seven counties through Family Bridges.

It's ministry in action – meeting families where they are and walking alongside them toward a brighter future.

[Learn More](#)

If you meet a mother and children in need of safe housing, we encourage you to consider referring them to the Presbyterian Home for Children. A simple overview of programs and how to connect a family with help can be found here: <https://phfc.org/what-we-do/>

Cindy Fisher
Presbyterian Home for Children
Director of Communication & Mission Outreach
205-789-0973
phfc.org





From our Executive Presbyter, Reverend Bob Phelps

A word from our Executive Presbyter,

From our Executive Presbyter:

Still Looking for the Month That's Not Full!

I keep looking for a month that's not full of opportunities for us to serve, learn, and grow together. Looks like May's not it this year.

Most of us stay so busy that there is something attractive about thinking we'll find a month that offers some time to catch up. We got past Easter last month, but we were quickly surrounded by reminders that Easter is not a day but a season and that it brings lots of opportunities to give thanks for God's grace made known to us most clearly by the Risen Christ.

Now we find ourselves in May. Surely there is a little breathing room here, right? Probably not.

For most communities, school will be out this month. That means graduations to recognize and celebrate and other milestones to note like moving from elementary to middle school or middle school to high school. It also means figuring out what we're going to do with those kids for several weeks when they won't be going to school. Many of you are already deep into planning for Vacation Bible School and other activities for children and youth. Others might see this as a call to get busy.

Lots of us have travel planned now that the weather is warm and schedules are different. Whether it's a trip to Grandma's, the beach, or the other side of the world, many of us will see our church attendance patterns change in summer. Have you thought about setting your giving up online so that your faithful financial support of your church's ministry is there even when you're not? Check with your treasurer to see how easy that is to do.

There are a couple of holidays to celebrate this month. Mother's Day and Memorial Day provide opportunities to give thanks for important people in our lives, those still among us and those who have gone ahead of us into God's promise. I don't know if any of our congregations still have Decoration Days (those of you from up North will have to ask what that is, I know), but I know that many in our congregations will be out a Sunday or two to go back to places they formerly lived for those celebrations.

In the midst of all these special things going on, there are still Session meetings, committee meetings, and other regular activities of the Church. Presbytery leaders are busy planning the upcoming summer meeting of Presbytery on Tuesday, June 9, at Fort Payne, and our gracious hosts there are busy preparing to welcome us. Our General Assembly Commissioners will travel to Nashville to learn about their upcoming responsibilities this month. We'll have another in our new series of We Need to Talk... events on May 21 at Grace Church in Madison.

While many of us navigate this kind of busy schedules, some of our parishioners continue to be occupied with the daily tasks involved in caring for sick and declining family members. We would do well to see how we can lighten their load, which never seems to end.

One of our congregations is preparing to welcome a new pastor this summer. We'll hear more about that later this summer.

All this is to say that I know we're all busy all the time. Know that my prayers are with you as you celebrate and grieve and wonder what's next. Help where you can. Ask for help when you need it. Pray for one another. And, probably most importantly, find some time to take care of yourself in the midst of all our busyness. The rest of the year will bring even more of that, so pace yourselves and remember to give God thanks for opportunities to serve and share.

Grace and Peace,

Bob



Our We Need to Talk... events continue this spring. On Thursday, May 21, at 1:30 pm we invite you to gather with friends from across North Alabama to meet and welcome the Rev. Dr. Sallie Watson who will be our facilitator for this event. Sallie works for the Denominational Center in Louisville as Associate Director of MidCouncil Relations. Both Bob, our Executive, and Jaina, our Stated Clerk, have gotten to know Sallie as they have settled into their roles. Sallie will be with us to talk about what's going on at the Denominational Center and how it relates to us here where we live and work. There have been many organizational and staff changes at the Center, and we need to know how to stay in touch with the right people when we have needs and questions. Sallie will help us navigate those changes and has also promised to give us a preview of some issues to come before the General Assembly when it meets in Milwaukee in late June

Everyone's invited to this event. It will be helpful if you will let Bob know either by text (601-996-9656) or by email (ExecPresbyter@napcusa.org) that you plan to attend. Our hosts at Grace Church will serve light refreshments. We hope you'll join us at Grace Church after lunch on Thursday, May 21.

A Special Request for Prayer

We know there are many among us who need our prayers and concern, but we ask you to pray specifically for our Stated Clerk, Jaina Glaze, and her family. Jaina's mom, Sue Miller, is a member of First Church, Cullman and is experiencing significant health challenges. She has been in and out of the hospital a lot recently, and Jaina and her siblings faithfully care for her. Your prayers will sustain them.

Two Upcoming Opportunities for Singers

We want you to know about two great opportunities for singers this summer and fall—one local and one regional:

The local Huntsville Master Chorale, directed by Director of Music at First Presbyterian, Huntsville, Dr. Patricia Ramirez Hacker, invites area singers to the fifth annual Huntsville Choral Festival on May 29 and 30 at Trinity United Methodist Church. Every year, the Chorale invites a nationally-known clinician to lead this opportunity to sing in a bigger ensemble than most of us have opportunity to usually. This year, Dr. Z. Randall Stroope, acclaimed choral composer and conductor, will be in that role. Complete information about registration and performance (and extra rehearsal opportunities) is on the Chorale's website hsvmasterchorale.org. The Chorale invites all area singers to participate.

Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) MidSouth Region Festival of Choirs, October 2-3 at First Presbyterian Church, Lexington, KY. This event, the third annual festival, will be in partnership with the Lexington Sacred Music Festival. Dr. Everett McCorvey from the University of Kentucky faculty and Paul Robinson from Lexington's First Presbyterian Church will be leaders. The festival provides another opportunity to sing with a massed choir and to bring home new music to do at home. Complete information about registration, performance, lodging and everything else you need to know is on the PAM website at presbymusic.org. Think about bringing a group from your choir to this event. You may want to stay in town for other events in the Sacred Music Festival as they are announced.

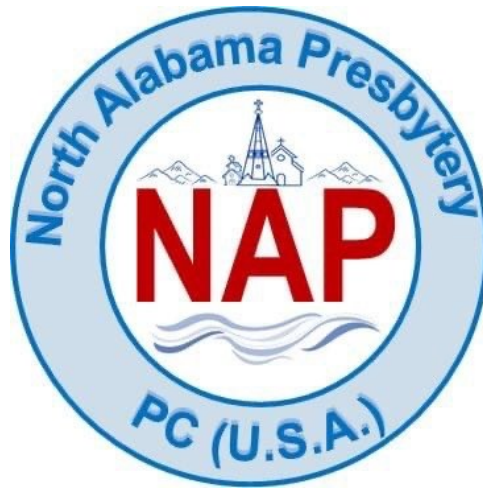
Bob Phelps

Executive Presbyter

North Alabama Presbytery

601-996-9656

Please let us know
if you have
anything special
coming up!



Executive Commission (EC)

Rev. Greg Bentley
2026 NAP Moderator
Dr. Randy Pettus
2026 NAP Vice Moderator
Carol Copeland
COM Moderator
Rev. Michael Bowe
CORN Moderator
Randy Pettus
BAPT Moderator
Roland Walker
Maranatha CCCI Board member

**Business Affairs &
Personnel Team (BAPT)**

Randy Pettus, Moderator
Robert Peagler
Rev. Tripp Brogdon
Carol Mebane
Parker Moore
Dag Rowe

Commission on Ministry (COM)

Carol Copeland , Moderator	Rev. David Kling Ted Dixie Julie Rice
Linda Rass Wes Stubblefield Cindy Sasseen	Rev. Tripp Brogdon Rev. Robin Palmer Joycee Pettis-Temple Rev. Micheal Bowe
Kelly Elmore	

**Committee on
Representation &
Nominating (CORN)**

Rev. Michael Bowe, Moderator
Jerry Witt
Rev. Kim Mitchel
Mary Mitchell
Rev. Traci Loveman
Bill Valentine

**Permanent Judicial Commission
(PJC)**

Roger Faulk
Rev. Peggy McClure
Tonya Gaines
Keith Fraser
Rev. Rosemary McMahan
Christi Robinson

Presbyterian Women

Linda Faulk Moderator
Patti Andrews Past Moderator
BJ Breeding, Secretary
Karen Madison, Treasurer

Presbyterian Men

Ted Dixie, President

Our Staff

Rev. Bob Phelps
Executive Presbyter

Rev. Jaina Glaze
Stated Clerk

Sheila Gilliam
Administrative Assistant

NAP Events

Executive Commission

Greg Bentley, Moderator

Monday May 18

Commission on Ministry

Carol Copeland, Moderator

Thursday May 7

Business Affairs Team

Randy Pettus, Moderator

Thursday May 14

Attention Treasurers!

Thank you for your generous support of our Presbytery in 2025!

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.

Attention Clerks!

GA Per Capita rates are going up!

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

2026 GA Per Capita—\$11.26 (based on 2025 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.

2025 Important Dates

reports.

NAP Summer Meeting

Tuesday, June 9, 2026

Place Fort Payne, AL

NAP Fall Meeting

Tuesday, October 20, 2026

Camp Maranatha Scottsboro, AL

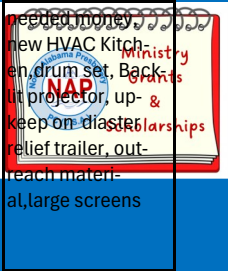
Montreat Youth Conference..See Jaina Glaze and sign up now!

**If you have any changes in your Church Staff please let the NAP office know,
adminoffice@napcusa.org**



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!



Congratulations to the following churches who received Ministry Grants in January & February:

- ⇒ Westminster Decatur, \$15000.00 HVAC system
- ⇒ First Guntersville \$20000.00 HVAC in kitchen, drum set, projector screen, general maintenance

FAQ's about Ministry Grants: New form on website soon

⇒ **Where did the idea of Ministry Grants originate?**

In late 2022, NAP was gifted with half of the proceeds from the sale of Trinity, Huntsville to be used as a help to other churches who are initiating new ministries and/or struggling with aging buildings. In addition, NAP receives monthly support for "Campus Ministry" that can be used for scholarships to Montreat Conferences and/or college ministry supported by local congregations.

⇒ **What can Grants be used for?**

New ministries that need a jump start to get them going.
Technology improvements to help your congregation spread the Good News of the Gospel.
Building repairs that impact ministry.

⇒ **Is there a limit to what we can ask for? YES!**

Ministry Grants for congregations are capped at \$25,000 per calendar year.
Ministry Grants for college ministry are capped at \$5,000 per calendar year.

⇒ **Can we apply for the same grant in a following year? NO!**

Ministry Grants are limited and designed as one-time offerings for a specific purpose.

⇒ **How can we apply for a Ministry Grant?**

Visit the NAP website at www.napcusa.org and download one of the Grant forms. Forms must be approved and signed by your Session and must have a detailed cost sheet attached. Return your completed form to the Business Affairs and Personnel Team via adminoffice@napcusa.org.

⇒ **BAPT meets monthly to review applications.**

Have more questions? Contact Randy Pettus, Moderator of BAPT at rjpettus@gmail.com