



# NAP News

August 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](mailto:adminoffice@napcusa.org)  
by the 25th of each month.

## What's Inside this Month

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As August brings the close of summer and many prepare for a new school year and the changing seasons, we are reminded that God is faithful in every season of life. We believe that God's grace is always at work, calling us to grow in faith, serve our neighbors with compassion, and care for God's creation. The end of summer is a time to reflect on blessings we have received, give thanks for opportunities to share Christ's love, and look ahead with hope and trust. Through worship, prayer, and service, we seek to follow Jesus Christ, knowing that God walks with us into every new beginning.



Actively Engaged in the World

# **WHAT'S HAPPENING!**

**IF YOU HAVE ANYTHING SPECIAL HAPPENING PLEASE LET US KNOW!**

## **Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering**

**Tuesday, September 8, 2026**

**Maranatha Camp and Conference Center**

**1091 Jeffery Rd**

**Scottsboro, AL 35769**

## **Third Annual Festival of Choirs**

**October 2-3, 2026**

**First Presbyterian Church**

**Lexington, KY**

## **Fall Stated Meeting**

**Tuesday, October 20, 2026**

**Maranatha Camp and Conference Center**

**1091 Jeffery Rd**

**Scottsboro, AL 35769**

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



## Maranatha Moments Newsletter

Summer Edition 4



Can you believe how fast Sessions 5 and 6 flew by?

We wrapped up another incredible Adventure Camp season (and we're definitely sad to see it end!). Thanks to our amazing counselors, Boots and Gecko, campers explored exciting adventures, made unforgettable memories, and had an absolute blast. Be sure to check out the photos below—you'll see plenty of smiles and adventure in action!

We've also loved spending time with our TLTs (Timothy Leadership Training)! This ongoing two-week program for rising 10th–12th graders helps students discover what it means to lead by serving others. They learn valuable leadership skills and then put them into practice as counselors-in-training, serving alongside our camper groups. It's an incredible experience that prepares them to make a difference at camp—and wherever God leads them next.

**Thank you Camp Maranatha!**

Maranatha Camp and Conference Center  
Summer 2026!!





**Executive Presbyter, Reverend Bob Phelps**

A word from our Executive Presbyter,

I made the mistake of recently asking the children of Grace Church in Madison what they were looking forward to as they prepare to go back to school. I got mostly blank stares in response! We were talking about Paul's comment to the Romans that we don't always know how to pray as we ought, so we quickly agreed that there are things we still need to learn in a new school year and moved on to talk about other things.

We are at Back-to-School time whether we're ready for it or not. Churches are planning to renew or continue their Sunday Schools and other teaching ministries. Families are planning schedules that will be busier than ever and hopefully making time in them for worship, Christian education, and all the other opportunities provided by their congregations.

Hopefully, we've found some downtime this summer. Hopefully, that time at the beach or in the mountains or at Grandma's was renewing and refreshing. We'll need to draw on that renewal and refreshment in a week or two when our new hectic schedules kick in.

Whatever your upcoming season is shaping up to be, be good to yourself and include church participation in it. You'll be glad you did. Regular worship attendance can renew like few other activities can. Having a group to study and pray with helps to keep things in perspective. Knowing that the people with whom you share a pew care enough about you to keep up with your comings and goings helps many who live away from family support systems to belong.

I know that adding another whole list of things to do adds to a schedule that's already full for most of us. But the ministry of your church is much more about helping to add quality to your life than it is about requiring things of you.

I look forward to worshiping with many of you in the weeks and months ahead. Have a great year. Make time to welcome newcomers. We have an abundance of God's gifts to share. Thanks be to God!

Grace and Peace,

Bob

## An Upcoming Event for Church Musicians.

The Presbyterian Association of Musicians (PAM) will offer the Third Annual Festival of Choirs this fall in Lexington, Kentucky. The event will be conducted in partnership with the Lexington Sacred Music Festival on October 2-3 at First Presbyterian, Lexington. Leaders will be Dr. Everett McCorvey, who serves on the music faculty at the University of Kentucky and Paul Robinson, Director of Music at First Presbyterian, Lexington. This year's Festival, like the two previous, will provide an immersive experience for singers with rehearsals on Friday evening and Saturday, a commissioning worship experience for church musicians, and a celebratory concert to conclude the event.

You can find complete information about registration, lodging options, and schedules on the PAM website at [presbysmusic.org](http://presbysmusic.org). You can also find information about the larger Lexington Sacred Music Festival at [sacredmusiclex.org](http://sacredmusiclex.org).

We hope you'll consider bringing your choir or coming in smaller groups. Previous events in Memphis and Morristown, TN have been fun and inspiring. You'll get to sing with other singers from across the synod and bring home new pieces for your choir to sing.

Check out the PAM website for information about this and other upcoming events.



## **Welcome to the Presbytery!**

We are happy to welcome the Rev. David Randolph, new pastor at First Church, Huntsville, to North Alabama Presbytery. David began his work at First Church in late June and has hit the ground running.

David and his wife, Dr. Katherine Randolph, are the parents of three children, Cragon age 9, Betsy, age 6, and Andrew, age 3. They come to us from Holston Presbytery in East Tennessee where David served as pastor at Colonial Heights Presbyterian Church.

Several have reached out to welcome David and his family. We look forward to working with him in the Presbytery.



## **Looking Ahead to Fall Presbytery**

North Alabama Presbytery will hold its fall meeting at Maranatha on Tuesday, October 20. You'll receive all the information you need about that in due time. One possibility we want you to know about is the availability of overnight lodging at Lakeside at Maranatha the night before Presbytery meets. If you are interested in not having to leave home at the crack of dawn to get to Presbytery and would enjoy a relaxing October evening at Lakeside, get in touch with Micah at Maranatha to make arrangements to spend the night on October 19. Might be a good opportunity to fellowship with friends or to enjoy a quiet night. Either way, check it out.

## General Assembly Meets in Milwaukee

You can be proud of the work our commissioners to General Assembly did this summer in Milwaukee. Before they ever arrived up north, Minister Rev. Jaina Glaze, First Church, Sheffield; Elder Randy Pettus, First Church, Florence; and Youth Advisory Delegate Claire Frazier, Westminster, Decatur participated in online committee meetings at home. When they arrived in Milwaukee, they faced a busy week of whole-Assembly meetings to discuss and act on the work of those committees. I was grateful to join them for those plenary meetings as a non-voting participant. Rev. Greg Bentley, pastor at Fellowship, Huntsville and former Moderator of the General Assembly also attended some of the plenary sessions. There will be a full report on the actions of the Assembly soon, and we will have opportunity to vote on the ones that require our input. In the meantime, please express your appreciation to Jaina, Claire, and Randy for their participation in this important part of our denomination's life. Each of them offers some reflections on their work in this issue of the newsletter.

A heads up: General Assembly will meet again in 2028 in San Juan, Puerto Rico.



Letters from our Members that attended the General Assembly in Milwaukee:

Randy Pettus

Claire Frazier

Jana Glaze

July 23, 2026

Dear North Alabama Presbytery :

I just want to take a moment to say thank you for sending me as the voting Commissioner to the 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee, Wisconsin this past June. It was an uplifting experience while at the same time, was a soul searching one.

This was a tremendous time of gathering to emphasize the importance of proclaiming the Gospel in a changing cultural environment. The calling to worship, discipleship, evangelism and service was evident in the 1500 gathered there. This gathering happens every 2 years and the next GA will be in Puerto Rico for the first time ever.

The theme this year was, “Preserving Toward Wholeness” and we felt that at each Plenary and Committee meeting. This year’s discussion led to talks about Congregational vitality and discipleship, Racial justice and reconciliation, Care for creation and environmental stewardship, Global mission partnerships, Support for Pastor and Church leaders, Ministry with youth and young adults as well as Support for inclusion and gender and sexuality justice.

While decisions were made that maybe everyone didn’t completely agree with, what we did all agree with is that we are all leaves on the same tree and we must strive together as Christians to show the love of Christ in all that we do.

The days were long and complicated, and the free time was limited. But the entire week was to glorify God and serve the world faithfully.

Sincerely yours in Grace and Peace,

Randy Pettus

My name is Claire Frazier. I am from Decatur, Alabama, and go to Westminster Presbyterian Church. I was absolutely blessed to have the opportunity, from the North Alabama Presbytery, to be able to attend the 227th General Assembly(GA) as a Young Adult Advisory(YAAD) Delegate. In the months before General Assembly, I was very confused about what my role would be at General Assembly. I knew it was sort of a congress for the Presbyterian Church USA, but the details of how said congress behaved were very confusing to me. It wasn't until I attended the workshop hosted by the Synod of the Living Waters that Presbyterian Polity was fully explained to me, and I was able to gauge the scope of what I was doing. One assumption I made before the assembly was that it would be run strictly, with no room for mistakes regarding how polity was to be enforced. Once the assembly started, however, I found my expectations of General Assembly subverted in the best way.

The committee I was assigned to was the General Assembly Relations(GAR) committee moderated by Rev. Ruth Santana-Grace and Rev. Brent Sheffer. Both of the moderators subverted my preconceived notions of General Assembly by being gracious and light-hearted when I or any of my fellow committee members may have forgotten a certain policy used during GA. GAR was tasked with many very difficult and complex items of business, including reviewing and editing a 32-page Manual of Operations for the newly formed Presbyterian Life and Witness. This particular task took us 12 hours to get through, four hours of presentations, and 8 hours of debate and amending. Despite the laborious effort shared by all in the committee, Ruth and Brent were always there to ensure we stayed on track and even lighten the mood when things got tense. After 3 days of committee work on Zoom, despite being taxed, I was exhilarated for Milwaukee and to begin plenary.

Once in Milwaukee, I was fortunate enough to meet up with some of the YAADs from my committee to go to breakfast before a brief day of training for all the YAADS. I met and became close with many wonderful YAADs from outside and inside my committee and loved the genuine sense of duty and honor we all shared at being at General Assembly. During YAAD training, they briefed us on the many different things the PCUSA does and how we as youth could get involved. It was exciting to see the many opportunities the church extends to its youth members.

Once plenary began, I was awed by the sheer number of people around me, demonstrating the breadth of the PCUSA. Many issues were brought up, and many were very divisive; however, our fabulous moderators were able to keep everyone decent and in order, so that it never became too much of an issue. I was exhilarated to find out about the many advocacy organizations available in the PCUSA. It fills me with much joy to know that many of our brothers and sisters in Christ, who were traditionally excluded from church activities, have found representation within our church. As taxing as the long hours of plenary became, what kept me focused was knowing the importance of our actions on not just the church as a whole, but the importance of them on every member of the PCUSA.

**Claire, continued...**

To conclude my thoughts, I had a wonderful time at GA and am so incredibly grateful that I was offered the opportunity to attend. I have already been asked by many of my peers about the process to become a YAAD for the 228th General Assembly in Puerto Rico, which makes my heart so happy. If there is any opportunity I would recommend for any Youth wishing to become close to their denomination, it would be to become a YAAD.



## **A word from your Stated Clerk!**

### Lessons from General Assembly

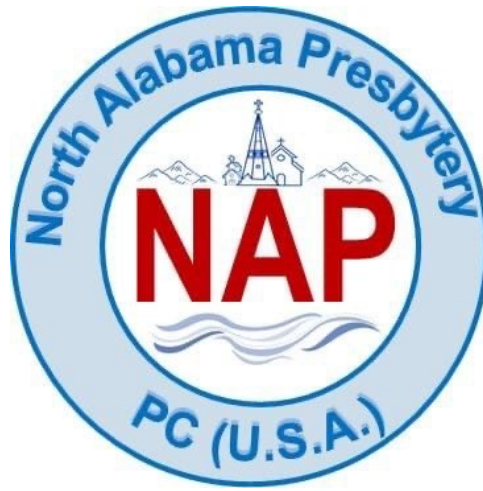
I'm so grateful for the privilege to be the North Alabama teaching elder commissioner to General Assembly #227 this summer! The meeting lasted 11 straight days and meetings went from 8 AM to around 8:30 PM, but one night until after 10:30! Not a commissioner left their seat unless for a quick bathroom break or to pick up a cup of coffee! It was inspiring to see the faithfulness of the commissioners.

Even though there were many strong feelings in the room on different issues, everyone did endeavor to treat each other with respect. Many times people came back to the microphone to apologize if they had said something that might be hurtful. What a wonderful lesson for us all to take home from this massive meeting. It was instructive for me.

It was interesting to see the running commentary on Facebook about different issues. Often times one line out of an hours-long discussion would be taken out of context and put on Facebook... So if you saw some of the Facebook commentary, it was not really representative of the body of work accomplished there. However, the Presbyterian Outlook did a very balanced presentation of many of the issues before the General Assembly. If you're interested in some of those issues, I recommend the Outlook!

Thank you for extending me the grace to go and be a part of this assembly... It was a once in a lifetime opportunity, And a privilege to serve!  
Peace! Jaina

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



### Executive Commission (EC)

**Rev. Greg Bentley**  
2026 NAP Moderator  
**Anita Raby**  
EC Moderator &  
2025 NAP Immediate Past  
Moderator  
**Dr. Randy Pettus**  
2026 NAP Vice Moderator  
**Carol Copeland**  
COM Moderator  
**Rev. Michael Bowe**  
CORN Moderator  
**Randy Pettus**  
BAPT Moderator

### 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  
**Linda Rass**  
**Wes Stubblefield**  
**Cindy Sasseeen**  
**Kelly Elmore**  
**Rev. David Kling**  
**Ted Dixie**  
**Julie Rice**

**Rev. Tripp Brogdon**  
**Rev. Robin Palmer**  
**Joyce Pettus-Temple**  
**Rev. Micheal Bowe**

### Committee on Representation & Nominating (CORN)

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

### Permanent Judicial Commission (PJC)

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

### Presbyterian Women

**Linda Faulk** Moderator  
**Barbara Allen** 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

*Anita Raby Moderator*

*Monday, August 17, 2026 , 1pm*

### Commission on Ministry

*Carol Copeland, Moderator*

*Thursday August 6, 2026 , 6pm*

### Business Affairs Team

*Randy Pettus, Moderator*

*Thursday August 13, 2026 , 4pm*

## 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.

## 2026 Important Dates

*reports.*

### **Presbyterian Women Fall Gathering September 8, 2026**

**Camp Maranatha, 1091 Jeffery Rd Scottsboro, Alabama 35769**

### ***NAP Fall Meeting***

*Tuesday, October 20, 2026*

*Camp Maranatha; Scottsboro, AL*

## 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**

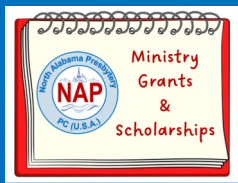
to take a good look at your membership rolls to ensure that your numbers reflect your active membership! The Statistical Reports that you file in January 2025 will be used for your 2026



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!

***If you have any changes in  
your Church Staff please let  
the NAP office know,  
[Rev.Jainaanderson@gmail.com](mailto:Rev.Jainaanderson@gmail.com)***



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

- ⇒ Westminster Decatur, \$15,000.00 HVAC system
- ⇒ First Guntersville \$20,000.00 HVAC in kitchen, drum set, projector screen, general maintenance
- ⇒ First Athens \$7,500.00 HVAC System
- ⇒ Senior Adult Ministry \$2,500.00 Start a new Ministry
- ⇒ Montreat \$3,000.00 Youth Camp

## **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](http://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](mailto:adminoffice@napcusa.org).
- ⇒ **BAPT meets monthly to review applications.**

**Have more questions? Contact Randy Pettus, Moderator of BAPT at [rjpettus@gmail.com](mailto:rjpettus@gmail.com)**