

**SERVICE FOR COMMISSIONING OF
COMMISSIONED RULING ELDER CHUCK KUKAL**

MODERATOR: We, who are many, are one body in Christ,

PEOPLE: and individually we are members one of another.

MODERATOR: We have gifts that differ according to the grace given to us: prophecy, in proportion to faith; ministry, in ministering; the teacher, in teaching; the exhorter, in exhortation; the giver, in generosity; the leader, in diligence; the compassionate, in cheerfulness. (Romans 12:5-8)

PEOPLE: Lead a life worthy of the calling to which you have been called, making every effort to maintain the unity of the Spirit in the bond of peace. There is one body and one Spirit, just as we were called to the one hope of our calling. One Lord, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who is above all and through all and in all. (Ephesians 4:1-6)

MODERATOR: Upon recommendation of the Commission on Ministry, the Presbytery has approved Chuck Kukal for commissioning as Commissioned Ruling Elder for Bold Spring Church in Birmingham, Alabama (Moderator asks the required Constitutional questions.)

MODERATOR: Prayer

PEOPLE: God of grace, in baptism you have called us to a common Ministry as ambassadors of Christ, trusting us with the message of reconciliation. Give us courage and discipline to follow where your servants rightly lead us, that together we may declare your wonderful deeds and show your love to the world; through Jesus Christ the Lord of all.

MODERATOR: On behalf of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, I welcome you to this ministry. May God's Holy Spirit empower you in the Ministry of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

**THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY
REPORT OF THE COMMISSION ON PREPARATION FOR MINISTRY
February, 2018**

FOR INFORMATION:

<u>INQUIRERS</u>	<u>CHURCH</u>	<u>INSTITUTION</u>
Emily Frandsen	Independent, Birmingham	Dubuque
Alexandra Hutson	First, Tuscaloosa	Columbia
Jack Key	First, Livingston	Columbia
Mary Sellers Shaw	Independent, Birmingham	Vanderbilt
Avery Smith	Grace, Tuscaloosa	Louisville
Samuel Turpen	Edgewood, Birmingham	Columbia
<u>CANDIDATES</u>		
Bennett Alldredge	First, Tuscaloosa	Princeton
Courtney Bowen	IPC, Birmingham	Louisville
Rachel VanKirk Mathews	First, Tuscaloosa	Columbia

FOR INFORMATION:

- 1) The commission completed final assessment of Courtney Bowen and certified her ready, pending a call, to be examined for ordination.
- 2) The commission completed final assessment of Rachel VanKirk Mathews and certified her ready, pending a call, to be examined for ordination.

FOR ACTION:

- 1) The commission recommends that Inquirer Mary Sellers Shaw of Independent Presbyterian, Birmingham, be approved by Presbytery for Candidacy (statements attached).

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry:
Barry DeLozier (2020), Kevin Floyd (2019), Joe Genau (2020), Cat Goodrich (2018),
Shelley Hancock (2020), Cal Holt (2018), Cathy Hoop (2018), Neeley Lane (2019),
Thecla Lindsey (2018), Gillie Presley (2019), Leanne Pearce Reed (2020),
and Leeann Scarborough (2019).

Respectfully Submitted,
Rev. Joe Genau, Moderator

Mary Sellers Shaw Faith Statement

I believe in one triune God—Father, Son, and Holy Spirit. I believe that God is omnipotent, omniscient, and omnipresent. I believe that God is the creator of the entire universe and of everything in it. I believe that God formed humanity by hand and breathed the Holy Spirit into human to give us life. I believe that God claimed His creation as “good” and that God loves all creation unconditionally.

I believe in Jesus Christ as the Son of God, who came as the Word incarnate to live among us. I believe that Christ was fully human and fully divine. I believe in the mystery of the incarnation and recognize that the nature of the incarnation, and of God, is beyond our human understanding. I believe that Christ lived and did ministry on earth, that he experienced the range of human emotions, and that he died on the cross for our salvation. I believe that Christ was resurrected from the dead and overcame the sins and evils of the world. I believe that Christ’s ministry lives on through the church and the work of the Holy Spirit.

I believe in the Holy Spirit as the living Word. I believe the Holy Spirit was breathed into the first human at creation and that the Spirit continues to move through the world today, connecting us with God and guiding us as we discern God’s call on our lives. I believe the Holy Spirit is present in the very air we breathe and that the Spirit works through both the written and spoken Word, as well as through the unwritten and unspoken presence.

I believe that the Bible is the written Word of God and that it represents a universal truth that is interpreted over time and space. I believe that scripture is holy, and I also believe that it is the inspired Word of God written by humans for particular contexts. I believe that scripture holds truth in modern times and that humans are continuing to seek who God is and what God is doing in the world. I believe that in scripture, we see God’s love, grace, and covenant for all of creation.

I believe that all humans were formed in the imago dei and that we each are called to be disciples in the world. I believe God’s ultimate call on our lives is to love God and to love and serve one another. I believe in the equality of all human beings, regardless of age, sex, gender, race, orientation, ability, or other identifying factor. I believe that God created each of us as unique beings and that we are called to celebrate diversity while also recognizing one another as each children of God.

I believe that humanity was tempted and fell into sin. I believe that we each are sinful and that we cannot escape from sin on our own. I believe that through grace alone, we are redeemed. I believe that we do good works in the world not as a requirement for salvation but as a sign of faith and as a response to God’s call on our lives.

I believe in the church as both an institution in the world and as the collective body of believers. I believe that the church is needed as a structure for people to gather, worship, and grow in faith. I also believe that the church should not act as an insular structure limited by building, congregation, or denomination. I believe the church universal is charged to feed the hungry, clothe the naked, care for the sick, comfort the broken, and embrace all people. I believe the church is not called to wait for people to come to it, but rather that the church and its members are sent into the world to love and serve it in community.

I believe in the sacraments of baptism and communion. I believe that baptism is a sign and seal of God’s covenant of love and salvation. I believe that in baptism, the baptized and the community of believers make a commitment to support one another in faith. I believe that one can be baptized at any stage of life and acknowledge one baptism in the name of the Trinity. I believe in the real presence of Christ at communion. I believe the bread and cup are both reminders of the sacrifice of Jesus Christ at the crucifixion and also are a sign of the life of Christ in the world today. I believe that the table is open to all who approach it and that communion is a sacred act that connects us with God.

Mary Sellers Shaw
Faith Journey

Someone once told me that if you can find the “thin red thread” in scripture of what its central message is for you, you will always have something to hold onto in the midst of any doubts or questions. Throughout my faith journey, I have found that my “thread” is the love of God for all of us and our call to love one another. I see God in the beauty and complexity of creation and in the fundamental goodness and humanity I believe can be found in all. Over and over again in life, I find myself coming back to these basic principles, whether in times of heartache or of joy.

Growing up Presbyterian, I found a home in the church. I loved the liturgy and the tradition, and I learned the importance of giving back to the community. I got involved in every aspect of the church that I could, and I discovered a deep sense of calling and connection with God through the sacrament of communion. In both serving the elements as a Ruling Elder or receiving them as a part of the congregation, I felt connected to God and to the mystery of the incarnation. Looking back, then, it seems natural that I first felt my sense of call as a high school student while taking communion at Montreat Youth Conference. I felt a call to serve others and to ministry—this sense of call, though, felt scary and uncertain as I began discerning what it might mean for my life.

Throughout college, I began wrestling with this sense of call and with who I was meant to be as a person of faith. I attempted to try out different avenues for service, hoping that one might be a fit. But in each experience, I felt that I was not being fully true to myself or sense of call—thus, with the support of my campus ministry as well as community back home, I continued to explore. I have felt like my discernment was a series of moments of “running away,” each time being led back to the path of ministry to which God was calling me. But while ministry as a vocation felt intimidating, I was consistently involved in my faith life and connected to a church community. Up to this point, faith had felt fairly easy. I might have had questions, but I trusted God and my community to live faithfully and treat one another well.

It was my year as a Young Adult Volunteer that brought about a new complexity to my faith. I struggled with questions about justice and theodicy, wondering how the God of goodness and love—a God I believe to always be just—would allow the suffering I witnessed on a daily basis in my work with those experiencing homelessness. The year also made me begin questioning the church and how we work in the world. If we are called to love and serve one another, why do we live in a world full of stereotypes and allow our justice system to be set up against those who need its help the most? And what is the church doing about it? I also, though, saw God’s love at work more deeply than I had ever before in the community that engulfed those with whom I was working. Amidst the deep sorrow of the world, there was true joy and hope.


This new questioning and exploring is what finally convinced me to follow the call to seminary. Throughout the past three years, my faith has been both questioned and deepened as I learn to wrestle with the unknown, all while going back to that “thread.” I have met people with fundamentally different theologies than my own, learned new terms like “soteriology” and “high and low Christology,” and discovered a renewed passion for seeing the sacred in the everyday. I have found deep and profound beauty in nature and in the complexity of human bodies and communities. And I have learned the importance of being brave and following God’s call, even when we do not necessarily know exactly where it leads. I have faith today that God is at work in the world through each of us. I am excited to continue this journey, growing closer to God and practicing a life of faithful service.

Transitional Presbyter Report

Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Meeting on February 23, 2018

Role of the TP:

1. to assist and oversee maintaining current on-going programs and services of the PSL;
2. to assist and guide the study and evaluation of current programs and services and development of long range goals and priorities;
3. to assist and guide creation of a proposed permanent staffing structure;
4. to serve as the leader/coordinator of the present staff team;
5. to fulfill all constitutional responsibilities of the chief administrative position in the PSL.

<p><i>Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley</i></p> <p><i>partner with and equip present and emerging</i></p> <p><i>PC(USA) faith communities in central Alabama</i></p> <p><i>to serve Christ and our neighbors</i></p>	
<p>Rev. Jay Wilkins</p> <p>Transitional Presbyter</p> 	<p>3603 Lorna Ridge Dr Birmingham, AL 35216</p> <p>205-978-0320 610-247-5413 (cell)</p> <p>jwilkins@pslpcusa.org</p>

Transition: I anticipate that this is my last report as your Transitional Presbyter since a report from the search committee for a General Presbyter is on the agenda. The five points in the “Role of the TP” at the top of this page have given me the focus of my ministry since May 2015. You have reached the point of calling a General Presbyter, focusing less on organizational transitions and more on encouraging and nurturing partnerships which equip the congregations to serve Christ and our neighbors.

Remember this wisdom which concludes our “Statement of Purpose”: “the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley will itself need to be transformed by the Holy Spirit as it creates new structures, redirecting its mission, reconnecting its members and refreshing its leaders to better serve God’s people in this time and place.” Transitions will continue to happen as we listen more carefully to each other and to God’s Spirit as to how we serve Christ and our neighbors, making faithful use of our gifts and resources.

I give thanks to God for you and for the invitation to join you in seeking to follow Jesus Christ, the way, the truth, the life, in this place, at this time.

PneuMatrix: We have completed the year with the PneuMatrix consultants, Jim Kitchens and Deborah Wright, and the leadership of our adaptive change apprentices, adventurers for the mission of God in our changing culture and congregations. The congregations participating were Cahaba Springs, Chapel in the Pines, Grace/Tuscaloosa, Montevallo, Mountain Brook, Shades Valley, Springville, First/Anniston, and Memorial-Westminster/Montgomery. The apprentices are now agents for navigating challenges and change without easy answers: Daniel Killilea, Catherine Mason, Lynda McClean, Kathryn Michael, Kevin Patton, Dot Riley, Leann Scarbrough, Lindsey Wade, and Nan Adams. Ask them what they have learned about “canoeing over the mountains” in their congregations. Listen for the exciting experiments and changes that are on the horizon in these congregations.

Some have asked -- when can we participate? Our agents are discerning if they would like to engage in a “Round 2” and the Commission on Ministry will seek funds for their expenses. Watch for announcement of the Presbytery’s next steps in partnering with and equipping congregations as we all face changes for which no simple answers exist.

Jay Wilkins

Madagascar Mango Mission -By Dan Turk



Dan and Elizabeth Turk are PC(USA) mission co-workers serving in Madagascar since 1997. Dan works with the FJKM church's Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education project which promotes fruit trees to help people increase income and improve nutrition and native trees to increase environmental awareness.

Mangos taste so good that many consider the mango the world's best fruit. But it has more qualities than flavor alone. The mango is one of few tropical fruits that grow well on low fertility soils and where there is a long dry season. Mangos are sold in local markets throughout the tropical world but can also be processed into dried fruit, drinks, pickles, and chutney. Mango wood burns well and makes good charcoal. In many parts of the tropics, including Madagascar, mango trees produce fruit during the time of year when other foods are scarce, providing calories and nutrition when many people go hungry. Children can use long sticks, throw rocks, and climb trees to get fruits for basic nourishment.

Mangos need a hot climate, more than 50 cm of yearly rainfall, and a dry season or some cool weather to promote regular flowering. Almost all of western Madagascar below 900 m elevation is suitable for growing mangos, and some mango trees produce well in parts of the east and some places of higher altitude. More land is suitable for growing mangos in Madagascar than any other major fruit grown without irrigation. Because of the ideal climate over much of the island, Madagascar is a major producer of mangos on a world scale, ranked 12th overall and 4th in Africa behind Nigeria, Egypt, and DR Congo (1997 statistics).¹

But most mangos currently grown in Madagascar are seedlings of low quality that were not planted and have received no horticultural attention. There is huge potential for improving mango production by growing selected grafted varieties. Grafting allows one to choose varieties that are highly productive, disease resistant, with large, low-fiber fruit of superior taste and keeping qualities. Grafted trees begin to bear fruit earlier than seedling trees; they are also much shorter and squatter than seedling trees, resulting in less fruit loss due to bruising. By growing grafted commercial-quality mangos, farmers can improve their lives via increased income, and help contribute to their families' food security by producing nutritious food during the hardship time of year.

Why the Church is Involved

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries in the world with some of the highest chronic childhood malnutrition anywhere. Despite the potential of fruits to help farmers get out of poverty, non-church

¹ S.K. Mukherjee, Introduction: Botany and importance. In R.E. Litz, ed., The Mango: Botany, Production and Uses. CAB International, 1997, p. 13

organizations are not currently very involved in fruit research and extension in Madagascar. This is partly because fruit extension work does not fit well with the 2 to 3 year project approach common to many development organizations. The church has a selective advantage in working with fruits because of its long-term outlook, concern for the well-being of all people, and deep-rooted community relations. The Fiangonan'i Jesoa Kristy eto Madagasikara (FJKM), PC(USA)'s partner denomination in Madagascar, believes that as Christians, we should help our neighbors both spiritually and physically. Reducing poverty and improving food security are important components of FJKM's outreach efforts. Growing mangos and other fruits fits well with the FJKM's strategic vision to reduce poverty and promote evangelism. The FJKM's Fruits, Vegetables, and Environmental Education (FVEE) Project, which is supported by funding from PC(USA) sources, is very involved in developing fruit growing in Madagascar.

The Fruit Center at Mahatsinjo

For many years having a tree nursery and orchard in a location ideal for growing mangos was a dream my colleagues and I shared. Then, in 2015, we found a place at about 800 m elevation at Mahatsinjo Maevatanana less than 4 hours to the NW of Antananarivo. The mayor of Mahatsinjo helped us acquire 13 ha of land. This land is now registered in the name of the FJKM.

A little over a month later construction began on a two-story multipurpose building to serve as a place where the nursery worker could live with a big room downstairs for conducting trainings. This building was completed and dedicated in May 2017. In January 2017, a temporary nursery was installed and we began planting the orchard. By June 2017, about 270 fruit trees had been planted, including 60 mango trees belonging to 23 selected varieties.

An irrigation system will be installed at the fruit center in early 2018. The water system will also provide drinking water for the center and the nearby village of Ambararata. Other activities for 2018 will include planting fast-growing trees to mark the boundary of the land and serve as a windbreak, growing as much perennial peanut as possible as a measure to help prevent damage from grass fires, planting fruit trees and native trees at local schools and public places as part of outreach activities in the Mahatsinjo community, extending the orchard, and continuing to graft mangos and other fruit trees in the nursery. Within a few years we should get up to several thousand grafted mango trees produced annually. We expect that the center will be financially sustainable within 5 years, mostly from the sale of grafted trees.

In 2018, trainings will begin at the fruit center to help local farmers and church groups learn to grow mango trees and to propagate them by grafting. Training participants will receive grafted trees to plant. In 2018 and 2019, two grafted mangos will also be among the fruit trees and native trees planted at each of 16 pilot schools chosen from the over 600 FJKM primary and secondary schools. Mangos will also be planted at 10 churches led by FJKM evangelists in SW Madagascar.

Acknowledgements

Getting selected mango varieties to Madagascar and setting up the fruit center at Mahatsinjo would not have been possible without collaboration with Presbyterian churches and other organizations in the USA. The Presbyterian Answer to Hunger (PATH) Committee of Central Florida Presbytery, Park Lake Presbyterian Church in Orlando FL, First Presbyterian Church Tuscaloosa AL, and Decatur Presbyterian Church in Decatur GA are some of the supporting churches that contributed significantly to this effort. The Watersheds Foundation has provided generous ongoing support. ECHO in N Fort Myers FL helped tremendously in the process of getting fruit trees from Florida to Madagascar.



LIVING RIVER

A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

Living River
 Shares Christ-like hospitality,
 Fosters stewardship of creation
 Nourishes faith
 For the transformation of the world.

Partnership and planning, especially with the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley (PSL) remain foundational in our disciple making and outreach efforts as Living River closes out 2017 and welcomes 2018 as a vital year in implementing our mission and ministry.

Living River ended 2017 with significant hallmarks that promise to bear much fruit in 2018:

- Lauren Allred was called in November 2017 as the Director of the Cahaba Environmental Center (CEC), Living River's public and private school educational arm. Lauren is a Ruling Elder from First Presbyterian Church of Anniston. The camping ministry of the PSL was influential in Lauren's calling through her attendance of Gulftreat as a camper, camp counselor during the nomad years and a Spiritual Formation Director during Living River's 2017 summer camping season. Lauren previously taught at the Donoho School in Anniston and earned a Master of Science in Education with a focus in Elementary education. Lauren already has demonstrated a passion and enthusiasm for building partnerships with community agencies and stakeholders.
- Living River and Cahaba Environmental Center received grant support from two PSL church affiliated foundations:
 - A 3 year grant from the Independent Presbyterian Church Foundation to provide an educational experience to 500 students from marginalized communities to the Cahaba Environmental Center
 - From the Southminster Presbyterian Church Foundation for Ministry a grant to support education and retreat to middle and high school students and their leaders on a faithful response to bullying and suicide.
- Financial donations received throughout the year and accelerated at the end of 2017 as well as increased attendance at 2017 summer camp and school year CEC programs resulted in a stronger financial picture at year end 2017 with the goal of financial sustainability.

Living River is starting 2018

- Americorp’s National Civilian Conservation Corp with its 10 young adults spent the month of January at Living River working on its trail system, garden and disc golf course, making all safer and more accessible and enjoyable.
- The Cahaba Environmental Center received the “Educator of the Year” award from the Cahaba River Society on Feb, 1, 2018 for its outstanding contribution to community education.
- Planning for spiritual formation and leadership development programs:
 - Riverpolooza for Elementary Children-April 14, 2018 in partnership with PSL’s ENC
 - Pastor’s Day Retreat- April 17, 2018 with Revs. Nick Reed and Betty Angelini
 - Summer Camp
 - Daycamps offsite
 - Elementary Children Retreat on Veteran’s week end
- Continuing Fundraising for a swimming pool, adult lodge and operational needs through the *Continuing the Joy Campaign*

Rejoice in our continued success based on numbers of users served for 2017

Campers Served

Year	Campers Served	User Days
2015	144	688
2106	255	1215
2017	268	1309

CEC Participants

Year	Participants Served	User Days
2015	1,225	1,659
2016	3,146	4,222
2017	3,074	4,212

**CONGO PARTNERSHIP TEAM
PRESBYTERY MEETING
FEBRUARY 23, 2018**

The last year was a busy year for your work in the Congo. The second school was finished and was officially opened and dedicated on Friday, February 9, 2018. In addition to the school we were able and will continue to give support for food, vulnerable children, seminary tuition and for education.

In the fall of 2016 through the spring of 2017 a conflict erupted in the normally calm area of West Kasai. A tribe in the southwest of the Kasai became especially angry with the government after their leader visited in South Africa. He saw roads, electricity and other amenities. After trying and failing to communicate with President Kabila. He declared “war” on the government. What resulted was killing of people who were associated with the government, burning of homes, crops, seed for planting, rapes and the displacement of thousands of people by the “rebels” and the government forces which also included mercenaries. Actually, across the Kasai 1.4 million people are displaced. There is a great shortage of food and seed for planting. We have sent and will send more to Presbyterian Disaster Assistance to aid in distributing seed and hoes for planting. We still need your support.

Why do we do this work? I was recently reminded of why by the Bible verse on a letter from one of our churches:

From Ephesians 4:12-13a :

“ to equip the saints for the work of ministry, for building up the body of Christ, 13. until we all attain the unity of the faith and of the knowledge of the son of God...”.

Belinda Dickinson
Congo Partnership Team





AN OPEN CAMPUS MINISTRY.
FOLLOWING CHRIST
FURTHERING THE KINGDOM

**UKirk Birmingham Report to Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
 February, 2018**

- UKirk Dinner & Worship was a success through our inaugural fall semester. We met at 6pm on Tuesdays for dinner, provided by members of various Birmingham congregations, followed by worship with communion. This semester, though, we meet on Wednesdays at 7pm so that UAB students who have lab on Tuesdays and Thursdays will be able to attend.
- UKirk Birmingham attended the College Conference at Montreat January 2-5. It was an incredible week for the six students and three chaperones who attended (and special thanks to the Hopkins from Southminster for their generosity in giving us a place to stay and to the Southminster Foundation for the financial aid that covered our registration costs).
- New students keep “popping up,” some of whom are from PC(USA) backgrounds and some who are from other Christian traditions plus a few from no church background, which is forming into a wonderfully diverse community.
- We have shirts (and students are wearing them proudly...and let me know if you want one, too)! The front has the “U” logo with UKirk BHM’s Three S’s: Sanctuary, Spirituality, Social Justice.
- A “Friends of UKirk Birmingham Meet & Greet” will take place on February 26 at 7pm at the Clubhouse on Highland to talk about specific ways people can join this ministry.
- We’re coordinating with departments of colleges to be present one day a week while also meeting students one-on-one for coffee and lunch.
- I’m continuing to visit churches to give a “pitch” or preach to 1) worship alongside churches in the Presbytery, 1) build relationships with congregations and potential students, and 3) to gather various forms of support.
- A website has been created and is continuing to be built: ukirkbirmingham.org
- A Instagram account is up and running: @ukirk_bhm
- Our Steering Team is looking into ideas for potential sources of revenue, and has launched a Resource Development Team whose work began this month. They are charged with discerning ideas for financial sustainability as this ministry continues to grow and form.
- Our Steering Team meets once a month to guide this new ministry as it continues to grow. The 2018 Steering Team is on the back of this sheet.
- Two Student Ministers, Lucy Green and Callie Nickles, began their work with UKirk in late January and will work with us through May. They are students at Samford, each discerning careers in vocational ministry. They have liaisons on our Steering Team who help support and pray for them: Catherine Goudreau is the liaison for Callie and Emily Burt is the liaison for Lucy.

Submitted by Rev. Patrick Harley, Campus Minister for UKirk Birmingham.

2018 UKirk Steering Team

Rev. Ben Acton - Southminster Presbyterian Church

Emily Burt - UAB graduate student, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Caleb Carter - UNA online student, First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

Emily Frandsen - Dubuque Seminary student, youth director at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, member of Independent Presbyterian Church

Rev. Joe Genau - Edgewood Presbyterian Church

Catherine Goudreau - Independent Presbyterian Church

Jeff Johnson - UAB faculty, Independent Presbyterian Church

Daniel Killilea (Chair) - South Highland Presbyterian Church

Annie Norris - BSC student, Independent Presbyterian Church

Emily Roberts - First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham

David Seamon - Independent Presbyterian Church

Rev. Dan Stephens - PSL member-at-large



Mission Coordinator's Report for Presbytery, Feb. 23, 2018

A Communicators Workshop is planned for Tuesday, April 24, 2018 at Southminster Presbyterian Church. The Workshop will be from 9:00-3:00pm. Lunch will be provided. The cost to attend is \$15 per person. More information will be coming.

The Workshop will be done by the Communicator's Network of the Presbyterian Mission Agency. This Workshop is for large and small churches. Topics to be covered include: Strategic Communications Planning, Media Relations, Social Media, and Church Websites.

Also, the Birmingham area churches in the Presbytery will sponsor a Habitat for Humanity house in the fall of 2018. Twelve Birmingham area churches offered money and volunteers for the house build in 2017. A total of \$45,000 had been raised, of which \$42,000 was spent to build the house. We saved \$3,000 for 2018. There were 66 work days by Presbyterians on the house (some people came and worked multiple days).

Centsability- A total of \$4,042.35 was raised for the Centsability offering in 2017. Presbytery matched the local churches' gifts to their local charities with \$1,800.

Commissioners' Report from the Meeting of the Synod of Living Waters, January 29, 2018

The Synod of Living Waters, comprised of the presbyteries of Alabama, Kentucky, Mississippi and Tennessee, met for an annual meeting on January 29, 2018 at First Presbyterian Church of Franklin, TN. The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley was represented by Synod Commissioners Elizabeth Goodrich and Byung Ho Kang, PSL Stated Clerk Tom Winter, Eva Carter, in her role as a member of the Permanent Administrative Commission for the Synod of Living Waters, and Mark McCormick, representing Stillman College.

The meeting began with worship, with Rev. Warner Durnell, Executive Presbyter of Middle Tennessee, preaching. The business meeting followed worship. Items of note from the business portion of the meeting include:

- 1) Mr. Leonard Jordan was installed as Moderator of the Synod.
- 2) The Synod Stated Clerk's report noted that the minutes of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley were approved without exception and noted to be in very good order.
- 3) Rev. Terry Newland, Stated Clerk and Synod Executive, and a member of this presbytery, announced that he plans to retire in the summer of 2019.
- 4) Financials for the Synod and Living Waters for the World, our Synod's clean water mission project (now a separate 501c3 organization), were reviewed and found to be in good order. A clean audit for the year was also reported.
- 4) Rev. Ann Kelly, Moderator of the Permanent Administrative Commission of the Synod, reported several actions of the commission, including the establishment of Living Waters for the World as a separate 501c3 organization, and the establishment of a Visioning Task Force to "consider the mission, purpose, funding, and staffing pattern of the Synod in light of the establishment of Living Waters for the World as a separate 501c3 organization and the planned retirement of the Synod's current executive/stated clerk/treasurer by July 2019."
- 5) Additionally, the PAC made three recommendations which were all approved by the Synod: raising of Synod per capita to \$3.98, the adoption of the proposed budget for 2018, and that the annual meeting of the Synod take place on January 28, 2019 at a time and place to be determined.
- 6) Finally, the Synod heard brief reports from the Board of Pensions and the Presbyterian Mission Agency, as well as several institutions with whom we have covenant relationships: Stillman College, Centre College, Maryville College, King University, and Columbia Theological Seminary.

The meeting concluded with prayer.

Respectfully Submitted,

Rev. Elizabeth Goodrich and Mr. Byung Ho Kang

**Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
2017 Necrology**

Ruling Elders

Cahaba Springs

Renate Dauser – November 4
Mac Riley – January 8
Betty Thomas – November 3
Erwin Betts – December 7

Center Point

Gwen Bowie – April 8
Paula Haynes – April 23

Chapel in the Pines

Bob Chavies – July 29
Hester Wills – February 13

Dodson Memorial

Stuart Rice – March 4
Aubrey Bannister – October 8

First, Alex City

John Hopson – January 3
Mary Ann Hardy – February 1
Bill Hardy – April 13

First, Anniston

Elizabeth Buckelew Richardson – February 17
Geraldine Rooks Hester – March 11
Watson Cummins Beaty – April 29

First, Birmingham

Mrs. Will Gaines Holmes – May 23

First, Eufaula

Harry Frank Murdaugh, Sr. – June 15

First, Livingston

Thomas Clifton Looney – July 28

First, Phenix City

Catherine (Kitty) Fair – April 1

First, Sylacauga

Pepper Grubbs – February 15
John Carter – August 18

First, Wetumpka

Bill Lambert – January 12

First United, Anniston

Thelma Melvin – July 24

Five Mile

Maryalys Griffis – January 27

Gardendale

Alma Fitzgerald Lawrence – November 15

Independent

Mrs. Frank E Boyd, Jr. – March 3

William Ernest Dismukes – June 19

Clarence C. Wiley, Jr. – June 22

Carey F. Hollingsworth, Jr. – July 28

Charles S. Northen, III – July 1

J. Whitfield King, Jr. – August 23

Calvin R. Shaffer – September 25

Mark L. Rowe – May 14

A. Clark Simpson, Jr. – November 5

Korean, Anniston

Kee Son – November 23

Memorial

Jo Sears – July 22

Oakmont

Charlotte Powell – July 16

Thomas E. Peden – December 19

Second

Fanella (Nell) Barnes Hennessy – April 27

South Highland

Corvin H. Clark – April 26

Beverly Gott – March 30

Stephanie Thompson – September 21

Southminster

Eva "Minnie" Black – February 15

Daniel Ralston "Dan" Caldwell – June 26

Benajah Thompson "Tommy" Tillman – August 29

James William "Jim" Clark – September 1