

Presbytery of
Sheppards and Lapsley
COMMISSIONER PACKET



Summer Stated Meeting
August 17, 2023

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
8790 Vaughn Road
Montgomery, AL 36117
334-260-0567

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IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING August PRESBYTERY MEETING

This Presbytery meeting will be a Hybrid meeting (in person and zoom).

Below are important details regarding registration link, link for the Presbytery meeting and packet link.

Information for ALL Presbytery meeting participants

Presbytery Registration (No later than Friday, August 11)

Please use the link below to register for the meeting. It is very important that you register by August 11th, no later than noon. This is so we can get an accurate number for a quorum, lunch reservations and so that admission from the waiting room goes smoothly.

<https://forms.gle/xUae6HSi8VBKoUDD7>

Packet Link

Ministers and Commissioners, please download and read the presbytery packet before the meeting. Click the following link for the packet: <http://pslpcusa.org/meetings/>

Scroll to the bottom of the page and click the links for the packet and the previous meeting minutes.

A Worship folder will be sent out the day before the meeting.

Information for Zoom participants only

Presbytery meeting Zoom link

For the day of Presbytery, August 17th beginning at 9:00 AM (see link below) The actual meeting will begin at 9:30 AM. (As you enter, you will start in the "waiting room." Please be patient - you'll be brought into the main room as soon as possible.)

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/83903027637?pwd=eThxOkRJaTN0RjlpNU9BQkRFK2ZqZz09>

Meeting ID: 839 0302 7637

Passcode: 726066

You may also join us via telephone call. To call in, dial - 1 312 626 6799

IMPORTANT: If you have a video, presentation, or want to share your screen, please contact us no later than Friday, August 11th. This is so the meeting will go smoothly with no technical issues.

In person participants – please review pages 2-3

ATTENDING A PRESBYTERY MEETING

As a Commissioner to the Presbytery, we welcome you! When you arrive, there will be a registration area for those that did not register online. **(Please fill out a registration card even though you registered online)** Worship folders and nametags will be available for pickup.

The meeting time of Presbytery is 9:30 AM until 3:00 PM., with registration beginning at 9:00 a.m. All the business of the Presbytery is contained in this packet.

The packet will detail items that you, as a commissioner, will need to take action upon and items for your information. Some items will have discussion, and some items will be contained within an omnibus motion. All items in the omnibus motion are voted on at one time, during the Clerk's report. As a commissioner, if you desire to ask a question or debate any item you need to stand at the time of the motion's presentation and request that item be extracted. The item will then be removed and voted upon separately. Information items come from various committees and entities of the Presbytery that wish to inform you of things they are working on or committee actions they are empowered to take.

On the day of the meeting, a worship folder will be distributed. This worship folder will contain, in order, all the items that will be presented to the commissioners. The difference between the packet and the worship folder is that the worship folder will not have supplemental material, such as faith statements, addendum and resource items. The packet and worship folder are meant to go hand in hand to help you with the flow and business of the meeting.

Please read the introductory items in the packet. These items contain information about parking, directions to the meeting, how to make motions if you wish, and information on parliamentary process.

The meetings of Presbytery have been designed to provide opportunities for the community to worship and discuss issues together, as well as do the business that is before it for consideration.

Again, welcome!

GUIDELINES FOR PARTICIPATING IN PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

1. When speaking at Presbytery, please address the Moderator and not the body. (Zoom: Raise your hand)
2. Introduce yourself, by stating your name, church and role.
3. Our rules are that each speaker during debate has up to two minutes to address the issue to which they are speaking. The Moderator may give a 30-second warning, so that you may conclude your remarks.
4. Only enrolled commissioners are authorized to vote on issues. Corresponding members are entitled to address the Presbytery.
5. Any motion made from the floor (be it a new motion, a substitute motion or an amended motion) must be given to the Stated Clerk in writing, at the time the motion is made. (Zoom: Through Chat room)
6. Any new business must be placed in the hands of the Stated Clerk, **before** the approval of the docket. (Zoom: through the chat room by 11:00 AM)

SAVE THE DATES FOR 2023-2024 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

August 17	Immanuel Presbyterian Church	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
November 16	Presbyterian Home for Children	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
February 15	Northern Heights Presbyterian Church	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM

GENERAL NOTES FOR THIS MEETING

1. The offering for this meeting will go to the **Commission on Preparation for Ministry's scholarship fund and the Presbytery Pastoral Care fund**. Please make checks payable to *Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley* or you may use the QR code to the right. Please indicate your donation as "Presbytery offering".
2. Requests to include **audio-visual presentations** at the Presbytery Meeting should be addressed to Tammy Strickland at tstrickland@pslpcusa.org no later than Friday, August 11, 2023.
3. Requests for an **excused absence** from today's meeting should be addressed to the Stated Clerk, Jay Wilkins at statedclerk@pslpcusa.org or 205-978-0320, ext. 305.
4. Please contact Tammy Strickland at tstrickland@pslpcusa.org by Friday, August 11, 2023 to reserve **display space (tables) for this meeting**.

 **PayPal**



Scan. Pay. Go.

Please turn in your hanging name badge when the meeting is concluded.

STAY CONNECTED

If you would like to receive the Presbytery newsletter, please contact Tammy at tstrickland@pslpcusa.org. For more information about the Presbytery, please visit our website at <http://www.pslpcusa.org>.

LUNCH

Immanuel is graciously preparing lunch (\$10) for attendees of this meeting (cash or check only). Please purchase tickets during registration. Make checks for lunch payable to **Immanuel Presbyterian Church**.

DIRECTIONS/ MAP

You can GPS to the address below:

Immanuel Presbyterian Church
8790 Vaughn Road
Montgomery, AL 36117
334-260-0233

From Tuscaloosa:

Take 459 East to exit I-65 South

Take I-65 South to I-85 North to Atlanta

Take the Taylor Road Exit and turn right

Follow Taylor Road to Vaughn Road and turn left

Immanuel PCUSA, 8790 Vaughn Road, on the right, just past Deer Creek Subdivision

From Anniston/Talladega/Wetumpka:

US 231 S to East Blvd. N, turn left

East Blvd. N to I-85 N to Atlanta

Take the Taylor Road Exit and turn right

Follow Taylor Road to Vaughn Road and turn left

Immanuel PCUSA, 8790 Vaughn Road, on the right, just past Deer Creek Subdivision

From Birmingham:

South on I-65 to I-85 N to Atlanta

Take the Taylor Road Exit and turn right

Follow Taylor Road to Vaughn Road and turn left

Immanuel PCUSA, 8790 Vaughn Road, on the right, just past Deer Creek Subdivision

From Eufaula

North on I-65 to I-85 N to Atlanta

Take the Taylor Road Exit and turn right

Follow Taylor Road to Vaughn Road and turn left

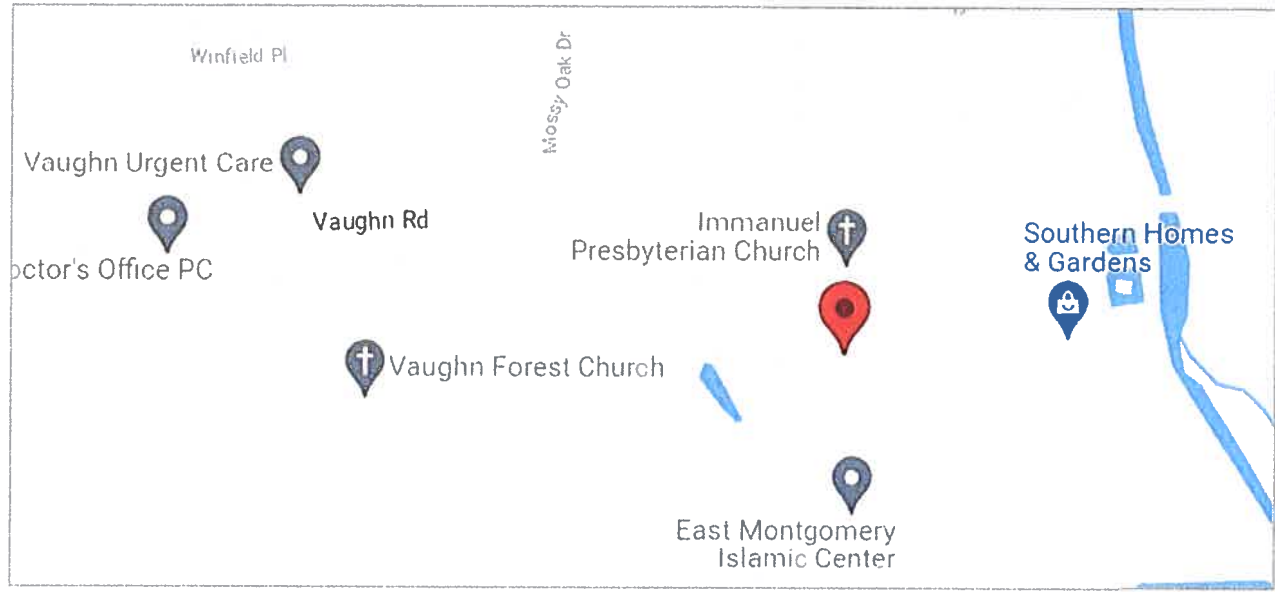
Immanuel PCUSA, 8790 Vaughn Road, on the right, just past Deer Creek Subdivision

From Auburn/Opelika:

Take I-85 South to Taylor Road Exit, turn left

Follow Taylor Road to Vaughn Road and turn left

Immanuel PCUSA, 8790 Vaughn Road, on right, just past Deer Creek Subdivision



Proposed Presbytery Meeting Docket
August 17, 2023
Immanuel Presbyterian Church, Montgomery AL

1:40	Finance Committee	Tom Bryson
1:50	Small Church Committee of ENC	Neil McCarter
2:00	Mission Update	Ralls Coston
2:10	Prayer for Mission Partners	Jim Truesdell, Frontier Fellowship
2:15	Living River	Rachel Van Kirk Mathews
2:25	Trustees	Lant Davis
2:35	Nominating Committee	Rick Atkerson
2:40	Stated Clerk	Jay Wilkins
	Reports from Administrative Commissions	
	Session Minutes Review	
	New Business (Action Items Only)	
2:50	Presbyterian Home for Children -- video and invitation	Doug Marshall
3:00	Adjournment with Prayer	Moderator Ed Hurley

Please join the Antiracism Committee of the
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley for a
Antiracism Retreat featuring:



Dr. William Yoo, Associate Professor of
American Religious and Cultural History
at Columbia Theological Seminary



Rev. Gregory Bentley, Co-moderator
of the 224th General Assembly
and Pastor of Fellowship Presbyterian
Church in Huntsville, AL

When: August 21, 8:30 am - 3:00 pm

Where: Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL

Details and Registration at pslpcusa.org

This retreat counts as PC(U.S.A.) pastor's Antiracism training for this year.

THE LEGACY OF SHADES VALLEY PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

It is with great sadness that Shades Valley Presbyterian had to shutter its doors, but with great jubilation that, through the guiding hand of God, as a result of our merger with Southminster, our commitment to the love of Christ flowing through us continues. It flows from our previous investments— materially through the sale of the property on Montevallo Road and spiritually through the values evidenced in all our relationships.

The sale of the property generated a significant Legacy for Shades Valley. As Presbyterians, we trust that all that we have comes from God and belongs to God. The proceeds of the property sale are resources entrusted to us by God to serve God's mission in the church and the world. The Session of Shades Valley established a Property Proceeds Stewardship Committee to bring recommendations for the faithful use of the proceeds. After several months of diligent deliberations, the committee made and the Session approved its recommendations. The plan, as adopted, involves two facets: An initial "First Fruits" Major Gifts and secondly Long Term Giving through endowed funds.

First Fruits: Initial Major Gifts

In the ancient tradition of giving from the "first fruits," Shades Valley has made immediate initial gifts to seven of our long-term mission partners. We consulted with each partner and listened to their current needs and priorities. The projects identified will have a significant and transformative impact. These gifts reflect the deep values of our congregation and the strength of our relationships with our mission partners. All of these gifts totaling \$1,075,000 have been distributed as follows:

Stillman College \$250,000 This gift supports the Winsborough Living and Learning Center, a restoration of historic Winsborough Hall. Winsborough Hall was the first dormitory for women at Stillman and was funded by the Presbyterian Women. The Center will provide apartments for low-income seniors who will benefit from interacting with Stillman students, faculty and staff in a unique social and cultural learning environment.

Firehouse Ministries \$190,000 This gift was to support the purchase of property across the street from the current shelter for the Safe Sleep Initiative. Safe Sleep was to provide space for those who cannot engage with the existing homeless shelter system, including micro shelters that would allow homeless families to remain united. **Update** The owner of the desired property, once found, would not sell; therefore a modification to the plan was made whereby the Firehouse Board and Staff submitted a group of eight other desperately needed projects which are primarily facility enhancements or quality of life enhancements for the residents. This change was approved by the Southminster Session. We also encouraged them to continue pursuing the purchase of a suitable property for the Safe Sleep Initiative.

Greater Birmingham Ministries \$175,000 This gift will allow GBM to pay off the mortgage on its property, freeing up funds to hire new staff and add new programs. It will also provide for updating failing HVAC systems with energy efficient heat pumps, resulting in savings of over \$11,000 annually. **Update** The mortgage has been paid off!

Living River \$150,000 This gift will support the updating of the Shades Valley/Terry Newland Adult Lodge, a popular retreat destination that sleeps 16. Improvements will include adding a small playground, updating flooring, light fixtures, and furnishings, and interior and exterior painting. **Update** This work is virtually complete and the Lodge looks magnificent. It is currently in use during the summer camp sessions. The plan is to rededicate the facility during the Fall Open House.

Presbyterian Home for Children \$150,000 This gift will enable the building of tiny homes at Union Village, an innovative program at PHC that provides affordable, secure housing for disabled adults in partnership with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind (AIDB). The housing will be affordable for residents in need yet will provide perpetual income to help fund PHC's core mission of caring for at risk and homeless children.

Christian Medical Institute of Kasai in Tshikaji, Democratic Republic of Congo (IMCK) \$110,000 This gift will enable the IMCK health center to purchase a vehicle to support rural health services, drill a well to provide clean drinking water, and make improvements to the hydroelectric system. The IMCK health center includes the Good Shepherd hospital, nursing and medical technology schools, a nutrition center, outpatient clinics, and more. **Update** About half of these funds have been spent most significantly for some new computers to strengthen the unit's overall computer system. The purchase of the vehicle will be made soon when it can be ordered directly from the factory at a reduced cost, and the well and hydroelectric system work is awaiting technical support.

Habitat for Humanity \$50,000 This gift will support family sponsorship and new home construction for one house build. It will have a long-term impact by allowing a low or moderate income family to access affordable, comfortable, safe housing for life. We actively participated in the build as volunteers. **Update** The Habitat house build is complete. The ground breaking was held on March 16th with the dedication taking place on June 21st. The happy homeowner is Xaiver Burch and her family.

Long-term Giving: Endowed Funds in excess of \$5,200,000

Recently the Session of the merged church adopted the policy for the Legacy Endowment Funds Ministry. Three funds have been established and will be overseen by the Southminster Session. An annual spending formula will be approved designating the amount of money that will be drawn from the funds for the subsequent year as a distribution and spent according to the restrictions of the funds. The funds have been invested in a manner with the goal to achieve a long term annual return that outpaces the spending formula over time and that targets growing the corpus of the funds in order to at least keep up with inflation. The funds and their percentage investment are:

Mission and Benevolence Endowment Fund – 50% This fund will be invested in perpetuity to support annual benevolence and mission giving by Southminster. In addition to the funds from the Mission and Benevolence Endowment, the merged church will continue to support mission giving from pledges and from the funds of the combined Southminster and former Shades Valley foundations.

Southminster Ministry Endowment Fund – 30% This fund will also be invested in perpetuity and will support the ministry of the church in growing disciples. Funds will be used to support ministries of the church including such areas as worship and music, Christian education, evangelism, etc.

Capital Facilities Endowment and Reserve Fund – 20% This fund will be treated as both an endowment and as a reserve fund. In normal years, only the earnings will be available for use. However, in the case of major capital needs, the corpus of this fund may be drawn on with the approval of the Session. This fund may be used for projects to maintain and improve the physical plant, aesthetics, and safety of the buildings and grounds. Southminster's existing capital reserve fund will be combined with this fund.

To God be the glory!

Through changes and challenges over 78 years as a congregation, God has been faithful to Shades Valley. We give thanks for all that has come before and for the Spirit's leading us into the future of a shared life with Southminster. While a new chapter begins for us as part of the merged congregation, the legacy of Shades Valley Presbyterian Church will live on. Through our immediate and long-term gifts, the love of Christ we have come to know within the walls of the place we called Shades Valley Presbyterian Church will continue to be shared.



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)



Keenan Rodgers
Church Consultant

m: 215-341-8143

krodgers@pensions.org

Summer 2023

We at the Board are working hard to support our ministers and employees of the Presbyterian Church (USA) in new and creative ways. If you have other ideas about how we can help, please let me know. I am happy to meet with presbytery and church committees to listen to your thoughts and hopes of how we can strengthen the benefits offered to those who serve the Church.

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

A Season of Rebuilding

At the Board of Pensions, we are committed to assessing and restructuring the Benefits Plan of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.) to meet the needs of a changing Church and to serve the most people possible. The Board has entered a season of rebuilding in which our goal is to make necessary changes to provide great flexibility and cost control for congregations as they care for the well-being of their pastoral leadership. Our vision is for all ministers ordained in the PC(USA) to be plan members. [Read more.](#)

Medicare Advantage plan to replace Medicare Supplement Jan. 1, 2024

The new Humana Group Medicare Advantage PPO plan will provide retirees more services and benefits than are available through Medicare Supplement, and at lower costs. These will include medical, dental, vision, and hearing aid benefits, prescription drug coverage, and other wellness support, including SilverSneakers, the popular fitness program for older Americans. Retired members will pay no subscription fees for the new plan for the first four years. Current Medicare Supplement participants will be automatically enrolled in the Humana plan for 2024 coverage, unless they choose to opt out. [Read more.](#)

Other important information:

The Assistance Program: As part of our commitment to mutual care and wholeness, the Board of Pensions has once again expanded access to the Assistance Program to serve more ministers, employees, retirees, and surviving spouses who have financial need. The latest Assistance Program expansion includes broadened eligibility, increased grant amounts, and two new grants. [Read more.](#)

Directors grant experience apportionment: The Board of Directors granted a 4.2 percent experience apportionment for the Defined Benefit Pension plan. Effective July 1, 2023, this apportionment will result in an increase in retirement and survivor pensions benefits for pension plan members and survivors as well as an increase in the pension credits accrued as of December 31, 2022, for active and vested terminated members of the pension plan. [Read more.](#)



THE BOARD OF PENSIONS
OF THE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (U.S.A.)

2000 Market Street | Philadelphia, PA 19103-3298 | 800-773-7752 (800-PRESPLAN)

pensions.org

Report of the General Presbyter
Sue Westfall
August 2023

Greetings in these dog days of August! The summer has found many of our pastors and other leaders headed across the pond, to the beach or mountains, or at least enjoying some kind of vacation. If this applies to you, I applaud your sabbath-keeping. The Bible is clear that sabbath is not just a good idea. It's the law. :)

- And, meanwhile, our congregations are holding Vacation Bible Schools, our youth are going to camp (both senior camp at Montreat and middle-school camp at Maryville), churches are hosting church family get-togethers of many kinds, putting themselves to work in community gardens, and gathering for Bible studies and worship with vitality and enthusiasm. Many of our preachers are working their way through the lectionary offerings of Matthew and the brave ones are even selecting the Romans passages.
- The Nominating Committee will soon begin its work of nominating people for all the commissions and committees of the presbytery. It's really rewarding to work on the presbytery's entities because you get to meet and work with a lot of very cool people from all around the presbytery. If you are feeling a nudge – or would like to nudge someone else - shoot me an email and I'll be sure to get the names to the Nominating Committee. swestfall@pslpcusa.org
- The Administrative Commissions you elected at our May meeting are hard at work as they attend to the sacred task of helping churches close with dignity, thanksgiving, and legacy. And sometimes the work of closing takes a surprising twist when, instead of closing, a church takes a creative look at a possible merger! The sessions of 2nd Presbyterian Church and Edgewood Presbyterian Church have both voted to explore the possibility of just such a merger. Keep them in your prayers!
- I hope you will join me and the Anti-Racism Committee for a special time of learning and discussion with renown author, Dr. William Yoo. Dr. Yoo is a professor at Columbia Theological Seminary. His book, *What Kind of Christianity* is well summed up by the book's subtitle: *A History of Slavery and Anti-Black Racism in the Presbyterian Church*. Former moderator of the PCUSA, the Reverend Gregory Bentley will be on hand to facilitate our discussion. (You do not have to have read the book to benefit from this presentation.) Originally planned for an overnight at Living River, it quickly became clear that a larger venue was needed. The event is Monday, August 21st from 8:30am to 3:00pm at Mountain Brook Presbyterian Church, 3405 Brookwood Rd. Lunch will be \$10. This satisfies the required anti-racism training for this year.
- Boundary Training is scheduled for Tuesday, October 17 at 11:30am. More details to follow but we are recording this training to make it available for subsequent trainings.
- Faith in Action Alabama hosted a clergy conference in June which was excellent! The Executive Director, Daniel Schwartz and local organizer, JaiGregory Clarke

met with our Executive Council to forge a partnership so that the presbytery can have a more significant impact on matters of state.

- We have the joy of installing two new minister members of the presbytery. Nicole Newton will be installed as the Associate Pastor for First Presbyterian, Birmingham on Sunday, August 20 at 3:00pm. And In Chan Bae will be installed pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church, 7814 Helena Rod, Pelham on August 13 at 4:30PM. It is a joyous occasion to welcome these new colleagues!

God is doing many good things in and through the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. Thanks be to God!

COM Report
August 2023

Information:

1. Recommended to the Trustees that Leeds be allowed to sell their manse.
2. Approved the Ministry Discernment Profiles for South Highland, Birmingham, and Grace, Tuscaloosa.
3. Approved the Rev. Richard Hanna to moderate a congregational meeting of Oakmont Chapel, Hoover, on July 23, 2023.

Action Items:

1. Examine and approve the Rev. Sharon Schuler to transfer her membership to the presbytery as honorably retired.
2. Examine and approve the Rev. Rachel Winter as the installed pastor at Oakmont Chapel, Hoover. Effective Salary, \$56,595; Professional Development, \$4,000; Vacation, 4 weeks; Study Leave, 2 weeks. Installation will be September 10 at 4:00 pm. Installation Commission will be approved at the November presbytery meeting.
3. Approve the request of First, Phenix City, to begin the process of moving from Sheppards and Lapsley to Flint River Presbytery.
4. Appoint an Administrative Commission to Second, Birmingham. Members: Sam Hamilton-Poore, Rachel Winter, Bill Stribling, Mary Clyde Teague, TJ Holmes
5. Examine and approve the Rev. Bohye Choi to serve as part-time associate pastor for King's Cross, Birmingham, and for temporary membership in the presbytery.
6. Approve the Installation Commission for the Rev. Nicole Newton at First, Birmingham on August 20, at 3:00 pm. Rev. Lydia Casey, Rev. Dr. Ed Hurley, Rev. Dr. Joe Scrivner, Carl Martin, deNay Kirkpatrick, and visiting member Rev. Lindsey Clifton (Lehigh Presbytery)

Sharon A. Schuler
Statement of Personal Faith

I believe in the one triune God. I trust that the Father and Creator of all things is active and present in the world today as always. I personally accept the saving grace freely offered to me through the crucified and risen Christ Jesus, Son of God and Son of humankind, whom I confess as my Lord and Savior, my salvation and hope. I claim the power of the Holy Spirit as comforter, counselor, advocate, and guide in my life daily.

I believe the God of creation continues to re-create the world and its people. This YHWH is the almighty and omnipotent master architect of all that was, is, and ever shall be. In God's covenant promises of abundant life, people of every time and place are assured of God's loving care and God's righteous judgment. In majesty and sovereignty, the Lord God wills and decrees all things in heaven and on earth as part of God's eternal being and plan for the salvation and reconciliation of all creation.

I believe that in the birth, life, death, and resurrection of Jesus Christ, God's holy plan for all of creation was consummated. Fully human, fully divine, the person of Jesus of Nazareth of the New Testament is the Christ, the Messiah. In Christ's life, Christians have a model for understanding and living into the kingdom of God. In Christ's death and resurrection, God's perfect will for all was made complete, and God's forgiveness was made available for all who believe. In Christ, we people who live in darkness are beckoned out of the shadows of sin into the light of wholeness through the grace of the cross.

I believe the Holy Spirit, who was present, at work, and as one together with the Father and the Son at the very beginning of time, is still at work among God's people and God's creation today. Standing with, for, beside, and in all believers, the Holy Spirit leads the way toward the glory of life lived in the light of God's love. Even in the midst of our flawed human lives, this Holy Spirit guides people along the path of sanctification transforming us as we travel life's journey of faith here on earth.

I believe in the authority of scripture as the Word of God. The written Word which has survived and thrived over the centuries in the inspired words of the Biblical writers, is the sourcebook for all who would be faithful disciples of the Living Word, Jesus Christ. Just as God's presence continues to will and work within this world, so the words of scripture continue to call, engage, correct, and encourage people who have eyes to see and ears to hear.

As a Reformed and Presbyterian Christian, I believe the church is the visible, earthly gathering of those who are members of the body of Christ. Together with believers of every time and place, I believe that as members of this body, we proclaim one faith in Jesus Christ as Lord and Savior; share one baptism by water and by the power of the Holy Spirit; partake, with the communion of saints throughout the ages, of the sacred bread and cup as signs of the body and blood of Christ; and pray without ceasing for peace, justice, and restoration. As a beloved child of God, I rejoice that there is nothing in life or in death that can separate me from the love of God in Christ Jesus my Lord.

Sharon A. Schuler – Faith Journey

I cannot remember a time when I did not know myself to be a beloved child of God. Blessed to be born into a Christian family, my parents and I helped start two new churches in what was then known as the Birmingham Presbytery: Huffman and Oakmont.

I was baptized as an infant in 76th Street Presbyterian Church in Birmingham, Alabama. Nurtured by parents and a dedicated church family, I grew in the Biblical stories of the Old and New Testament in Sunday School classes and Vacation Bible School. During my teenage years I was active in youth group at Oakmont before moving my church membership to Shades Valley to be near my high school friends.

One of the most formative opportunities I experienced was to serve as one of two youth representatives to the World Missions Conference at Montreat. I have returned to that beautiful setting time and time again to soak in the sacred atmosphere fostered in that place. Experiencing Montreat with my young sons was a special time of bonding with them in the presence of the holy.

I have taught every age group in Sunday School and Bible study. It was in teaching that I found myself being called to share God's Word in a different way. After resisting the call to more formal ordained ministry. I have served as a deacon and an elder in the local congregation, and participated in the Lay Pastor Training offered by the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley in 2000. I served as Commissioned Lay Pastor for Carbon Hill Presbyterian and for Center Point Presbyterian, thinking that part-time pastoral ministry was where my future lay, especially since I was older – a “second career” student as they graciously say. Yet, God's claim on my life continued to demand more. In July 2004 I resigned my full-time job in the construction industry and packed my bags for Columbia Theological Seminary. This has been a life-changing experience and I've never looked back.

Whether teaching or preaching, I give all the glory to the Holy Spirit for continuing to work in my life as a person and as a pastor. The Spirit has enabled me to serve churches in Monticello, Florida and Fort Walton Beach, Florida. I found a supportive and challenging home in Florida Presbytery where I served as Moderator 2019-2020. I was a volunteer for OGA during two General Assemblies which broadened my understanding. Of the connectional nature of our denomination. Every opportunity for ministry and mission has brought me closer to the love of Jesus Christ and solidified my faith in his grace and mercy. Now, in retirement, I am still hungry to hear and share God's Word in any way I can.

I would be terribly remiss if I did not include my husband, John Schuler, as an integral part of my ministry. We met at seminary and were married there in 2006. We have been partners in ministry ever since. Also, I thank God for my sons, Andy and Ben Acton, who have followed the call to ordained ministry in the local parish. They are an inspiration to me and a source of challenge and comfort.

There is no doubt that in my faith journey, I have found *“The place God calls [me] to is the place where [my] deep joy and the world's great hunger meet.”* (Frederick Buechner).

Christian Testimony Bohye Becky Choi

I am blessed and fortunate to be born as the fourth generation of Christian in my family. I grew up with my grandparents who were conservative Christians. I remember my grandmother gathering the family to begin each morning with thanksgiving and praise to God. For a long time, my grandfather was very sick and watching my grandmother fervently pray to God has taught me to become an intercessor. From the early stage of my life, I was taught to worship God and to seek Him always. As I grew older, I watched my parents faithfully serve the local church, so I naturally began to take part in serving as well. I tried my best to please God by prioritizing my time in church services because I thought by serving was the way to become a faithful Christian. I went to church to serve but did not have a personal relationship with God.

Then, my life started to shake during the 2006 summer retreat (age 14). I vividly remember as I was praying to God, I heard a gentle voice saying that salvation is not earned by doing good works. That very night, I repented of my sins before God and confessed Christ as my Savior. On that day, I received salvation and my Christian belief and theology drastically changed. After the encounter, I began to readjust my life to pursue knowing more of God's character and His nature. I prayed for this relationship to grow deeper.

From an early age, God has trained me to be a leader not only in the church but also in secular settings, such as being the school's student-body president twice at school, in 5th grade and 12th grade. I don't know why but I was always a leader of a group and enjoyed being in leadership positions. I believe that God has allowed these leadership experiences in my life to train and equip me to become a Christian leader.

However, I did not recognize God's calling until the Fall of 2012 at the KCCC Higher Calling Vision Conference. At one particular service, a guest speaker invited the audience to pray for God's calling and to come forward by placing our shoes on the stage as a sign of obedience. So, without any hesitations, I began to pray about God's calling in my life. That very night, I placed my grey Nike shoes on the stage as I surrendered my life to God to become a missionary. Jesus commanded his disciples, "Go and therefore and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit" (Matthew 28:19). This command has been my strength of how God is and will use me to be part of expanding His Kingdom.

From an early age, I have been serving the church due to my parents being the forerunners of being God's servants. For which I believe by watching them, serving has naturally grown to be my passion and a desire to love my church community. Throughout my 30 years of life, I just never left the church and continued to serve. For therefore, it is why I have many ministry experiences in serving and have worn various hats in the church. I have served the praise team as a body-worship leader, a vocalist, and played guitar for the praise band. I have experienced serving in the ministry leadership positions for many years, such as a secretary, vice president, and small group leader. After graduating high school, I served in AWANA, VBS, and as a Sunday school teacher in the children ministry. Moreover, I led worships in the Children Ministry and discipled the Children praise team. I was able to be involved in church missions as

well.

After graduating with a bachelor's degree on Biblical Studies, I was able to teach at a private Christian School for two years. And furthermore, I have served in the youth ministry as an intern-pastor, worked in the church administration office, and served as a student pastor and a translator (Korean/English). In 2016, by God's blessing, I was able to get married and become a wife. Through marriage, I am learning to be holy, to live a godly life that will honor and glorify God. Currently, I am a military spouse of my Army Nurse husband (RA) and an Army chaplain (USAR).

After many seasons in my life, and by the grace of God, His invitation is now so clear and visible. Ever since I have rededicated my life to accept His invitation to be involved in the ministry, God has convicted my heart to live out my calling to strengthen the faith of believers to be equipped as firm, gospel-centered Christians to preach the Good News of our Savior, Jesus Christ. From til this day, I am running to fight the good fight of faith and to finish the race that is set before me with perseverance (2 Timothy 4:7; Hebrews 12:1).

Date : 07/31/2023
Time : 11:53:24 AM

**Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary
January to June 2023**

Accounts	MTD Actual (This Year)	MTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Actual (This Year)	YTD Budget (This Year)	YTD Budget/Actual (This Year)	Annual Budget (This Year)
Revenues						
General Fund	\$11,020.03	\$21,183.49	\$119,247.30	\$127,100.94	(\$7,853.64)	\$254,202.00
NCD Assistance	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Mission Giving-Income	\$531.19	\$1,851.92	\$12,216.19	\$11,111.52	\$1,104.67	\$22,223.00
Per Capita Income	\$8,259.89	\$16,420.92	\$130,981.93	\$98,525.52	\$32,456.41	\$197,051.00
Total Revenues	\$19,811.11	\$39,456.33	\$262,445.42	\$236,737.98	\$25,707.44	\$473,476.00
Expenses						
Council						
Council Expenses-Other	\$0.00	\$793.75	\$9,500.00	\$4,762.50	(\$4,737.50)	\$9,525.00
Salaries & Allowances						
Executive Presbyter	\$10,108.81	\$10,469.67	\$62,277.42	\$62,818.02	\$540.60	\$125,636.00
Missional Development Exec	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Administrative Salaries	\$900.00	\$300.00	\$1,800.00	\$1,800.00	\$0.00	\$3,600.00
Benefits - Administration	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Staff Expenses	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$230.28	\$2,100.00	\$1,869.72	\$4,200.00
Total Salaries & Allowances	\$11,008.81	\$11,119.67	\$64,307.70	\$66,718.02	\$2,410.32	\$133,436.00
Council Vocation Committees	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Council	\$11,008.81	\$11,913.42	\$73,807.70	\$71,480.52	(\$2,327.18)	\$142,961.00
Development	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Equip, Nurture, Connect						
Other ENC Expenses	\$4,774.00	\$1,916.67	\$10,393.07	\$11,500.02	\$1,106.95	\$23,000.00
Total Equip, Nurture, Connect	\$4,774.00	\$1,916.67	\$10,393.07	\$11,500.02	\$1,106.95	\$23,000.00
Mission	\$0.00	\$25.00	\$0.00	\$150.00	\$150.00	\$300.00
UKirk Birmingham	\$2,658.57	\$2,460.84	\$18,322.32	\$14,765.04	(\$3,557.28)	\$29,530.00
Trustees	\$4,496.85	\$4,867.66	\$29,400.12	\$29,205.96	(\$194.16)	\$58,412.00
Anti-Racism	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Presbytery Per Capita Expenses						
Stated Clerk & Moderator	\$1,708.33	\$2,186.65	\$12,947.03	\$13,119.90	\$172.87	\$26,240.00
Presbytery Commissions	\$300.00	\$516.66	\$321.21	\$3,099.96	\$2,778.75	\$6,200.00
Asst.to Stated Clerk/Ofc Mgr	\$5,040.52	\$4,982.83	\$30,243.12	\$29,896.98	(\$346.14)	\$59,794.00
Total Presbytery Per Capita Expenses	\$7,048.85	\$7,686.14	\$43,511.36	\$46,116.84	\$2,605.48	\$92,234.00
Per Capita-Expenses	\$4,388.07	\$8,734.75	\$69,584.16	\$52,408.50	(\$17,175.66)	\$104,817.00
Mission Giving-Expenses	\$531.19	\$1,851.92	\$12,216.19	\$11,111.52	(\$1,104.67)	\$22,223.00
Total Expenses	\$34,906.34	\$39,456.40	\$257,234.92	\$236,738.40	(\$20,496.52)	\$473,477.00
Net Operating Total	(\$15,095.23)	(\$0.07)	\$5,210.50	(\$0.42)	\$5,210.92	(\$1.00)
Other Revenues						
Designated Income (Loss)	\$5,511.78	\$0.00	\$6,257.59	\$0.00	\$6,257.59	\$0.00
Gain on Debt Forgiveness	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Total Other Revenues	\$10,551.07	\$0.00	\$21,388.64	\$0.00	\$21,388.64	\$0.00
Other Expenses						
Total Other Expenses	\$2,792.89	\$0.00	\$17,192.34	\$0.00	(\$17,192.34)	\$0.00
Net Total	(\$7,337.05)	(\$0.07)	\$9,406.80	(\$0.42)	\$9,407.22	(\$1.00)

Report of the Mission Coordinator for Presbytery, August 2023

1. The Pentecost Can-paign for this year has been completed. The Pentecost Can-paign is a hunger program, in which participating churches collect cans of food or money to be given to the hunger programs of the churches' choice. Each dollar given counts as one can of food. This year's Can-paign ended on July 30. The churches' total donations will be announced at the Presbytery meeting Aug. 17.
2. This Presbytery also participates in the Cents- Ability Offering. Cents-Ability is a year-round hunger campaign in which participating churches collect money each month. Their collections are sent to the local hunger programs of their choice. The churches also may send a portion of their collections to the Presbytery. This Presbytery uses this portion to support hunger programs in the Presbytery.
3. Birmingham area churches are supporting the construction of a Habitat for Humanity house again this year. Construction will begin Thursday, September 14, 2023. We, of course, will need volunteers to help build the house and money to help pay for the house. Recipients of Habitat houses have mortgages to repay Habitat. They are not given a house. The money we give helps to start the process. Also, Southminster/Shades Valley have completed the Habitat house they sponsored. The house was completed and dedicated June 21.
4. The Dallas County Long Term Recovery Group continues to work on helping people repair and replace the damage from the January tornado. About 600 homes were destroyed or damaged by the tornado. This Presbytery is a member of the Alabama Volunteer Organizations Active in Disasters (ALVOAD) and therefore I have been attending the Dallas LTRG meetings. Organizing the Group, contacting those who need help, directing them through case management takes time. The LTRG has begun approving cases to replace furniture and some interior repairs. Major repair projects will be coming. I request that churches or individuals who wish to give money to send it to the Black Belt Community Foundation. As we get closer to major repair work I will be advertising for volunteer groups to go to Selma to work.



LIVING RIVER
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

**August 2023
Newsletter**



Summer Camp 2023 Memories

Thanks be to God for another great Summer at Living River!



Summer 2023 Camp Summary

- 5 Summer Camp Sessions
- 112 campers
- 9 awesome counselors
- 21 adult volunteers
- 13 Presbytery of Shepperds and Lapsley churches represented
- 26 first-time at Living River Summer Camp campers plus 16 campers for a partner camp with Mentoring in New Dimensions (Wilcox Co.) and the Presbyterian Home for Children





From our Counselors

"Living River has held a special place in my heart for many years. I grew up going to Summer Camp and then transitioned into a counselor of soon-to-be four years. I have seen every inch of the meaningful work Living River does to inspire and nurture children and youth inside of God's creation at Living River. My experiences of being inspired in my faith as a young camper by the counselors and then inspiring campers myself have shaped who I am! **I count all of my experiences at Living River as a blessing to be shared with others.** The love of God is clearest for me at Living River. **I will always carry the leadership lessons, humility, independence, and faithfulness that I've learned, as well as the beautiful scenery of the Cahaba River that flows by the camp we love, with me forever!"** -Abby Bunn, Head Counselor

"Being a counselor at Living River is a rewarding experience. **Not only did I find friends, but I got to create bonds with the campers that I hope helped them grow closer to God.** During our small group time on the last day of Elementary Camp, the kids were asking all sorts of deep, interesting questions. I was amazed that they were so interested in understanding what we were talking about. **Being a Summer Camp counselor at Living River helped me confirm for myself that I'm meant to work with children."** -Bel Marshal, First-time Counselor

Environmental Partners & Outreach

Living River Continues Environmental Education through Partners

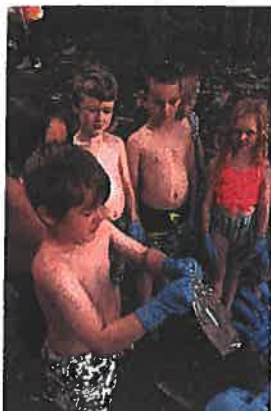
A huge thank you to our environmental partners, especially Cahaba Riverkeeper, the Cahaba River Society, and the Alabama Forestry Commission for all their help in redeveloping our mission and providing environmental programs for field trips and Summer Camp this year! We look forward to hosting more groups of children and youth at Living River to learn from our partners.

Living River joins the Alabama Rivers Alliance!

The Alabama Rivers Alliance says, "Membership in the Alliance means being part of a statewide network of organizations that are all working toward the common goals of protecting Alabama's rivers, environment, and communities." It is important because of our location on the Cahaba River that we are participating in environmental work in our state and are a good resource for individuals and groups wanting to engage, too. As just one example of the many current, exciting projects relevant to the Cahaba, the Corp of Engineers and Nature Conservancy are working to reconnect the Cahaba, Coosa, and Alabama Rivers to the Gulf! This could be the, "most ecologically significant river reconnection project in the history of the United States," says the conservancy. We hope you'll want to learn and be a part of stewarding the Cahaba and our state of Alabama well with us!



Alabama Rivers Alliance
Water To Life



Upcoming at Living River

Fall Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley Youth Retreat, Oct. 7-8

All 6th-12th graders are welcome! More details will come from the Presbytery's Youth Council.

October Open House, Oct. 22, 2-5 pm

We hope you'll join us for an afternoon of Fall activities and fellowship at Living River including a pumpkin trail, live music, and environmental partners.

Fall Elementary Retreat, Veterans Day Weekend, Nov. 9-11

All K-5th graders are welcome to Living River's Fall Elementary Retreat. Bring a friend! It'll be a weekend packed with camp fun. Stay tuned for details and registration.

Financial Health and How You Can Help

Budget Report

Sources of Funds	Year-to-date 06/30/2023		2023 Annual Budget
Program	51,340	84%	61,000
PSL - Trinity Property	16,757	50%	33,504
Donations	39,770	16%	250,000
Grants	48,000	100%	48,000
Other	2,236	149%	1,500
Total	\$ 158,103	40%	\$ 394,004
Uses of Funds			
Personnel & Fees for Services	106,776	49%	219,813
Program Expenses	25,156	75%	33,451
Facilities	50,146	58%	86,285
Mortgage Payments	15,078	45%	33,504
Administration	6,148	39%	15,809
Total	\$ 203,304	52%	\$ 388,862

Financial Highlights:

- The biggest need at Living River continues to be regular, annual donors. Right now, just 4% of Presbyterians in Central Alabama support Living River. Your support is necessary for the ministry of Living River to continue.
- Living River's mortgage sits at just \$142,997.

Become a Bedrock Sustaining Donor



Living River's Bedrock of Sustaining Donors give to cover operational costs so other revenue sources are freed to grow its ministry. **Become a Living River Bedrock donor by giving a minimum of \$25 a month or \$300 annually, strengthening Living River's foundation!** Donations can be made online or by mailing a check to the camp. Sustaining Donors will be recognized annually. Thank you!

Statement of Financial Position

	6/30/2023	12/31/2022
Assets		
Operating Account	\$ 119,541	\$ 247,098
Capital Account	232,293	234,082
Other Current Assets	312	7,067
New Covenant Endowment Fund	398,862	362,358
New Covenant Scholarship Fund	7,422	6,743
Fixed Assets - Net	7,043,547	6,939,245
Total Assets	\$ 7,801,977	\$ 7,796,593
Liabilities		
Accounts Payable	\$ 23,106	\$ (1,632)
Program Deposits	4,300	6,700
Payroll Liabilities	5,068	4,503
Oakworth Mortgage	142,997	158,048
Total Liabilities	175,471	167,619
Net Assets		
Net Assets	7,626,506	7,628,974
Total Liabilities and Net Assets	\$ 7,801,977	\$ 7,796,593

Other ways to support Living River:

- Volunteer or organize a group to volunteer.
- Share about Living River with families you know.
- Buy/dedicate a new campfire bench for just \$60!

Executive Director's Corner

The Fruit of the Spirit's not a Coconut! ...or a banana, or a watermelon, or a lemon, or a cherry, or a grape! That was the soundtrack of our summer camping season as our campers, counselors, and leaders explored the fruit of love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, goodness, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. It is a unique privilege to witness our counselors and campers grow in faith, lead worship, set and achieve goals, swim, canoe, form community, learn about our unique biodiversity, play, laugh, and make memories that will last a lifetime.

We have a quality summer camping program at Living River, and we need your help for more lives to be touched. Here are a few concrete things you can do to support the summer camping program at Living River: reach out to a college-age young adult and let them know that you think they have the gifts to be a summer camp counselor; reach out to parents of children and youth and encourage them to register for summer camp, and bring a friend.

"Come then wherever you may be. Come to the river that's flowing free. The three in one is calling you and me to the banks of the river that's flowing free." -Jenny Thagard

Thank you to...

Camp Support and Leadership: Grace Daniels, Joe Genau, Robert Newman, Robert Hay, Ben Flowers, Karin Bell, Joan and Ed Reisinger, Kathy Wolf Reed, Emily Fransden, Lauren Curtner-Smith, Jill Hightower, Patrick Riley, Meagan Westbrook, Kyle Henderson, Nicole Newton, Lois Palecek, Laura Bannon, Pat Goodman, Melanie Jourdan, Charlie Durham, Mike Henderson, and our Facilities Director, Brett Melton. **And special thanks to our chefs, Jeff Wilson and Becky Price.**



LIVING RIVER

A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA

2000 Living River Parkway
Montevallo, AL 35115



Trustees' Report
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
August 17, 2023, Assembly

The Trustees of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley have one item for action at this assembly.

For Action

Leeds Presbyterian Church has requested that the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley consent to the listing and sale of its manse, which has not been occupied by a minister for 50 years and presents growing maintenance issues. The proceeds of the sale will be used to maintain the historic church and to fund various missions of the church and the Presbytery.

The Presbytery's Commission on Ministry has met with representatives from Leeds Presbyterian Church and has considered the church's reasons for selling the property. The Commission on Ministry, taking into account the full mission and ministry of the church, has recommended to the Presbytery Trustees that the church's request to sell the property should be approved.

The trustees recommend and move as follows:

That the Presbytery authorize and approve the listing and sale by Leeds Presbyterian Church of its manse (the "Property");

That the Stated Clerk of the Presbytery be, and he hereby is, authorized and directed in accordance with section G-4.0206a of the Book of Order to communicate, through the session of the church, the written permission of the Presbytery to the sale of the Property; and

That the trustees of the Presbytery are authorized to take such other actions on behalf of the Presbytery as they deem necessary and appropriate to the sale of the Property.

Respectfully submitted by:

Lant Davis, Moderator
Bill Stribling
Shelaine Bird
Beverly Krannich, Secretary
Terry Newland

Katherine Michael
Krysten Holloway Scrivner
John Tally
Charles Griffin

Committee on Nominating and Representation
Report to PSL Stated Meeting - August 17, 2023

For action:

The Committee nominates the following to fill unexpired terms as indicated:

Permanent Judicial Commission (2027) - Tom Buck - South Highland, Birmingham

Respectfully submitted,
Rick Atkerson
Moderator

For information:

Please be in prayerful consideration for the opportunities for service in the various committees and commissions that will be available as members of the classes of 2023 complete their terms. Some will be eligible for an additional term and some will be required to roll off.

If you are interested in any position, or wish to recommend someone, please contact any member of the Committee on Nominating and Representation:

Class of 2023
Beverly Dodson, CRE
Debbie Feagin*
Lindsey Brady*

Class of 2024
David Seamon*
Marilyn Jackson, CRE
Ernie Haynes, CRE

Class of 2025
Debra Love
Jenny Thagard
Rick Atkerson*

Report of the Stated Clerk to the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

August 17, 2023

Omnibus Motion:

1. To approve the minutes of the May 18, 2023 meeting
2. To approve the requests for absences from today's meeting
3. To adopt an "Electronic Meetings Rule" for this meeting so that virtual attendees seeking recognition from the Chair be allowed to unmute themselves and call for the attention of the Moderator for recognition and obtaining the floor.
4. To receive and record the minutes of the Commission to install Rev. In Chan Bae as Pastor of Korean Presbyterian Church of Birmingham on August 13, 2023.
5. To approve the dates and locations for meetings of the Presbytery: November 16, 2023, at Presbyterian Home for Children in Talladega; February 15, 2024, at Northern Heights Church in Selma.

2 . Reports of Administrative Commissions

For Action: In 2020, the Presbytery formed an Administrative Commission for the Springville Presbyterian Church, and its final report is included. The following actions are needed:

On behalf of the AC, I move that the Presbytery (1) approve the transfer of the property and funds from the church to the Springville Historical Preservation Society, (2) dissolve the Springville Presbyterian Church, and (3) dismiss the Administrative Commission with thanks for their faithful service.

For information: At the May 18, 2023 meeting of Presbytery, the Commission on Ministry reported the formation of Administrative Commissions for the following congregations: First, Anniston; Five Mile; Fairfield Highlands; Odenville; and, Reform. When an AC is approved by the Presbytery, the AC reports to the Presbytery through the Stated Clerk since the AC are commissions of the Presbytery. Our Presbytery policy calls for ACs to report at each meeting of the Presbytery.

First, Anniston reports that information is being sought to guide the use of the trust funds held by the congregation. Report follows.

Five Mile reports that the legal work proceeds to establish a cemetery foundation which requires a redrawing of property lines.

Fairfield Highlands is seeking to secure the deed to the property and to dissolve the congregation.

Odenville is clarifying details of an agreement to dissolve the congregation as a PC(USA) church since it does not wish to be dismissed to a Reformed denomination. Report follows.

Reform wishes to be dismissed from the PCUSA to join another Reformed denomination, and the AC is in communication with the clerk of Session to plan a meeting.

Second, Birmingham has voted to close the congregation, is reconstituting its Session, and exploring merger options. Report follows.

2. Review of Session Minutes

The minutes from the following churches have been read and approved this year:

Alexander City, First	Birmingham, Oakmont Chapel
Birmingham, Riverchase	Birmingham, Second
Birmingham, South Highland	Birmingham, Southminster
Birmingham, Westminster	Carbon Hill, First
Gardendale Presbyterian	Goodwater Presbyterian
Green Pond Presbyterian	Jacksonville, First
Montgomery, Providence	Northport, Bethel
Oxford, Dodson Memorial	Trussville, Cahaba Springs
Tuscaloosa, First	Tuskegee, Westminster
Wetumpka, First	

The Stated Clerk gives thanks for the congregations which hosted gatherings of clerks and pastors this summer for the sharing and reading of their minutes. Other gatherings will be planned. The Stated Clerk is happy to continue to review minutes that can be delivered to the Presbytery office. The review sheet follows this report so that clerks may begin the process. Clerks are to complete the review sheet for their minutes, and deliver the minutes and review sheet to the Stated Clerk.

3. Per Capita: The ministries of the Stated Clerk, of the Assistant to the Stated Clerk, and of the Recording Clerk, are supported by our Per Capita Assessment which is \$27.00 per person this year. This figure is based on the costs of office expenses, meeting expenses, and salaries. This Presbytery pays the per capita due to the Synod and General Assembly, and asks congregations to pay their fair share. Many thanks to 45 congregations which have supported Per Capita! Much encouragement to those 18 congregations who have yet to give.

4. Background Checks are being done by the Stated Clerk according to our Child and Youth/Vulnerable Protection Policy. The policy calls for such background checks to be on an every three year cycle. The only exemption is for those who are no longer engaged in ministry or who have had a "BGC" within the last three (3) years. Please contact the Stated Clerk with any questions or concerns you have in regards to Background Checks.

5. Hosts for Presbytery Meetings are needed for the following dates:

May 16, 2024 August 15, 2024 November 14, 2024

Contact the Stated Clerk to offer your invitation to the Presbytery: call 205-978-0320; or email statedclerk@pslpcusa.org.

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION SUMMARY REPORT

Springville Presbyterian Church

July 7, 2023

In February 2020, the membership of Springville Presbyterian Church suspended worship. The session reached out to the Commission on Ministry. Representatives from the COM first met with Springville's session at the end of that month to begin the process of dissolving the congregation while leaving the historic property in the hands of those best equipped to honor its purpose and maintain its condition.

An Administrative Commission was formed. Carl Martin was tasked by the COM to moderate both the AC and the Springville session.

Initially, there was hope that an arrangement could be reached with another church in the area to take ownership of the property, but those efforts fell through.

After many months of diligent work by all parties involved, an agreement was reached with Springville's Historical Preservation Society through which ownership of the property, as well as the funds of the Springville Presbyterian Church Foundation, were transferred to the Preservation Society.

The funds from the Foundation (in excess of \$50,000) will assist the Preservation Society as they maintain and care for the property going forward. The agreement provides that Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley can re-claim ownership of the property should there be a desire to use the building once again for a church or should the Preservation Society fail to properly maintain or honor the property.

At a called meeting of the congregation on December 21, 2021, the members unanimously agreed to the proposed transfer and to the dissolution of the worshipping body. Presbytery endorsed the agreement at its November 2022 stated meeting.

As of May 2023, all necessary documents have been executed and the new deed recorded in St. Clair County. All property not remaining with the building has been donated to other area churches or to the Presbyterian Home for Children.

The session of the Springville Church worked diligently and tirelessly for more than three years to make this happen. I thank God for their service as well as the work of those who served with the Administrative Commission.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl G. Martin

Administrative Commission Members

Charles Griffin

Richard Hanna

Sue Westfall

Jonathan Yarboro

Carl Martin, Chair

Elders on Session

Nancy Carlisle

Charles Griffin

Frankie Tatum, Clerk

**Report to Stated Clerk, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley
First Presbyterian – Anniston, Administrative Commission
10 July 2023**

Actions taken and planned for the First Presbyterian Church, Anniston re: Administrative Commission:

- Written agreements that guide the use of the trust funds of the FPC-Anniston have been requested several months ago, but not received to date.
- A conversation I had Friday, July 7, 2023 with Stated Clerk Jay Wilkins clarified for me the next steps needed to move the Anniston process forward.
- As Moderator of the Anniston Session, I requested a date for the next regular stated meeting of the Session. Clerk Margaret Report responded July 9 that one has not been set, and she will notify me when that is scheduled.
- At the next Session meeting I plan to discuss how the Session plans to move forward through the end of 2023 and into 2024, including evaluating membership of the Session.
- This information was e-mailed to the Administrative Commission Friday, July 7, 2023.

Respectfully submitted,
Frankie Tatum

Moderator of FPC Anniston Session and Administrative Commission

Report of the Administrative Commission
Five Mile Presbyterian Church
August 17, 2023

The Administrative Commission for Five Mile Presbyterian Church has been working since our last report. The commission is charged with assisting the Session of Five Mile with the closing of the church. The final worship service was held on May 7, 2023. Members of the church have worshipped at Leeds PCUSA and Cahaba Springs PCUSA since that time.

The AC is awaiting final legal documentation regarding the establishment of the Five Mile Foundation, a 501c3 entity charged with providing perpetual care for the historic sanctuary and cemetery. This work was begun by the Five Mile Session and approved by the congregation almost a decade ago. The final, legal documentation for the foundation is nearly complete, and the AC will proceed with a recommendation to dissolve Five Mile Presbyterian Church as soon as that happens.

The AC requests to be given the specific authority to authorize separation of the deeded property into two parcels: one containing the cemetery and historic sanctuary and one containing the remaining church buildings and land. Session set aside funds for the foundation years ago, and those funds will be transferred as soon as the 501c3 is established.

Motion: For Presbytery to authorize the Five Mile AC to approve, once all legal documentation has been created and reviewed by Presbytery Trustees, separation of the single parcel of land deeded to Five Mile Presbyterian Church into two parcels. Parcel 1 will be conveyed as a donation to The Five Mile Presbyterian Church Foundation. Five Mile Presbyterian Church will continue to hold record title to Parcel 2, pending the later sale of Parcel 2 to an as yet undetermined purchaser, which later sale will also require Presbytery approval.

Rationale:

At the first meeting of the Five Mile AC, it was determined that extensive work had been done previously by Session and the congregation, including designation of endowment funds, to provide for the perpetual care of its historic cemetery and sanctuary. The AC determined to see that work through to its final and legal status, which includes legal establishment of the 501c3 foundation and survey and appraisal of the existing property, before proceeding with the congregation's desire to be dissolved. Once this action takes place, the AC will request that Presbytery dissolve the congregation and proceed with sale of the remaining property, which will require Presbytery approval.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Jonathan Yarboro
Chair / Five Mile Administrative Commission
Pastor / First Presbyterian Church of Wetumpka

AC Members:

Sharon Eich
David Knox
Daryl Love
John Tally
Jonathan Yarboro - Chair

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMISSION REPORT

Odenville Presbyterian Church

August 2023

In September 2022, Odenville Presbyterian Church communicated to Sheppards and Lapsley its desire to no longer affiliate with the PC(USA). Following several exploratory conversations with church leadership, it was determined that the only constitutional option available in this case was to dissolve the congregation as a church of the PC(USA). In called meetings moderated by Carl Martin, both the session and the congregation of Odenville affirmed their desire to dissolve the relationship.

An Administrative Commission was formed in November 2022, and the group met on December 6, 2022, to discuss and discern the best path forward. Both Odenville Presbyterian Church and Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley were represented by counsel. All parties agreed to pursue a mutually satisfactory arrangement. Ideally, albeit regrettably, such an agreement should result in dissolution of the relationship between Church and Presbytery while still honoring the century-long covenant partnership of Odenville Presbyterian Church with the members and ministries of Presbytery.

We believe that such an agreement has been reached. It is being drafted for final review and execution.

Respectfully submitted,

Carl G. Martin

Administrative Commission Members

Anthony Banks

Lant Davis

Jay Wilkins

Carl Martin, Chair

Administrative Commission—Second Presbyterian Church
7/17/23

The commission is chaired by Rev. Rachel Winter (COM), and consists of Rev. John Brock (COM), Rev. Sam Hamilton-Poore (COM), Ruling Elders Mary Clyde Teague and TJ Holmes (Second Church), Rev. Steve Jones (Stated Supply, Second Church), Ruling Elder Bill Stribling (Trustees), and Rev. Sue Westfall (General Presbyter).

When Second got in contact with the presbytery in February 2023, the session and congregation had already voted to close the congregation because of concerns over the age of the membership, financial concerns, the small size of membership, and the ability to take care of the building (the heating/AC unit has failed, among other concerns).

The Administrative Commission met with the session in March, as well as with other members who were interested. We talked, shared history, discussed grief, and talked about other possibilities for the future of the congregation. The session then talked about the possibility of looking into merging with another congregation, then voted at their next meeting to take closing off the table, looking into a merger instead. The minister and an elder then approached Edgewood to look into a merger there, and both congregations are currently exploring the possibility. Both sessions have met and are still exploring the possibility. The congregations worshiped together on 7/9/23, and it was a great experience for all.

In these discussions, we also realized that Second has only installed elders for the class of 2023 and not beyond. This happened for several reasons, but mainly because the congregation thought it would close, so the election of ruling elders would not be necessary. In June and July, that has been rectified through the election of a ruling elder nominating committee, the election of a ruling elder each for the class of 2024 and 2025, and the installation of those elders on 7/16/23.

Respectfully submitted,

Rev. Rachel Winter

THE PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY

Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.)

Annual Review of Session Records – Checklist

TO THE CLERK OF SESSION AND MODERATOR: Thank you for your important service in maintaining accurate records. The purpose of this list is to aid you and the reader in finding some items to be verified in minutes, rolls, and registers. Please complete this checklist before the review and by including date and page numbers where appropriate. For items that occur regularly (e.g., opening and closing with prayer), the date and page# column may simply give a single representative example. *You do not need to list every occurrence of the item.*

If events, such as regularly scheduled observances of the Lord's Supper or election of a clerk for more than a one-year term, have been approved by previous sessions and no change has been made, check the "N/A" column, and under "Date and Page #," either note the reference from when the action was last taken (if it is in the same minute book), or write "Prior Action." If the authorization of such events is by rule in the session's *Manual of Administrative Operations*, then write "Manual" in the "Date and Page #" column.

Congregation Name: _____

Dates Covered in Review: _____

	Requirement	YES	NO	N/A	DATE AND PAGE #
1	Stated meetings were held at least quarterly with the date, time, and place of meeting being recorded. [G-3.0203]				
2	Minutes record whether meetings were special (called) or regular (stated), and the purpose for which special meetings were held is stated. [G-3.0203]				
3	Meetings were opened and closed with prayer. [G-3.0105]				
4	Minutes record the approval of minutes from the previous meeting either as distributed/read or as corrected. [G-3.0107]				
5	Minutes are signed by the clerk for the meeting				
6	The session authorizes all observances of the Lord's Supper, which is celebrated at least quarterly. [W-3.0410]				
7	The session authorizes all baptisms, which are appropriately recorded in minutes, rolls, and registers. [G-3.0204, G-1.0401]				
8	Minutes record the reception and dismissal of members and by what method they were received or dismissed (profession, reaffirmation, transfer, removal), and these actions were duly recorded in rolls and registers. [G-3.0201c, G-3.0204a]				
9	Minutes record the approval of all marriages performed in the church's facilities. [W-4.06]				
	Requirement	YES	NO	NA	DATE AND PAGE #
10	The session reviewed the roll of active members and counseled				

	with those who neglected membership responsibilities. [G-3.0201c]				
11	Names were appropriately deleted from the roll or moved to an informal list of inactive members. [G-3.0204a]				
12	Commissioners to were elected for presbytery meetings, and they report to the session after the meetings. [G-3.0202a]				
13	Special offerings were approved by the session. [G-3.0205]				

14	Those responsible for various congregational funds reported to the session at least annually. [G-3.0205c]				
15	A Treasurer was elected for a specific term. [G-3.0205]				
16	An annual audit or review of financial records was conducted. [G-3.0205, G-3.0113]				
17	New ruling elders and deacons were trained and examined. [G-3.0201c]				
18	The ordination and installation of ruling elders and deacons – and was recorded in minutes, rolls, and registers. [G-3.0201c, G-3.0204]				
19	A Clerk of Session was elected for a specific term. [G-3.0104]				
20	At least one congregational meeting was duly called by the session and held. [G-1.0501, G-1.0502]				
21	A budget was adopted. [G-3.0113]				
22	The work of the deacons was reviewed. [G-2.0202]				
23	Terms of call for all ministers were reviewed at least annually. [G-2.0804]				
24	Property and liability coverage was obtained. [G-3.0112]				
25	The annual statistical report was completed. [G-3.0202f]				

These items must be recorded in congregational meeting minutes:

Requirement		YES	NO	N/A	DATE AND PAGE #
26	Minutes of congregational meetings are signed by the secretary of the meeting.				
27	A Nominating Committee was elected. [G-2.0401]				
28	Church members were elected for ordered ministries (Ruling Elders, Deacons) [G-2.0404, G-2.0401]				
Requirement		YES	NO	N/A	DATE AND PAGE #
29	The congregation approved any decisions to buy, sell, or mortgage real property [G-1.0503d]				

30	All matters related to the calls of installed pastors were approved by the congregation. [G-1.0503c]				
31	Minutes of congregational meetings were approved by either the congregation or an entity designated by the congregation.				
32	An annual Congregational Meeting was held, with public notice given and a quorum established. [G-1.0501]				
33	Articles of Incorporation and Bylaws have been adopted and conform to the Form of Government of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.). [G-4.0101 and G-4.0102]				

REVIEWED BY:

Name _____

Date _____

COMMENTS: _____

EXCEPTIONS: _____

(Use Additional Page If Needed)

BOOK STAMPED BY: _____

SOWING SEEDS OF HOPE SINCE 1868

== 155 YEARS ==



Providing Healing & Hope

The Presbyterian Home for Children, a ministry of the Presbyterian Churches of Alabama, cares for teenage girls who have experienced abuse and/or neglect, and boys and girls of all ages and their female caregivers who find themselves homeless because of poverty, abuse, or abandonment.

The Home, located in Talladega, Alabama, continues to support children and families in need for 155 years with a path of hope through our innovative and life-affirming programs including Moderate Care for Girls, Secure Dwellings, Transition to Adult Living, Temporary Supportive Housing, Family Bridges, and Ascension Leadership Academy.

OUR AWARDS



PHFC is accredited by Social Current, the leading accrediting organization for social services in the U.S. and Canada; and EAGLE, the world's only faith-based accrediting body for ministry to children. Our ministry has been recognized by major awards, including a Four-Star Rating – their highest possible rating – from Charity Navigator, the world's largest and most trusted nonprofit evaluator. The Home also achieved the Gold Seal of Transparency from Candid, a national nonprofit that tracks spending by other nonprofits. The Home was recognized as a Top-Rated Nonprofit for the third year in a row by GreatNonprofits, the leading provider of user reviews for charities and nonprofits.



CAMPUS ADDRESS | 905 Ashland Hwy, Talladega, AL 35160

MAILING ADDRESS | P.O. Drawer 577, Talladega, AL 35161

PHONE | 256-362-2114

EMAIL | Info@phfc.org

WEBSITE | www.phfc.org



OUR PROGRAMS

The **Moderate Care Residential Therapeutic Program** provides restorative services to teen girls who have experienced extreme trauma and/or neglect and who are often dealing with emotional and behavioral challenges. Program staff tailors the therapeutic services to each youth's unique needs by helping them develop life and academic goals that will one day allow them to return to living in a home or community setting.



The **Secure Dwellings Program** provides safe transitional housing on the Home's campus to homeless boys and girls along with their legal female caregiver. The program offers a variety of services meant to empower the caregiver — including employment assistance, life skills training, and government assistance — while allowing the child to have a safe environment in which they can rest, grow, play, and learn.

Temporary Supportive Housing is offered to children and youth with their female caregiver who has graduated from the Secure Dwellings Program. Meant to aid them in breaking the cycle of homelessness, this supportive housing environment encourages a higher level of self-sufficiency, offering further vocational and life skills development along with financial support.

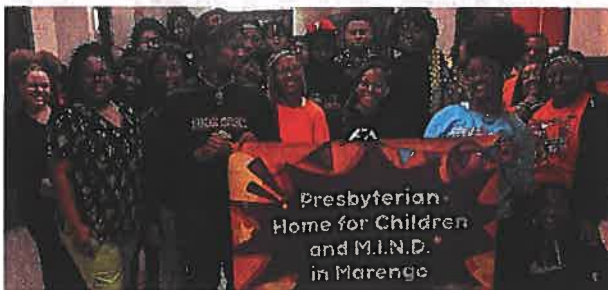
The **Transition to Adult Living** program helps women ages 19-24 who are having difficulties transitioning to independent living by providing a safe residential environment in which they can grow, increase life skills, and achieve self-sufficiency.

Family Bridges is an in-home services program that seeks to reunite, preserve, or strengthen families experiencing crises such as divorce, illness, homelessness, and violence. Program staff meet with families in their homes to provide parenting techniques, counseling, crisis intervention, and more with the overarching goal of helping families stay together.

Ascension Leadership Academy is a Cognia-accredited, college-preparatory school offering a premier, faith-based education to children and youth being served by the Home's residential programs and its Temporary Supportive Housing Program as well as children and youth in the surrounding area. Founded by the Presbyterian Home for Children, the academy features small class sizes, flexible programs, and enrichment opportunities that help children of all backgrounds thrive.



OTHER INITIATIVES



The Presbyterian Home for Children is a proud mission partner since 2020 with Mentoring In New Dimensions (M.I.N.D.) to reach children and youth in Wilcox and Marengo counties — two of the state's poorest counties. The Home has hosted many special events every year and has given away food, gifts, blankets, winter coats, and even professional school photos. Wilcox County teens have participated in summer camp at Camp Maranatha on Lake Guntersville and Living River Retreat on the Cahaba River.



Presbyterian Home for Children has partnered with the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind since 2017 to offer Union Village, a large and tiny cottage development for the deaf, blind, and multi-disabled. The supportive housing community serves some of the state's most vulnerable citizens, and rental income from Union Village provides an additional stream of support for PHFC's programs for children and youth.

**Executive Council Report to Presbytery
August, 2023**

Class of 2023

Sissy Bain
Judith Baldwin
Susan Haskell
Neil McCarter*

Class of 2024

Tom Bryson*
Ed Hurley*
Donna Winn
Terri Jones

Class of 2025

Terry Hamilton-Poore*
Lee Ann Scarbrough*
Joe Scrivner*
Deborah Thomas

The Executive Council met June 14 and July 12. At the June meeting a task force was appointed to write a policy on harassment required by the BOO. Pat Goodman will lead the group. A committee to write Guidelines for Distribution of Funds Received from the Dissolution or Dismissal of Congregations was named. Leann Scarbrough and Terri Jones will co convene.

In July Daniel Schwartz and JaiGregory Clark from Faith in Action Alabama were invited to speak. They explained the mission of the organization, to honor God working with congregations to dismantle systemic racism. The council voted to invite Mr. Clark and Mr. Schwartz to speak at a future presbytery meeting.

The Presbytery Of Sheppards And Lapsley
Report Of The Commission on Preparation For Ministry — August 2023

INQUIRERS

Annabelle Beavers
Kendra Grace-Love
Daniel Killilea
Theodore Longlois
Madison Vaughn

CHURCH

First, Tuscaloosa
Grace, Tuscaloosa
South Highland, Birmingham
Independent
Grace, Tuscaloosa

INSTITUTION

Union (Richmond)
Louisville

Princeton
Graduate - Columbia

CANDIDATES

Bennett Alldredge
Avery Arden
Peyton Chandler
Patrick O'Connor
Barbara Tomek-White

First, Tuscaloosa
Grace, Tuscaloosa
Independent, Birmingham
Immanuel, Montgomery
First, Auburn

Graduate - Princeton
Graduate - Louisville
Vanderbilt
San Francisco
Graduate - Austin

FOR INFORMATION:

No information items at this time.

FOR ACTION:

No action items at this time.

Submitted on behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Rick Atkerson (2025), Caroline Barnett (2024), Jim Bannon (2024), Joe Genau (2023), Shelley Hancock (2023), Sheila Holland (2024), Jeff Johnson (2025), Nicole Newton (2025), Kathy Wolf Reed (2023), Andy Spaulding (2024), Adrienne Stokes (2025), and Lee Walthall (2023).

Respectfully,

Rev. Dr. Kathy Wolf Reed, Moderator

Rev. Nicole Newton, Vice-Moderator

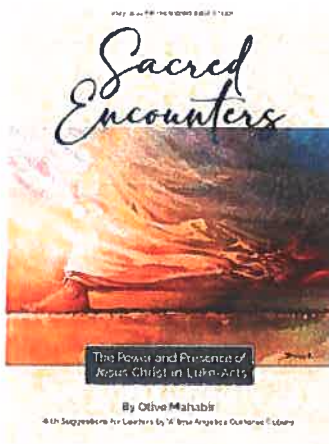
UKirk Birmingham August 2023 Report

We have had a successful summer of Home Kirkin's at various board members' houses. We have been gearing up for the start of the fall semester. We are excited to be going to all the student organization fairs at the local colleges; UAB, BSC, and Samford University. We are also reaching out to multiple churches in the surrounding areas to connect with any incoming students to the colleges that we serve. In preparation for this coming academic year, if you know any college students in the Birmingham area looking for a great community to be a part of please refer them to our website (ukirkbirmingham.org) or they can email Madison, our Ministry Coordinator, at madison@ukirkbirmingham.org. Also, if you are interested in providing a dinner for one of our UKirk Thursday you can also reach out to Madison. Thank you all for your support and prayers.



Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

July 2023



Presbyterian Women in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley attended the **AL/MS Conference**, held in Mobile, Alabama, July 13th – 15th at Spring Hill Presbyterian. Dr. Olive Mahabir, Associate Pastor for Pastoral Care and Adult Spiritual Growth at Northminster Presbyterian Church in Roswell, Georgia, is the author of the PW Bible Study, *Sacred Encounters: The Power and Presence of Jesus Christ in Luke - Acts* and was the keynote speaker. Workshops on Grief, healthy immune diets, mission emphasis, glass-blowing, Eugenia Anne Gamble talking about a new book and promoting a sequel to the Ten Commandments, and, of course, Dee Koza with insights into these Sacred Encounters. The Sheppards & Lapsley ladies who stayed for the ending worship enjoyed every minute!

Come August and September, women across the presbytery are holding Fall Gatherings as we move forward into our new normal. South Highland will hold her Fall Gathering on August 26th and is opening her doors to all who come. Rev. Larry and Kathryn Michael will expand on the encounters in Luke – Acts. See attached flyer.

The Coordinating Council for the PW in our Presbytery is still looking for interested women to assist in renovating the thrust of PW. If anyone is interested in re-forming and re-energizing Women in the Presbytery, please let me know!



For God's Glory

Kathy Tracey

Moderator, PW [PS&L]

August 26th

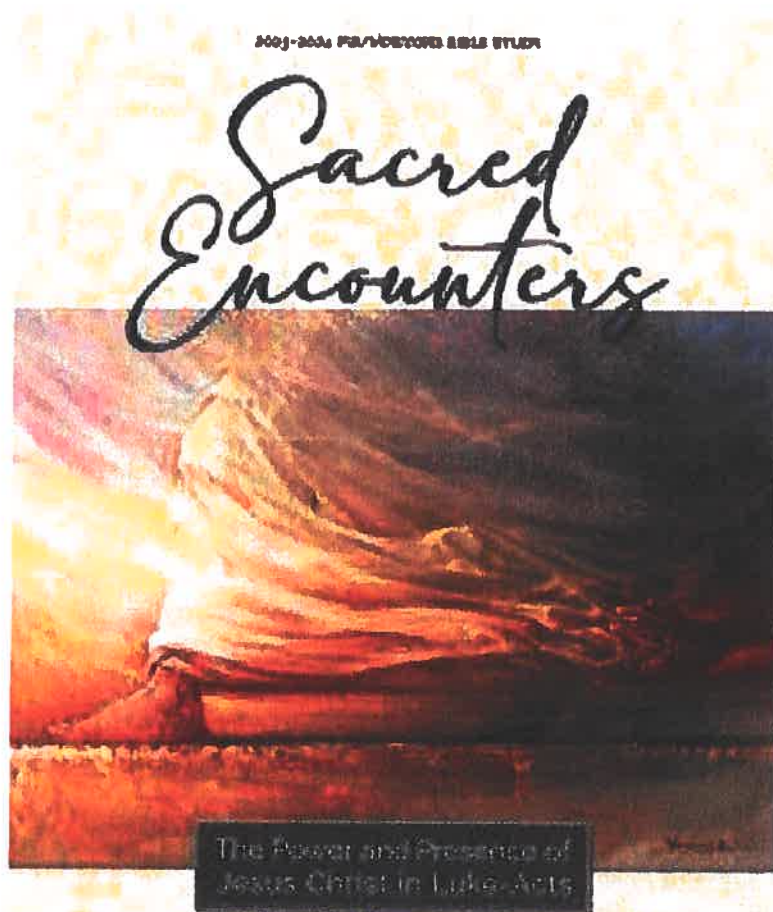
BIRMINGHAM FALL GATHERING

South Highland Presbyterian Church

9:30 a.m. Fellowship & Registration

10:00 a.m. Kathryn & Larry Michael

JOIN THE FUN IN THE DAVIS FAMILY HALL!



By Olive Mahabir

With Suggestions for Leaders by Wilma Angelica Gutierrez Cobarral

08-26-2023

10:00 - noon

**Bring Your
Friends!**

**Overview of Bible
Study**

Refreshments

Fellowship

**SOUTH HIGHLAND
PRESBYTERIAN**

2035 Highland Avenue

southhighland.org

205-933-0790



**PRESBYTERIAN
WOMEN**

PRESBYTERY CALENDAR – 2023

AUGUST

12	CRE Training, 9:00 AM, Presbytery office
13	Rev. In Chan Bae installation, 5:00 PM, Korean Pelham
14	UKirk Steering, 6:00 PM
17	August Presbytery meeting at Immanuel Presbyterian
18	Presbytery office closed
20	Rev. Nicole Newton installation, 3:00 PM, First-Birmingham
21	Anti-Racism Retreat at Mountain Brook Presbyterian, 8:30-3:00 PM
24	Living River Board, 7:00 PM
28	CPM, 10:00 AM, via Zoom

SEPTEMBER

4	Presbytery office closed in recognition of Labor Day
6	Presbytery staff meeting, 10:00 AM, via Zoom/In person
9	Volunteer work day at Living River
10	Rev. Rachel Winter installation, 4:00 PM, Oakmont Chapel
12	COM, 10:00 AM, via Zoom/In person
13	Executive Council, 9:30 AM, via Zoom/In person
14	PSL Habitat build
18-22	Mid Council Leader Orientation
24	Second Presbyterian Closing Worship, 11:00 AM
25	CPM, 10:00 AM, via Zoom
26	Anti-Racism, 10:00 AM, via Zoom

OCTOBER

4	Presbytery staff meeting, 10:00 AM, via Zoom/In person
6-8	Fall Youth Retreat at Living River
9-12	Polity Conference
10	COM, 10:00 AM, via Zoom/In person
11	Executive Council, 9:30 AM, via Zoom/In person
17	Boundary Training, 11:30-1:00 PM
22	Living River Open House
23	CPM, 10:00 AM, via Zoom
24	Anti-Racism, 10:00 AM, via Zoom

NOVEMBER

1	Presbytery staff meeting, 10:00 AM, via Zoom/In person
2	Stillman Founders Day
8	Executive Council, 9:30 AM, via Zoom/In person
9-11	Elementary Retreat at Living River / Moderators Conference
15-17	Mid Council Financial Conference
16	Presbytery meeting at Presbyterian Home for Children
17	Presbytery office closed
18	Wilcox Co. Harvest day / Living River Art and Craft sale
22-24	Presbytery office closed in recognition of Thanksgiving
27	CPM, 10:00 AM, via Zoom
28	Anti-Racism, 10:00 AM, via Zoom