

Presbytery of  
Sheppards and Lapsley  
COMMISSIONER PACKET



Summer Stated Meeting  
August 21, 2025

*First Presbyterian Church  
2100 4<sup>th</sup> Avenue North  
Birmingham, AL 35203*

*(205) 322-5469*

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## IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR THE UPCOMING AUGUST PRESBYTERY MEETING

This Presbytery meeting will be a Hybrid meeting (in person/zoom) at First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham, AL. **We strongly encourage you to attend in person. It is our intent to provide a hybrid meeting through zoom. We cannot guarantee internet access but, we do expect it to work.**

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

### Information for ALL Presbytery meeting participants

#### **Presbytery Registration (No later than Friday, August 15, 2025)**

Please use the link below to register for the meeting. It is very important that you register by August 15, 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/mfW7h3rSAjMGsuHz6>

#### **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 - We strongly encourage you to attend in person.**

For the day of Presbytery, August 21st 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.)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/87355876224?pwd=E8L40wWvbflqE1M3vPAbnYO6KH0LUp.1>

Meeting ID: 873 5587 6224

Passcode: 479784

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

**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 2025 PRESBYTERY MEETINGS

August 21	First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
November 20	Edgewood Presbyterian Church	9:30 AM – 3:00 PM
February 19	First Presbyterian Church, Talladega	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 for an **excused absence** from today's meeting should be addressed to the Stated Clerk, Jay Wilkins at [statedclerk@pslpcusa.org](mailto:statedclerk@pslpcusa.org) or 205-978-0320, ext. 305.
3. Please contact Tammy Strickland at [tstrickland@pslpcusa.org](mailto:tstrickland@pslpcusa.org) by Friday, August 15, 2025 to reserve display space (tables) for this meeting.



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](mailto:tstrickland@pslpcusa.org). For more information about the Presbytery, please visit our website at <http://www.pslpcusa.org>.

### LUNCH

First Presbyterian Church is graciously preparing lunch (\$15) for attendees of this meeting (**cash or check only**). Please purchase tickets during registration. Make checks for lunch payable to **First Presbyterian Church, Birmingham**.

**First Presbyterian Church**  
2100 4th Avenue N  
Birmingham, AL 35203  
(205) 322-5469

**North Bound Red Mountain Expressway (Highway 280/31)** Take 2nd Avenue North exit to 24th Street N. Right on 24th Street N to 4th Avenue N. Turn left on 4th Avenue N. Three blocks to Church.

You'll find street parking around the church. There is a small municipal metered lot directly behind the church off of 5th Ave. N. You can also park in the parking deck on the corner of 4th Avenue N and 22nd Street N. The entrance is on 4th Ave N. The cost is \$9.00.

[illegible]



## First Presbyterian Church of Birmingham, AL

9:00 AM      Registration

9:30 Call to Order and Opening Prayer Moderator Jonathan Yarboro  
Organization – Declaration of Quorum, Adoption of Docket, Seating of Corresponding Members, Welcome of First Time Commissioners, Welcome of Visitors, Requests for New Business to the Stated Clerk in writing by 11:00 AM

### Omnibus Motion:

1. To approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025 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 accept the invitation to host meetings of the Presbytery: on November 20, 2025, at Edgewood Church; February 19, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church of Talladega. Hosts are needed for stated meetings of May 21 & August 20 & November 19, 2026.

**9: 45**    Welcome from Host Church  
Service of Worship and Sacrament of the Lord's Supper

10:45 Greetings from Dr. Yolanda Page, President of Stillman College

## 11:00 Enrichment Workshops

- 1) Beverly Thorn, psychologist specializing in care for the care-giver (on Zoom & in sanctuary)
- 2) Cort Gatliff on Proverbs and Wisdom literature
- 3) Jay Wilkins on changes in our new Book of Order, 2025-2027, and implications for churches

12:00 Lunch

1: 00 Transition/Search Committee Jane Clayton

1: 15 Executive Council Deborah Thomas

1. Good News from our Churches & Matthew 25 Congregations:
- First Presbyterian, Birmingham, and First Light Jonathan Yarboro
- The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley is a Matthew 25 Presbytery where:  
We do hereby commit to become a Matthew 25 mid council. We pledge to encourage 20% or more of our congregations to become Matthew 25 churches and embrace these areas of focus: Building congregational vitality; Dismantling structural racism; Eradicating systemic poverty. We promise to keep track of the impact of our ministry and share our stories with the PC(USA) from time to time.



	2. Anti Racism Committee	Tom Bryson and Debra Love
	3. Response to Pine Hill Community tornado	James Ephraim
1:30	General Presbyter's Report	Sue Westfall
1:40	Commission on Ministry	Carl Martin
	Board of Pensions Summer Report	Keenan Rodgers
	Commissioning of John Schuler to Commissioned Pastor Program	
	Commissioning John and Sharon Schuler as Co-directors of the CP Program	
2:00	Mission	Ralls Coston
	Congo Mission Partnership & Network Conference	Charles Nash
2:10	Main Event	
2:15	Finance	
2:25	Nominating	Rick Atkerson
2:35	Living River	Jenny Thagard
2:40	Presbyterian Home for Children	Suzanne Cornett
2:45	Stated Clerk	Jay Wilkins
	Unfinished Business	
	Proposed Amendments to PS&L Standing Rules -- see attached for final vote	
	New Business from Bills & Overtures	
3:00 PM	Adjournment with Prayer	Moderator Jonathan Yarboro

# Enrichment Workshops at the August 21, 2025 Presbytery Meeting

## **Beverly Thorn, psychologist specializing in care for the caregiver (zoom/sanctuary)**

Dementia is a brain disorder leading to eventual loss of personal autonomy and death. Understanding dementia helps caregivers cope more effectively. Further, fostering communication among loved ones allows for life values clarification and the ability to plan for advanced care preferences and options. Such discussions can provide great relief to family caregivers, helping ameliorate guilt and enabling healing grief. Church leaders can have a role in facilitating such discussions among congregations, thus lightening the burden of dementia and caregiving.

Beverly E. Thorn, Ph.D., is a clinical psychologist, certified end-of-life doula, and former dementia caregiver for her husband. She spent her academic career publishing and speaking on managing chronic illness. Her new self-help book, released in May 2025, is entitled *Before I Lose My Own Mind: Navigating Life as a Dementia Caregiver*, Girl Friday Books. Books will be available at the event, and/or you can preorder from Thank You Books using this link: <https://thankyoubookshop.com/item/drqflvt-mhCf3MYrjCJIhQ>

## **Rev. Cort Gatliff on Proverbs and Wisdom Literature**

### **Proverbs Seminar**

How does one become wise? We live in an age overflowing with information and knowledge, yet true wisdom feels increasingly scarce. Thankfully, God has given us a source of ancient wisdom that has stood the test of time and applies to our modern lives: the book of Proverbs. In this seminar, we'll explore how the often-neglected book of Proverbs shapes our character, guides our relationships, anchors us in the fear of the Lord, and ultimately points us to Jesus, who is wisdom incarnate.

Rev. Cort Gatliff is the Senior Pastor at South Highland Presbyterian Church. He is a graduate of the University of Tennessee and Beeson Divinity School. He lives with his wife, Rev. Abby Gatliff, and their three daughters in Homewood.

## **Jay Wilkins on changes to our new Book of Order 2025-2027, and implications for churches**

### ***What Have We Done to the New 2025-2027 Book of Order?***

Our Book of Order, Part II of The Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.), is a living document, being reformed by proposals from presbyteries, by approval of the General Assembly, and then by affirmation of a majority of presbyteries. However significant, or insignificant, the changes are perceived, faithful elders and ministers are to stay informed of the changes and how they may connect to the life of our congregations and the presbytery.

This workshop will be led by Jay Wilkins, the Stated Clerk of Sheppards & Lapsley Presbytery. We will review the changes that need attention for our life together, and focus on two changes that have provoked much discussion. We plan to have copies of the new BOO available, if you pre-register for this workshop.

## Search/Transition Team Report to August 21 PSL Meeting

The Search/Transition Team has worked diligently since the May presbytery meeting to find the best candidates for the next General Presbyter and the next Stated Clerk. We made the decision to pursue two people for two separate positions.

To understand fully the qualifications and skills necessary for both positions, and to include all people who care about the future of this presbytery, both clergy and lay, we sought input in several ways. We met with both Sue Westfall and Jay Wilkins, who informed us clearly on the current states of the offices. We provided a survey, available to all who wanted to respond, with questions designed to elicit the responder's observations and wishes concerning new hires. We met with the Executive Council, the Commission on Ministry, and the permanent and volunteer staff, thus engaging in relevant conversation not only about the current status but also the future of PSL and what they hope for in new leadership.

We are now in the process of preparing the job descriptions and Ministry Development Profile necessary to begin official searches for these positions and hope to have them ready for approval soon.

In order to proceed in a timely manner, I request that Presbytery give the Executive Council the authority to approve the Ministry Discernment Profile.



**PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY**  
**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL REPORT – AUGUST 2025**

**EXECUTIVE COUNCIL**

**Class of 2025**

Leann Scarbrough\*  
John Schuler  
Joe Scrivner\*  
Deborah C. Thomas

**Class of 2026**

Jothany James  
Neil McCarter\*  
Wendy Tucker  
Jonathan Yarboro\*

**Class of 2027**

Tom Bryson\*  
Terry Hamilton-Poore  
Terri Moon Jones  
Donna Winn

\*Ministers of the Word and Sacrament

The Executive Council met on June 17, 2025, and July 15, 2025. Decisions reached during the deliberations of these meetings are listed.

**Action Items:**

- Approved the proposed docket for the Presbytery Meeting on August 21, 2025. (Stated Clerk)
- Endorsed three enrichment workshops for inclusion in the August Presbytery Meeting Agenda.
  - Amendments to the Book of Order – Jay Wilkins, Stated Clerk, Presenter
  - Proverbs and the Wisdom Tradition – Cort Gatliff, Presenter
  - Care for the Caregiver – Beverly Thorn, Presenter
- Approved the development of a brochure for the 2025 Stewardship Campaign. (Finance Committee)
- Approved collaboration with the Personnel Committee (if needed) to discuss implications of the timeline related to the Transition/Search Committee's Work Plan. (The Transition Committee was informed of this decision.)

**Informational Items:**

- Received an update on the status of the Transition/Search Committee Process regarding a timeline for the search and its implications for the transition of personnel. (Transition/Search Committee).
- Received updates regarding the status of congregations (General Presbyter and Stated Clerk).
- Received planning updates on the Congo Mission Network Conference (Conference Planning Committee Representatives and Mission Coordinator).
- Received updates on conference scholarships and participation (Equip, Nurture, and Connect Coordinator).
- Received reports from the General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk.

**Announcements**

1. The Congo Mission Network Conference will be held at Stillman College over October 23-25, 2025. Congregations will be asked to support the conference with attendance and/or hospitality items. (An announcement will be made during the August Presbytery Meeting.)
2. The Executive Council changed the time of its meetings from 9:30 a.m. to 10:00 a.m. (These meetings are scheduled on Third Tuesdays in months that are not scheduled for Presbytery Meetings).

Deborah C. Thomas, Executive Council Moderator

PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS & LAPSLEY  
ANTI-RACISM COMMITTEE  
*Presents*

***At The River***  
***Viewing and Virtual Discussion***

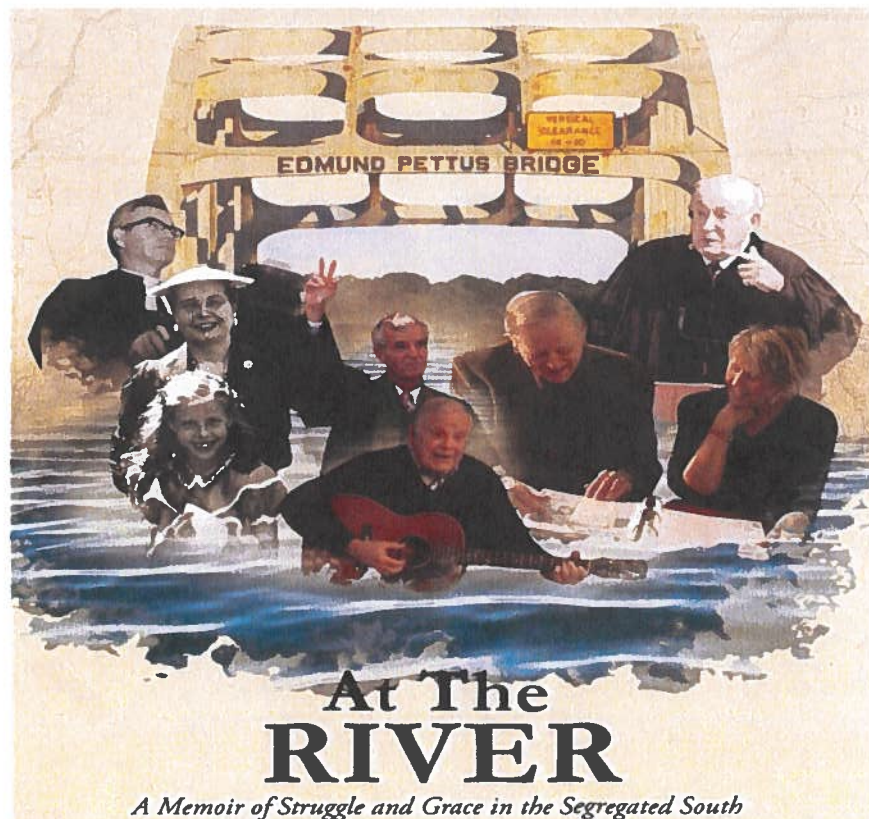
If you missed the *At the River* film screening and discussion at Southminster Presbyterian Church in April, there will be another chance to participate. A virtual event will take place on **Sunday, August 24, 2025, at 4:00 PM (Central Time)** via Zoom, led by the film director, Carolyn Crowder.

Everyone who signs up in advance will receive two links on **August 14, 2025:**

1. A link to **watch the film** starting that day
2. A Zoom link to **join the live discussion** on August 24

**NOTE: This event satisfies required Anti-Racism training.**

To sign up, please email [debrahartonlove2@gmail.com](mailto:debrahartonlove2@gmail.com) by **August 13, 2025.**



Report of the General Presbyter of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley  
August 2025

What does faithful witness and ministry in the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley look like in these days? I submit that the docket of this meeting itself gives us a powerful glimpse of faithful witness to the gospel of Jesus Christ and his mission. Please notice with me:

- **First Presbyterian Church**, our host for this meeting, is an historical urban congregation which, despite opportunities to move to the suburbs and abandon the inner city, instead chose to stay and minister in an urban context. Partners in the founding of the Fresh Air Farm and more recently in the First Light residential housing for women and children in which many of our Birmingham area churches participate. In the 1960's they took a bold stand for racial equality. While it cost the pastor his job, the church then and now witnessed to the inherent worth of all God's children.
- **Worship** together. As the life of a congregation centers on the act of worship, so does the life of the presbytery. Here we gather to give our praise, our honesty, our resources to God and with each other hear in word, music, and sacrament, the ancient promises of God and God's call to join him on the sacred mission of saving the world. Far from "making the meetings longer" it grounds the meeting at the center of our life and witness.
- We enjoy an historic relationship with **Stillman College** though the PCUSA. Stillman College was started as a theological school for training African American men toward the end of the 1800's. In the 20<sup>th</sup> century it became first an accredited junior college (1937) and then an accredited four-year college. It remains a vibrant HBCU providing life-changing opportunities for young people of all races and circumstances. Stillman will be the host of the **Congo Mission Network** this fall!
- We're taking some time at this meeting for **enrichment**. John Calvin, our Presbyterian ancestor, imagined presbyteries as groups of pastoral and other leaders from various congregations gathering to build one another up – in Bible study, in prayer, in the common good and we will do that here this day. No one is alone in this ministry and the presbytery helps us hone our skills! In addition later this fall the presbytery is offering a retreat to deepen the ministry of small church pastors and leaders (which is the vast majority of our congregations) with the highly regarded Phil Blackburn. (See flyer included) I hope you will come!
- And of course we enjoy table fellowship – at the communion table and also in the fellowship hall connecting with our colleagues, renewing friendships, making new ones. Enacting community.



- We welcome Kenan Rodgers from the **Presbyterian Board of Pensions**. Collectively our churches practice justice by insuring health care and a retirement plan for our pastors. Recently, the Board of Pensions has been able to expand their services to include more part-time positions and Commissioned Pastors and we celebrate the community nature of this valuable resource.
- We will hear from our mission partners. The Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley sends volunteers and generous gifts to the ministry of **The Presbyterian Home for Children** and many of our members serve on its board. Same with **Living River**. In addition to the generous gifts many of our congregations and individuals make to Living River regularly, the presbytery subsidizes it's work by nearly \$3000.00 monthly and send our children while Living River helps us raise up leaders for the church and world tomorrow.
- We've had a lot of tornadoes this spring particularly in **Selma and the Black Belt**. Thanks to the generosity of our churches and in partnership with the Presbyterian Disaster Program we have collectively sent thousands of dollars for needed repair and restoration. (See more in Ralls's report)
- Today we will also celebrate the ministry of the **Commissioned Pastor** program. This program of overseeing the preparation of elders for pastoral ministry provides excellent pastors for many of our churches. Today we have the joy of receiving John Schuler into the presbytery as a Commissioned Pastor and commissioning both John and Sharon as Co-directors of the CP Program in conjunction with the COM.
- Meanwhile, as I write this so very many congregations in our presbytery are stuffing back-packs with essential school supplies. The first Sunday of August, many will bless those back-packs and the young people who will use them as they take on this new school year in God's good care.

This presbytery meeting is a snap-shot of the presbytery's life together. As with any snap-shot, it does not show the whole panoply of wat the presbytery is about but it is a vivid glimpse of what is a rich and enriching life. The presbytery depends completely on the generous giving of our member churches and I thank you for valuing this shared life with your generous contributions!

As ever in prayer,

Sue

## **Commission on Ministry Report**

*Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley*

August 2025

### **Information Items:**

1. Approved CP Carl Martin to serve communion as follows: First of Alexander City on June 1, 2025; Mountain Brook Presbyterian on July 6, 2025; First Birmingham on August 3, 2025.
2. Approved use of the designation "Commissioned Pastor" or "CP" to refer to those in Sheppards and Lapsley who have completed the Commissioned Ruling Elder/Certified Lay Pastor requirements and who serve under a commission to pastoral service at a specific church or who are available for pastoral service through the supply list.
3. Reviewed and approved new documents as well as revisions to some existing documents needed for the Commissioned Pastor Program. (Once all CP documents have been updated, they will be updated on the Presbytery's website.)
4. Conducted exit interview with the Rev. Nan Adams (Providence, Montgomery) and voted to support her call to First Presbyterian Palestine, Illinois. If the way be clear, Nan's ministry in Sheppards and Lapsley will end on August 24, 2025, as her ministry and membership with Presbytery of Southeastern Illinois commences. We give thanks for Nan's service, and we ask God's blessing upon her life and ministry.

### **Action Item:**

1. Approve the Terms of Call for Pastors for 2025. (Spreadsheet included in packet.)
2. Examine John Schuler, Commissioned Ruling Elder/CP (resume, faith statement, faith journey and letter from Presbytery of Florida attached) and
  - a. welcome his move from Florida Presbytery to Sheppards and Lapsley and
  - b. approve him to serve in Validated Ministry as Co-Director of the CP Program Ministry with his spouse, Rev. Sharon Schuler (HR).
3. Commission John and Sharon Schuler as Co-Directors of the CP Program.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the COM members by,

*Carl G. Martin*

Moderator

# ANNUAL REPORT ON REMUNERATION OF MINISTER MEMBERS -- 2025

This chart contains the name of all active members who have terms of call in this Presbytery and shows their remuneration configurations for 2025.

**Note:** If Travel, CE, not vouchered for actual expense, it is income and part of Effective Salary.

MINISTER-WORK	EFFECTIVE SALARY	BOARD OF PENSIONS	TRAVEL VOUCHERED	CONT. ED VOUCHERED	OTHER CHURCH EXP	TOTAL PACKAGE
Rick Atkerson, Member-at-Large	0	0	0	0	0	0
In Chan Bae, Korean Pelham						
Michael Bailey, First-Tuscaloosa						
Yoo Chang Bang, Member-at-Large	1,058				125	1,183
Lindsey Becker Brady, Member-at-Large						
Lindsey Wade Beebe, Member-at-Large						
Jerome Bell, Westminster B'ham, SS	27,617					27,617
Shelaine Bird, Member-at-Large	7,392					7,392
Tom Bryson, Southminster						
Heather Jones Butler, Member-at-Large	0	0	0	0	0	0
Cecilia Chang, New Worshipping Community	24,000					24,000
Tae Ho Cheong, Member-at-Large						
Timothy Cho, Member-at-Large	40,000					40,000
Susan Clayton, Independent	104,710	26,819		3,000	8,156	142,685
Vic Dippenaar, Member-at-Large						
Erica Durham						
Robert Edwards, Member-at-Large						
Emily Frandsen, First-Tuscaloosa	71,717	29,646		2,000	5,986	109,349
Zana Free, Member-at-Large						
Abby Gatliff, South Highland						
Cort Gatliff, South Highland						
Joe Genau, Edgewood	70,266	18,270	1,500	1,000	4,953	95,989
Elizabeth Goodrich, Member-at-Large	0	0	0	0	0	0

MINISTER-WORK	EFFECTIVE SALARY	BOARD OF PENSIONS	TRAVEL VOUCHERED	CONT. ED VOUCHERED	OTHER CHURCH EXP	TOTAL PACKAGE
Sam Hamilton-Poore, Montevallo	35,000			2,000	14,413	51,413
Terry Hamilton-Poore, First-Birmingham	89,292	34,924		5,000		129,216
Jeff Hayes, Member-at-Large						
Junmo Jeong, Auburn-Opelika Korean						
Jae Seon Jo, Montgomery Korean	43,840	19,000	6,160	1,300	9,307	79,607
Caroline Kelly, Grace	80,000	31,800	1,500	1,500	6,150	120,950
Samuel Kim, Auburn-Opelika Korean	4,776					4,776
Sun Jae Kim, Korean Tuscaloosa	43,200					43,200
Sung Eun Kim, Auburn-Opelika Korean	4,515	1,000				5,515
Young Kim, Korean Anniston	67,400					67,400
Kevin Long, Independent	228,660	60,466		3,000	14,880	307,006
Rachel Mathews, Living River, Validated						
Neil McCarter, Bethel SS	24,000				1,500	25,500
John McClure, Professor-Vanderbilt Divinity						
Mark McCormick, Member-at-Large						
Wayne McLaughlin, Montevallo SS						
Lukata Mjumbe, Validated	139,500					139,500
Nicole Newton, Independent	85,000	31,050		3,000	6,649	125,699
Elizabeth O'Neill, Immanuel						
Daekeun Park, Auburn Opelika Korean						
Luke Ponder, First-Livingston						
Kathy Wolf Reed, First-Auburn	77,398	20,567			19,795	117,760
Leanne Pearce Reed, Southminster						
Nick Reed, First-Auburn	74,902	29,336			20,946	125,184
Madison Roberts, Mountain Brook	88,680	23,057			10,784	122,521

MINISTER-WORK	EFFECTIVE SALARY	BOARD OF PENSIONS	TRAVEL VOUCHERED	CON. ED VOUCHERED	OTHER CHURCH EXP	TOTAL PACKAGE
Leeann Scarbrough, First-Talladega						
Katherine Scott, Chaplain, Member-at-Large						
Joe Scrivner, Brown Memorial						
David Seamon, Independent	104,660	45,004		3,000	8,152	160,816
Lou Ann Sellers, First-Tuscaloosa						
Charles Sims, First-Sylacauga	33,600		1,300		1,200	36,100
Jungkyun Son, Auburn Opelika Korean						
Petra Sprik, Member-at-Large						
Michael Thurman, Westminster Tuskegee						
Jim Truesdell, Presbyterian Frontier Fellowship						
Sam Turpen, Member-at-Large	18,490					18,490
Daniel Vanek, Validated	65,813	46,880			6,000	118,693
Sue Westfall, General Presbyter	87,419	29,940			4,400	121,759
Jay Wilkins, Stated Clerk	11,897					11,897
James Wilson, First Carbon Hill	8,280		6,720			15,000
Rachel Winter, Oakmont Chapel	56,596	14,715			7,596	78,907
Jonathan Yarboro, First-Wetumpka	60,063	11,300	6,600	1,800	3,263	83,026

## **Service for Commissioning of Co-Directors of the Commissioned Pastor (CP) Program**

**John Schuler, CRE/CP**

**Rev. Sharon Schuler**

**Moderator:** As many of you as were baptized into Christ have clothed yourselves with Christ. There is no longer Jew or Greek, there is no longer slave or free, there is no longer male and female;

**People:** for all are one in Christ Jesus.

**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 John Schuler and Sharon Schuler for commissioning as Co-Directors of the Commissioned Pastor Program.

### ***Moderator asks the constitutional questions***

**Moderator:** John and Sharon, the grace bestowed on you in baptism is sufficient for your calling because it is God's grace. By God's grace we are saved and enabled to grow in the faith and to commit our lives in ways that serve Christ. God has called you to particular service – to encourage, to teach, to support, and to shepherd those who have been called to serve others as Commissioned Pastors. Show your purpose by answering these questions.

**Moderator:** Who is your Lord and Savior?

**John/Sharon:** Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior.

**Moderator:** Will you be Christ's faithful disciple, obeying his word and showing his love?

**John/Sharon:** I will, with God's help.

**Moderator:** Do you welcome the responsibility of this service because you are determined to follow the Lord Jesus, to love neighbors, and to work for the reconciling of the world?

**John/Sharon:** I do.

**Moderator:** Will you serve the people with energy, intelligence, imagination, and love, relying on God's mercy and rejoicing in the power of the Holy Spirit?

**John/Sharon:** I will, with God's help.

### ***Addresses Presbytery...***

Moderator: Do we, commissioners of Sheppards and Lapsley, confirm the call of God to John and Sharon as Co-Directors of the Commissioned Pastor Program, chosen by God through the voice of this presbytery to serve in the name of Jesus Christ?

People: We do.

Moderator: Do we promise to support and encourage them as they seek to fulfill their responsibilities in this ministry?

People: We do.

### ***Commissioning Prayer***

Moderator: Let us pray together.

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. Amen.

Moderator: On behalf of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley, I welcome you to this ministry. May God's Holy Spirit empower you as you share the Good News of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

And all the people said: Amen.



## Commissioned Ruling Elder Program

### PRESBYTERY OF SHEPPARDS AND LAPSLEY

#### Applicant's Pastor and/or Session Moderator Endorsement Form

Primary attention should be given at this time to evaluating the applicant's natural gifts, quality of commitment, strength of motivation, potential for growth. The Presbytery must rely upon the Session Moderator to exercise good judgment in discerning whether this applicant seems to be called by God to consider service as a Commissioned Ruling Elder.

Name of Applicant: John Schuler Length of Relationship: 21 yrs.

Please respond candidly to the following questions. Use extra paper if needed.

1. What personal qualities are evident of a vital faith in God through Jesus Christ and the Holy Spirit?

John is gifted for ministry. He has a Masters of Divinity from Columbia Seminary where he received training in every discipline of ministry. He is especially skilled and knowledgeable in polity.

2. How is that faith currently being expressed through the individual's participation in the worship, ministry, and mission of this congregation?

John attends worship weekly, helps lead a Bible study weekly with his wife Sharon, and serves on various boards including the Session.

3. What evidence do you see of a sense of call?

Commitment to the Gospel message, a tender heart for others, a wonderful sense of humor, and deep enduring friendships

4. What actual and potential talents for ministry as a CRE are evident in this individual?

John has a sharp mind for study and a true gift for pastoral care. He understands the administrative role and leadership needed for congregational life.

5. Describe a few situations in the life of your church in which the applicant has demonstrated leadership capacity.

John is deeply involved in the leadership of our Admin and Finance committee as well as serving on the Finance committee of Presbytery. He is creative in problem solving and leads by curiosity rather than a harder, sit-and-allow approach.

6. How would you rate the applicant's physical health/stamina, emotional well-being, and maturity?

Emotional well-being and maturity are more than sufficient for this role.

John's physical health may need to be considered for some roles, as he feels comfortable.

7. Describe the applicant's capacities for effective public speaking and demonstration of pastoral care.

No worry at all for his ability to demonstrate pastoral care.

Again, he will share his comfort level for public speaking.

8. The following are especially important in a CRE. Please circle all which you think are demonstrated by this applicant in the life of your church.

Ability to speak publicly with a clear and coherent voice

~~A demonstrated basic knowledge of the content of Scripture~~

Reliability

Leadership

Compassion

Skills in personal relationships

Well-developed listening skills

Ability to relate to various age groups

Able to keep confidentiality

He works very hard to overcome his difficulty w/ speech. Very patient and gracious.

9. Describe any reservations you might have in endorsing this candidate. Note: This does not necessarily disqualify the candidate.

None!

Sign and circle where applicable:

I, as Pastor or former pastor of

Southminster Presbyterian Church

DO endorse the applicant to the CRE Program.

DO NOT endorse the applicant to the CRE Program.

DO WITH RESERVATIONS endorse the applicant to the CRE Program.

Signature

Rev. P. Thomas M. By

Date

1/9/2025



## PRESBYTERY OF FLORIDA

*The Vision of the Presbytery of Florida is  
to be a presbytery of strong, healthy, energetic congregations advancing the  
ministries of Jesus Christ.*

*The Mission of the Presbytery of Florida is  
to provide guidance, training, and assistance to our congregations to attain that Vision.*

WWW.PRESBYTERYOFFLORIDA.NET

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LOCATED AT  
3368 HARMONY RD., CHIPLEY

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MODERATOR  
MARY37@COMCAST.NET

ENABLER  
PAM MCVETY  
CARING FOR CREATION  
ENABLER

January 9, 2025

To whom it may concern:

This letter is to affirm that John Schuler was duly trained to serve as a Commissioned Ruling Elder in the Presbytery of Florida. His first commission began in April 2012 at the Navarre Presbyterian Church where John did an admirable job leading the congregation and faithfully serving our Lord.

When he and his wife, the Rev. Sharon Schuler, moved from northwest Florida, it was a tremendous loss on our part, but a blessing where they landed.

If you have specific questions, please feel free to be in touch.

Sursum Corda,

*Mark Broadhead*

Rev. Mark R. Broadhead  
Stated Clerk/Acting General Presbyter

**John W. Schuler**  
6088 Terrace Hills Drive  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
(850)218-0660  
[jwschuler48@gmail.com](mailto:jwschuler48@gmail.com)

## **Resume**

### **Employment**

- Presbytery of Florida** 8/2013 – 11/2013  
Chipley, FL Interim Administrator/Head of Staff  
Serve as Head of Staff; in consultation with the Stated Clerk, implement Presbytery policies, strategies, and programs and communicate, interpret and coordinate with the Stated Clerk of the presbytery the programs, policies and actions of the synod and General Assembly; in consultation with Budget, Finance & Stewardship Team and the treasurer to administer and monitor the budget and contracts; maintain communication with churches in the presbytery, synod, and General Assembly, related ecumenical/interfaith agencies and the general public; check e-mails regularly and forward as appropriate;
- Navarre Presbyterian Church** 6/2012 – 8/2015  
Navarre, FL Commissioned Ruling Elder  
Responsible for all aspects of Sunday worship including but not limited to: weekly sermons, bulletins, hymn selections, sacraments, power point presentation, etc. Pastoral care, counseling, moderate the session, visitation.
- EaglesWings – Food Pantry** 11/2010 – 11/2011  
Monticello, FL Founder  
Filled the need for a community food pantry. I developed a coalition between 3 different local churches for staffing and food donations. Kept track of all aspects of the food pantry: keeping shelves stocked, data base of clients, participation in Second Harvest of the Big Bend, etc.
- Presbyterian University Center @ FSU** 5/2011 – 7/2011  
Tallahassee, FL Interim Minister  
Responsible for maintaining the operations of the Presbyterian University Center during the sabbatical of the full time minister. General administrative duties, contact with students, 'Listening Point' Thursday evening program and other duties as needed.
- First Presbyterian Church** 9/2006 – 4/2007  
Bremen, GA Supply Pastor  
Responsible for all aspects of Sunday worship including but not limited to: Sermons, bulletins, hymn selections, etc. Pastoral care, counseling, moderate meetings, visitation. Short term & long range planning
- First Presbyterian Church** 6/2005 – 8/2005  
Leadville, CO Supply Pastor  
Responsible for all aspects of Sunday worship including but not limited to: Sermons, bulletins, hymn selections, etc. Pastoral care, counseling, visitation, moderate committee meetings. Short term and long range planning
- Southwest Iowa Parish** 6/2004 – 8/2004  
Lenox, IA Student Pastor/Supervised Ministry  
I worked with 5 pastors and 8 churches assisting with Sunday worship, weddings, funerals, visitations and anything that the pastors were involved in doing. I also preached numerous times.
- Wellshire Presbyterian Church** 1/2003 – 6/2003  
Denver, CO Interim Youth Director  
Responsible for the development and implementation of weekly youth group meetings, including lessons and activities. Also helped with all phases of mission trip to Mexico for 50 adults and youth.

**First Presbyterian & Calvary Episcopal Churches**

9/2001 – 5/2002

Golden, CO

Interim Youth Director

Responsible for the development and implementation of weekly youth group meetings. including lessons and activities.

Responsible for combining two church youth groups into one cohesive youth group respecting and honoring the tradition of two different denominations.

Started with approximately 12 youth (ages 11 to 18) with no mailing list or history. Within 9 months, the program had expanded into two youth groups (15 - Junior High - ages 11 to 13) & (20 - Senior High - ages 14 to 18) and a combined mailing list of over 75.

**Service to the Church****PC(USA)**

General Assembly

COLA Committee

2002 &amp; 2003

Participant

General Assembly

Office of General Assembly

2004, 2006 &amp; 2008

OGA Volunteer Staff

Middle Governing Body Financial Network

November 2010

Attendee

**Columbia Theological Seminary**

Administrative Assistant to the President; Coordinated events for the President and Board of Trustees; Housing Committee; Student Coordinating Council Leadership Retreat; Middler Class President; Student Coordinating Council President; Preaching Tour to Savannah Presbytery

**Denver Presbytery**

Committee on Local Arrangements

General Assembly 2003

**Florida Presbytery**

Pulpit Supply List; Commissioned Ruling Elder; Budget, Finance & Stewardship Committee; Fiscal Health Task Force; Permanent Judicial Commission; Personnel Committee

**Local Church**

Ordained Deacon; Ordained Elder; Long Range Planning Committee; Worship, Building & Grounds, Parish Staff Committees; Sunday School Teacher; Developed and wrote Confirmation Class Curriculum

**Education**

Columbia Theological Seminary, Decatur, GA

M.Div.

2006

Regis University, Denver, CO

B.S.

1992

Business Administration

**References**

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Emporia, KS

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Bill Niles

Estes Park, CO

970-237-0313

[theniles@aol.com](mailto:theniles@aol.com)

Question 1 – Personal Faith

A. Write a brief statement of faith. (*No more than one page.*)

I believe in one true God who created everything known and unknown. I believe in Jesus Christ as wholly and completely human and wholly God. I believe that through God's love Jesus Christ died for our sins. I believe that we are born sinners and through the love and grace of Jesus Christ our sins are forgiven. I believe that God's Word is delivered and revealed to us through the Holy Spirit and in the life of Jesus Christ the Word incarnate. God continues to reveal the Word through the Holy Spirit and the Holy Spirit continues to work within and through God's creation.

Jesus Christ is the head of the Church and will lead all who truly believe in Jesus Christ to everlasting life. As believers in God, we celebrate our relationship with God through two sacraments. The sacrament of Baptism signifies God's grace and the placing of God's mark on God's followers to signify unity and to remind us of God's grace. The sacrament of Holy Communion is the way we can commune together at a common table with all believers and saints. Holy Communion reminds us of the sacrifice Christ made to forgive our sins. It also gives us the opportunity to celebrate with the living Christ in unity with all believers and a hope for the fulfillment of God's kingdom.

The Father, Son, and Holy Spirit make up the triune God. We are brought closer to God through our ongoing relationship with the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit acts to guide us to focus on God's will and to do God's work here on earth. Through the gift of Jesus Christ, those who truly believe and live that belief through their lives will receive the gift of eternal life.

We are a broken people in a broken world. The Gospel calls on us to reach out to accomplish the love, healing, peace, and justice of Jesus Christ here on earth.

God created humanity in God's own image. God sought out a close relationship with humanity and we continually turn away from God. God seeks us out and wants us to live with each other and to live for God, so that God might enjoy us and that we might worship and enjoy God.

B. Write a brief description of how your journey of faith has brought you to this stage in life, culminating in your sense of call to this type of ministry. *(No more than one page.)*

I was born and raised in the church. I have been involved in Sunday school as both a student and teacher; singing in choirs, youth groups and served on numerous church committees. I am an ordained Deacon and an ordained Elder. I have served the church as an interim youth director several times.

When I first heard God's call for me to enter the ministry, I discerned that call as a call to youth ministry. I had a heart and love for this type of ministry for many years and always enjoyed teaching and working with youth. My style of youth ministry is building relationships with the youth and teaching them the importance of a personal relationship with God.

Over my time at seminary and ever since, I have experienced God's call in my life in many different ways. In seminary, classes introduced to me other forms of ministry that I had not considered. God seemed to be calling me to experience small church ministry. So as my first year of seminary (2003-04) came to an end and I entered into my field education summer, I sought out an internship that would introduce me to and submerge me into small church ministry.

I spent the summer in deep prayer with God about my call. I had thirteen weeks in Southwest Iowa where I had the very unique experience of working with five ministers and their eight different congregations. Throughout the summer I kept my eyes open to the small church experience and my ears and heart open to God's voice and call. God's call on my life changed over that summer. God was calling me toward small church ministry.

The following summer (2005) I spent the summer serving First Presbyterian Church of Leadville, CO. Here again, I spent the summer in deep thought and prayer listening for God's call. Once again, I heard God calling me toward small church ministry.

After I graduated, the small church was still where God was calling me to serve. For eight months (2006-07) I served a small church in Bremen, GA. I was their pastor in every sense. I felt God provided this church so I could have more experience in this form of ministry.

After my wife, Sharon, accepted her call to First Presbyterian Church in Monticello, FL, I continued to try to find ways to continue to be involved in ministry. I have joined and am active in the life of that church. I have become involved in the Presbytery by serving as a commissioner, and as a member of the Budget, Finance and Stewardship committee. I am on the Presbytery Pulpit Supply List and have preached at several different churches.

The call to be a Commissioned Lay Pastor is a way to fulfill the strong call to ministry in a small congregation church setting. I feel this is where and what God is calling me to do at this time. I am still listening and discerning how God continues to work in my life.





**Keenan Rodgers**  
**Church Consultant**

m: 215-341-8143

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

### Summer 2025

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

*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, mid councils, and affiliated employers.*

**Member/Employer Services:** 800-773-7752 M-F 8:30 am to 6:00 pm ET. [memberservices@pensions.org](mailto:memberservices@pensions.org)

## 2026 Rates and Employer Agreements

Due to challenges in the healthcare industry that continue to drive up costs, the Board of Directors approved medical dues increases in June for 2026 for the Congregational Pastors Package and Transitional Pastor's Participation. Dues for the income protection benefits in the packages, including death and disability and pension, will remain at 10% of effective salary in 2026. Rates for Benefits Plan offerings provided outside of packages will be available to employers in Benefits Connect on Aug. 28, when Employer Agreement season opens. The Decision Guide for Minister Benefits tool, which helps with cost calculation and eligibility, will also be updated. See details in the [Summer Board Bulletin](#).

## Mental Health

Spring Health, the new provider for the [Employee Assistance Plan \(EAP\)](#), offers eligible plan members a variety of mental well-being and EAP services, including mental health care navigation, six clinical therapy sessions at no cost to them, and **unlimited virtual coaching sessions with certified coaches at no cost**. Every Spring Health provider is in-network with Highmark BCBS, so if the member is also enrolled in medical benefits, consultations with a Spring Health mental health care provider can continue with lower copays and deductibles.

Should a minister or staff member need to take leave to focus on mental health, they can consider applying for [Temporary Disability](#) benefits. Temporary Disability may be offered by itself or as part of the [Covenant Package](#), [Congregational Pastors Package](#) and the [Transitional Pastor's Participation Package](#).

## Other important information:

**Assistance Program Grant Opportunities:** In 2024, the Assistance Program distributed over 2,700 grants for a total of approximately \$9.5 million in funds. [Read about potential grant opportunities](#) for active and retired Benefits Plan members.

**Employer Support with Benefits Connect:** Quick Start Guides for Benefits Connect are found [here](#). Employer Reps may also call Employer Services for assistance. See contact info and hours above.



## Mission Coordinator Report to Presbytery, August 21, 2025

1. The Congo Mission Network Conference for 2025 will be hosted by our Presbytery on October 23-25, 2025, at Stillman College in Tuscaloosa. It will be a hybrid meeting, with connections to the Democratic Republic of Congo and the United States. French to English translators will be provided.

To register for the Conference, please go to: <https://congopartners.org/register.2025/>

The registration fee is \$125 if paid by August 31.

Hotel lodging will be at the Homewood Suite by Hilton in downtown Tuscaloosa. Please contact the hotel if you want to stay there.

Meals will be at the Stillman College Cafeteria. The cost per meal will be over \$10 per meal, paid by the attendee.

If possible, please plan on attending in person, and meet others who are passionate in our work in the DR Congo.

2. The Dallas County Long Term Recovery Group was formed in the winter of 2023 after the tornado that devastated parts of Dallas County and Selma. The LTRG was comprised of local community leaders, clergy, business people and funders from around the state. Cornerstone Presbyterian Church of Selma, the Episcopal Church, the Lutheran Church, Grace Tabernacle of Selma, the Edmundites (a Catholic order), Mennonites, the United Methodist Church and our Presbytery all worked together to raise funds and repair/rebuild housing in Selma. UMCOR ( United Methodist Committee on Recovery) provided the case management for 230 open client cases, performing 95 repairs/rebuilds of homes, and distributing almost \$2.5 million dollars. Our Presbytery contributed \$44,439.97 to replace appliances and furniture, repair roofs and help build 2 houses. This helped 10 families.

The work of the Dallas LTRG is now completed. We had a Celebration Supper in Selma July 8, where the families, the funders, the UMCOR team all met and heard each other's stories.

Thank you Presbytery churches for all your generous help. It is time to give thanks to God.

There is much poverty in the Black Belt and so we will continue to be active in service there. Also, please do not forget about those who are suffering in western North Carolina and in Texas. The Presbyterian Church focuses on long term recovery in the aftermath of disasters.

Again, thank you, Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley. And thanks be to God.

3. The Pentecost Can-paign for 2025 ended on August 11, 2025. Churches in our Presbytery collect food and money to donate to hunger organizations of their choice. The Can-paign is a way to keep in our hearts the need to combat hunger. We should have the total collection numbers from the churches by our in-person Presbytery meeting.

# MAIN EVENT



Presbytery of  
Sheppards and Lapsley

**Save the date:**

**November 11-12 at Living River**

*"Small" Ministries —*

**BIG Impact**



The Rev. Phillip Blackburn  
is the director of the Thriving in Rural Ministry  
Program at the University of the Ozarks in  
Clarksville, Arkansas. In addition, he and his  
wife Tasha co-pastor First Presbyterian Church  
in Fort Smith, Arkansas.

Committee on Nominating and Representation  
Report to PSL Stated Meeting - August 21, 2025

**For action:**

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

Commissioners to the 227th General Assembly, 2026

Rick Atkerson\*

Joe Genau\*

Darryl Love, Westminster, B'ham

Adrienne Royster, 1st United, B'ham

YAAD - TBD

Alternate:

April Lane, Grace

Robert Posey, IPC

Board of Directors, PHFC

Class of 2028

Brittany Dennis-Hancock, 1st Auburn

Joe Rives, Southminster

Respectfully submitted,

Rick Atkerson

Moderator

**For information:**

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 2025

Debra Love

Jenny Thagard

Rick Atkerson\*

Class of 2026

Madison Roberts\*

Kathy Tracey

Lee Walthall

Class of 2027

Caroline Kelly\*

Jim Holland

Ron Parsons





## Summer Camp 2025 Memories

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



#### Summer 2025 Camp Summary

- 4 Summer Camp Sessions
- 157 campers
- 12 awesome counselors
- 28 adult volunteers
- 33 congregations represented, 13 Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley congregations
- 55 first-time Living River Summer Camp campers!

#### From our Counselors...

"Starting my first summer as a counselor at Living River (LR), I didn't know what to expect. It was my first time ever being at a summer camp, my first camp job, and to be honest, I've never been a big fan of the outdoors, which made the experience feel even more scary at first. But despite all of that, LR quickly became more than just a job—it became a space where I grew in ways I never expected. I saw campers who were also new, just like me—unsure, nervous, and figuring things out—and that helped me realize I wasn't alone. I learned how to lead with patience, how to connect with people from all different backgrounds, and how to show up as my full self even when I felt out of place. Being a counselor taught me that you don't have to have it all figured out to make an impact—you just have to care, listen, and be willing to grow. LR reminded me of the power of simply showing up, not just for others, but for myself too. It challenged me, stretched me, and gave me something I'll carry with me long after the summer ended." -Tytianna Ransom, first-time counselor



Below: Tytianna (far left), first-time counselor, dancing with the group she taught over Creative Camp during the talent show





"All three of my summers as a Living River counselor have changed me for the better as an individual and grown the confidence I feel about my future career as a teacher. Forming connections with campers has been such a special and unique opportunity for me to grow as a leader, a mentor, a teacher, and much more. Living River appeared in my life when I was feeling a little unsure about things, and the genuine love and acceptance that I felt from everyone, pretty much immediately, changed me and the way that I am towards others. It often feels like God knew exactly where I needed to be right then, and made sure I would be put there. I will never stop thanking God for getting to be a counselor at this wonderful place!" -Bel Marshall, Returning Counselor

**Thank you to all those who provided support and leadership for summer camp!** Those who provided meals and snacks for counselors; and those who helped prepare for camp or train our counselors- Brooks Thomas, Sky York (Camp Cosby), Commercial Recreation Specialists, Impact Screen Printing (t-shirts), Jamie Mauldin, Wes Mathews, Don Blakeley, Meagan Westbrook, Sarah Hewitt, Higher Pursuits (canoe training), Wil Rainer (Cahaba River Society), and Jermaine Wall.

Thank you to those who helped during summer camp- Robert Hay, Ben Flowers, Robert Newman, Grace Daniels, Marlena Giattina, Erika and Jaron Raper, Lois and Mike Palecek, Gail Calloway, Abby Bunn, Alison Jenkins, Joe Genau, Mollie McFarland, Winton Jones and Lauren Curtner-Smith, Tiffiney Myles, Helen Xu, Patrick Riley, and Counselors in Training Noah Dimick and Kayla Smith.

Thank you to all of our board members, all of our donors, and all of our year-round and seasonal staff. **And special thanks to our chefs Aeriane Brown and Tony Washington.**



Above: Bel with a camper during Creative Camp this summer. Below: Jaron Raper, healthcare provider for Elementary Camp, playing a part in a camp-wide game of Exodus.



## Join us this Fall for...

### Open Days-

**Aug. 16, Sept. 20, Oct. 19, Nov. 15, Dec. 20**

Once a month, come and enjoy Living River's property from 9:00 am to sunset. Hosts will be at Living River's office all day to greet and answer questions. Lifejackets are available to visitors to use at the lake or on the river. Visitors can enjoy hiking, disc golf, games like gaga ball or basketball, sitting by the river, and canoes for rent! No prior registration is needed.

### Counselor Alumni Retreat, Sept. 6-7

All former counselors from Gulfstream, Covenant Mountain, and Living River are welcome for a 2-day, 1-night retreat at Living River. Help us spread the word! Registration will be available soon.

### Fall Elementary Retreat, Nov. 7-9

All K-5th graders are welcome to Living River's annual Fall Elementary Retreat. Bring a friend! It'll be a weekend packed with camp fun. If a part of a PC(USA) congregation, registration will be done through your church. Individual registrations will also be done through Living River. Stay tuned for more details.

### Fall River Fest, Oct. 19

This year is Living River's third annual Fall River Fest, a day of fellowship and activities. A big lunch (come and go from 12:30-1:30 pm) will be a highlight of the day! In year's past, some churches have moved their worship service from their building to Living River for Fall River Fest. Other congregations and individuals join in the festivities as they're able! We hope you find a way to join us again this year, and invite others!

Fall River Fest also includes an afternoon worship service, activities with environmental partners, creative opportunities, and some guided recreation.



## Environmental Partners & Outreach



### The Work of Cahaba Riverkeeper is Vital to Living River Summer Camp

It's that time of year again! Help us sponsor our Cahaba Riverkeeper Swim Guide Location. Living River is one of Cahaba Riverkeeper's 29 sites along the Cahaba that they test weekly over 16 weeks during peak recreational use time for fish DNA, bacteria, pollutants, and microplastics. **Their work allows Living River campers to swim and canoe safely during the summer and also does so much to protect the Cahaba and those who depend on and enjoy it.** It is \$500 to sponsor our Cahaba Riverkeeper Swim Guide site. More information at [cahabariverkeeper.org/swim-guide/](http://cahabariverkeeper.org/swim-guide/). Please consider donating any amount towards the \$500 goal to Living River any amount and designating it "Cahaba River Swim Guide."

## Financial Health and How You Can Make a Difference

Budget Report			
Sources of Funds	7/31/2025		2025 Annual Budget
Program	86,099	65%	132,800
PSL - Trinity Property	16,757	50%	33,504
Donations	92,431	45%	207,000
Designated gifts for camp	11,505	65%	17,600
Grants	48,000	100%	48,000
Other	2,884	12%	24,390
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 257,676</b>	<b>56%</b>	<b>\$ 463,294</b>
Uses of Funds			
Personnel & Fees for Services	167,556	68%	245,377
Program Expenses	29,375	56%	52,800
Facilities	77,579	71%	109,228
Mortgage Payments	17,590	53%	33,504
Administration	11,263	57%	19,797
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 303,363</b>	<b>66%</b>	<b>\$ 460,706</b>

Statement of Financial Position		
	7/31/2025	12/31/2024
<b>Assets</b>		
Operating Account	\$ 68,859	\$ 100,220
Capital Account	271,405	316,959
Other Current Assets	-	8,349
New Covenant Endowment Fund	480,215	458,695
New Covenant Scholarship Fund	9,392	8,971
Fixed Assets - Net	6,670,357	6,670,358
<b>Total Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,500,228</b>	<b>\$ 7,563,552</b>
<b>Liabilities</b>		
Accounts Payable	\$ 4,789	\$ 2,490
Program Deposits	10,580	6,080
Payroll Liabilities	4,502	4,630
Oakworth Mortgage	89,173	104,212
<b>Total Liabilities</b>	<b>109,044</b>	<b>117,412</b>
<b>Net Assets</b>		
<b>Net Assets</b>	<b>7,391,184</b>	<b>7,446,140</b>
<b>Total Liabilities and Net Assets</b>	<b>\$ 7,500,228</b>	<b>\$ 7,563,552</b>

### Financial Highlights:

- **At this point in the year, Living River has a -\$45,687 shortfall. Living River needs your generous support in order to offer the opportunity for retreats in a sacred space to more of our neighbors across the state and beyond.** Living River's Annual Fund (general operations funds) needs new/additional donations at every level of giving. Please consider ways that you can invite Living River to your congregation to share about its mission with more people, and also please consider Living River's new annual giving levels below!
- Listed in the "Statement of Financial Position," Living River's Endowment Fund has grown 28% over the last three years! Please consider Living River's Endowment in your will or for a donation.
- Living River's facilities costs are high for this point in the year because of several repairs on its zero-tun mower. Mower and vehicle maintenance are very essential and demanding annual expenses for Living River.

### Introducing, new giving levels for supporting

**Living River's mission!** Living River program growth and ongoing stewardship of its property requires annual donations at every Sustaining Donor Annual Giving Level shown to the right. In order to expand Living River's staff to include an Office Administrator and take our Executive and Facilities Directors from part-time to full-time, Living River's programs and annual donations need your support! Other short-term goals include another adult lodge, more program and recreational facilities, summer camp program growth, and more. Hopefully, giving levels convey how important annual giving at all levels is and how much every level of donor is appreciated. Please consider if you can become an annual donor to Living River or increase your giving to the next level, supporting Living River's positive momentum and growth!

### Living River Sustaining Donor Annual Giving Levels

**Your generous giving makes Living River's mission possible- stewardship of a sacred place for connection to self, others, nature, and God.**



**Bedrock Donor-** generously gives a minimum of \$300. Bedrock level donors are the foundation of Living River's annual operations.



**River Cane Donor-** generously gives a minimum of \$600. River Cane level donors preserve Living River's mission.



**Dragonfly Donor-** generously gives a minimum of \$1,000. Dragonfly level donors ensure Living River's health and growth.



**Mussel Donor-** generously gives a minimum of \$5,000. Mussel level donors enable new possibilities for Living River.



**Cahaba Lily Donor-** generously gives a minimum of \$10,000. Cahaba Lily level donors advance Living River's unique assets.



## Executive Director's Corner- an interview with WBRC, "Summer camps reviewing safety plans after Texas flooding disaster," 07/24/2025

"As the summer camping season winds down, we're talking with a local camp about their safety plans after the flooding in Texas. The flooding disaster that killed dozens at Camp Mystic in Texas was a gut punch for Jenny Thagard, the executive director of Living River: A Retreat on the Cahaba. 'I think people all over the country that have the safety and lives of children in your hands, it was just devastating,' Thagard said.

Last week, Thagard met with emergency management officials in Shelby and Bibb County to go over their safety plans. Living River is 10 years old. Its cabins were built in 2015. The camp sits on 440 acres of forest and is surrounded by four and a half miles of the Cahaba River. It's built up from the river. "While we are surrounded by the river, our elevations are high enough to where our buildings cannot flood. So, we're 53 feet above the lowest elevation line and then there's another drop down to the riverbed from there," Thagard said. Since Alabama is susceptible to all kinds of weather, Thagard says communication is key. That was a big thing they discussed with emergency officials. "We've talked about how we get alerts and the importance of getting alerts and having multiple ways of getting alerts. We have an evacuation plan. We've never had to use it. We kind of fine tuned that. Where would we go if so we did a lot of what if's. We also have long range radios and short-range radios that we can use to communicate with each other just in case other communication systems go down," Thagard said.

Thagard is a longtime educator and former principal. She says safety is always top of mind. She has this message to parents who may be wary of sending their kids to summer camps. "Their safety and security is our top priority. It always has been. We've had plans in place. This has brought them more to the top of our mind and it's also made us more aware of maybe publicize those to make parents feel better," Thagard said. Thagard tells us every year after summer camp, they meet with emergency officials to talk safety, but the devastating situation in Texas elevated that conversation even more this year.



LIVING RIVER  
A RETREAT ON THE CAHABA  
2000 Living River Parkway  
Montevallo, AL 35115



# Presbyterian Home for Children

*Raising hopes, growing confidence and nurturing faith since 1868*

Post Office Drawer 577 • Talladega, Alabama 35161

Telephone: 256.362.2114 • Fax: 256.362.6265 • E-mail: [info@phfc.org](mailto:info@phfc.org) • Website: [www.phfc.org](http://www.phfc.org)



MR. DOUG MARSHALL  
President/CEO

Aug. 1, 2025

Dear Friends in Christ:

The Presbyterian Home for Children is profoundly thankful to the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley for your steadfast prayers, encouragement, and unwavering support of our shared mission to care for at-risk children and families in need. We are truly grateful for the vital role you play in this mission.

The Home has seen a lot of success recently with the Secure Dwellings as several moms graduated from the program and rediscovered their independence. One great example is Rebecca Beal, who came to the Home in June 2024 after leaving an abusive boyfriend and living in a relative's garage. She and her two boys settled into Ramsey Cottage and our team went to work helping her find a good job and placing the boys at our private school, Ascension Leadership Academy and Cheaha Regional Head Start. We are so very proud of this entire family and featured them in our Summer Beginnings Newsletter. As Rebecca prepared to leave in May for her own apartment, she said, "God made this possible." At the May PHFC Board meeting, Rebecca gave her testimony in person and shared lunch with our Board.

Secure Dwellings alumnus Bizzy is doing great more than seven years after leaving the Home when she was homeless with her two young boys. Today, those boys have grown up! Her oldest, Logan, just got his pilot's license and is in the US Air Force ROTC at Mississippi State while attending East Mississippi Community College. His day starts at 4 a.m. for PT followed by a day of classes. Her youngest, Caleb, is active in theater at high school and plans to follow his brother's path to the Air Force in cybersecurity. He landed a job downtown at one of the finest dining facilities in Wetumpka. Bizzy says PHFC gave her boys a place to call home and contributed to them growing into compassionate, respectful young men. She is a member of First Wetumpka, and we are so grateful for the partnership that we have with Rev. Jonathan Yarboro and this congregation. Bizzy summed it up well when she said, "These children have healed every hurt my younger self experienced. All I know is love and gratitude."

The Presbyterian Home for Children had an impactful mission outreach school year with children and youth in rural Wilcox County. In a partnership with local nonprofit M.I.N.D. Mentoring in New Dimensions, the Home completed a yearlong weekend backpack program that sent food home with 40 children in the most need at the school, and we gave out 500 new Nike tennis shoes to teens at Wilcox's middle and high schools in a partnership with Tuscaloosa nonprofit High Socks for Hope to strengthen our relationships with these students and families. This spring, the Home started stocking a Caring Closet at F.S. Ervin that provides immediate-needs items for the 200 children, because kids learn best when they feel their best. The Home plans to offer a Caring Closet in Wilcox County's two other elementary schools during the 2025-26 school year as part of our mission outreach.

The Home made a strategic move to renovate and repurpose Robinson Cottage on campus to serve as the Family Unity Center. Robinson will serve as a home for mothers who lost custody of their children to the Alabama Department of Human Services due to unsuitable living conditions. By living at Robinson, they have a safe, stable place to live and trained PHFC staff provide case

management services to help the moms regain custody of their children and reunify the family. Moms learn parenting and basic living skills, money management, decision making, job readiness, and more. We even have an apartment that each can reserve on a given weekend for unsupervised visitation with their children. And, once the children are returned to their mother, they can receive continuous case management service and support for up to two years in the Secure Dwellings program or move to secure and safe housing in the community.

The Home just received word that the third year of the three-year grant for our Caminos® Program with the Office of Refugee Resettlement will be funded in 2026! Thirty-four children from ages four to 18 have been served through this expansion of crucial services to children in Alabama, adjoining states and even beyond. We are very grateful for our Caminos® Team helping to protect these children and families.

The Presbyterian Home for Children leadership team has spent the last year prepping to earn renewal of the prestigious Educational Assessment Guidelines Leading toward Excellence, or EAGLE Accreditation. The Home has been accredited since 2017 by EAGLE, which is the highest standard for a faith-based organization serving children, youth and families to accomplish. An EAGLE National Accreditation Review Team will visit in mid-September to see how we practice what we say we do in the paperwork. They will review our programs for children and families, our facilities and how the Home operates, and how the Home manages finances and fundraising. The accreditation process is a great way to regularly check our functional systems to ensure we are using the best practices out there to fulfill our mission and enhance our impact for those who need us most.

In June, the Presbyterian Home for Children dedicated another new tiny cottage duplex in our Union Village development, our permanent supportive housing community with full wrap-around program support from the Alabama Institute for Deaf and Blind for adults who are Deaf, Blind, DeafBlind and multi-disabled. The two new cottages were dedicated to Second Presbyterian Church in Homewood in recognition of the church's \$300,000 donation for construction of the duplex and other campus improvements. The cottages are appropriately named Hope and Faith. We are so grateful for this gift from within the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley.

The Home has room to help more moms in need! If you or your churches know of children and their caregivers who are struggling with housing from anywhere in the Southeast, have them call Sharon Moore, Vice President of Transitional Housing & Family Services at 256-362-1438 x 1201. You can also follow us on Facebook to find out more about our programs and how you can help.

Blessings,

Doug Marshall  
President and CEO

Elizabeth Ponder  
Director of Development

Cindy Fisher  
Director of Communication

Suzanne Cornett  
Senior Manager of Development and Volunteer Coordinator

## SECURE DWELLINGS GRADUATE CELEBRATES NEW LIFE



Rebecca Beal and her two young boys were living in a family member's garage when they found out about Secure Dwellings at the Presbyterian Home for Children's campus in June 2024.

Rebecca had been kicked out of her abusive boyfriend's house – again. She decided she was done, and she was never going back.

Her car packed with all her belongings, Rebecca started looking into shelters when she was referred to the Home's Secure Dwellings program. With the Home, she can stay for up to two years and be given a chance to breathe and dream of what she wants for her family's future.

"I was looking for a way out," she said. "And we found the Home."

When Vice President of Transitional Housing Sharon Moore and her team gave Rebecca the keys to her own apartment in Ramsey Cottage, one of her first questions was where to find the washer/dryer and whether it took coins. She was shocked to learn the apartment came with its own set.

"God made this possible," Rebecca said. "God said, 'You go where the boys are happy, where there's not a mad man in the house.'"

As part of being in Secure Dwellings, her oldest son, Braylon, 7, was enrolled into the Home's private school, Ascension Leadership Academy. Through a partnership with Cheaha Regional Head Start, her youngest, Jaxton, 5, was placed in a Pre-K program.

Rebecca said Braylon's grades weren't good before he came to Ascension. After a year of being taught by master teachers who are trained to help children coming from challenging family situations, Braylon finished in May with all As and Bs.

"It was rough before, but now he's doing great," she said.

The Secure Dwellings team helped Rebecca get a good job with a Talladega retail store, and she started saving her money for a deposit on an apartment as she finds her way toward independence.

After a year in Secure Dwellings, Rebecca saved enough to secure a new apartment, and in mid-May, she and the boys moved in. While they graduated from the Secure Dwellings program, Rebecca's family is still connected to the Home. Both boys are set to attend Ascension Leadership Academy next year to continue their strong education progress.

## GROWING STRONG ROOTS

We're proud to celebrate the achievements of some remarkable young adults with ties to our Secure Dwelling programming.



Congratulations to Moneè Brown, daughter of Secure Dwellings alumna Shandra Thomas, who recently graduated from The University of Alabama with her bachelor's degree in criminal justice using the Home's Archibald Ritter Green Scholarship.

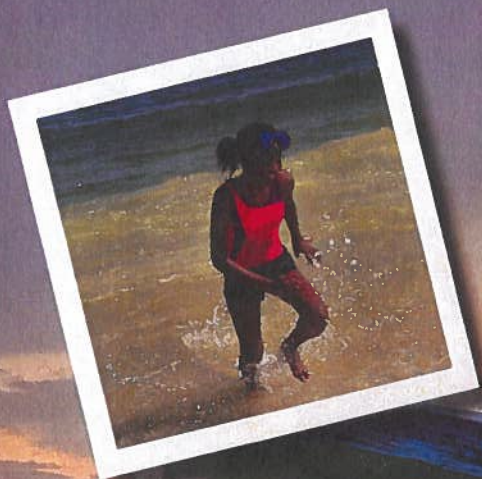
Four of Thomas' seven children graduated from Ascension Leadership Academy and continue to blossom in their post-secondary paths—a powerful testament to the impact of education and a loving foundation. Daniel has a wonderful job and career ahead at the Mercedes plant near Tuscaloosa, while both David and Phaethon graduated from Parris Island and are serving as U.S. Marines.



We're also cheering for Bizzy's family. Many of you may remember her story that we shared at Christmas time. Her oldest son, Logan, is attending East Mississippi Community College and is in the U.S. Air Force ROTC at Mississippi State University. He recently earned his pilot's license and plans to enter the Air Force as an officer. Caleb just finished his freshman year of high school where he is very involved in the theater guild as an actor and member of the tech team. He plans to follow his big brother into the Air Force and specialize in cyber security. And Caleb just landed a summer job at a fine dining establishment! Bizzy's beautiful daughter, Chasey, is also doing well and thriving in nursing school. These stories remind us that the seeds planted at the Home continue to flourish for generations.

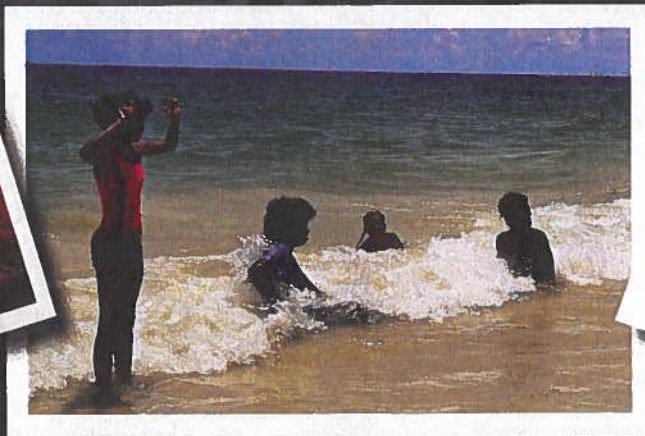


# Summer Fun and Lifelong Memories at Baytreat



Baytreat on Mobile Bay has long held a special place in the hearts of the children at the Presbyterian Home for Children. For many decades, this property was owned by our mission partner Government Street Presbyterian Church in Mobile and our children spent summer days every year there playing and making memories in the sun. So when we received word that Baytreat would be sold, it stirred up a lot of emotions. But what came next was a blessing beyond what we could have hoped for! Our friends at Trinity Presbyterian Church in Fairhope became the new stewards of this beautiful retreat.

Thanks to Trinity's continued generosity, Baytreat remains a place of joy and connection for our families and staff. Each summer, we are invited back to enjoy this peaceful place - a gift that gives not only rest and recreation but also meaningful time for healing and togetherness. We are so blessed with mission partners like Government Street and Trinity Presbyterian who walk alongside us and make these special experiences possible year after year.





# WILCOX COUNTY MISSION UPDATE

## HOME GIVES OUT 500 NIKE TENNIS SHOES IN WILCOX COUNTY AS MISSION OUTREACH PROGRAMS EXPAND

The Presbyterian Home for Children finished an impactful mission outreach school year with children and youth in rural Wilcox County with an end-of-the-school-year party and a giveaway of more than 500 free Nike tennis shoes as the Home strengthens its relationship alongside local nonprofit M.I.N.D. Mentoring in New Dimensions in these communities.

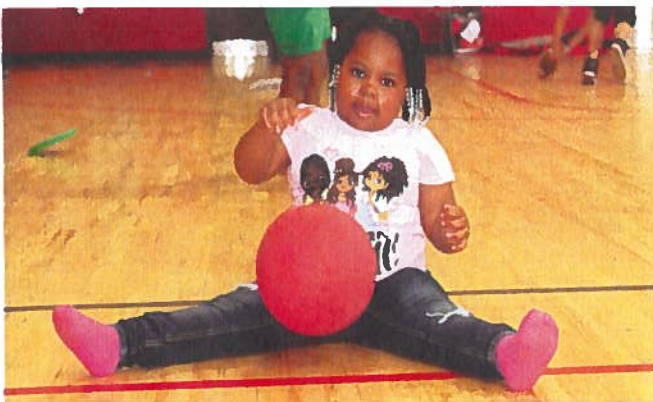
This spring, the Home also started stocking a Caring Closet at F.S. Ervin Elementary School in Pine Hill, Alabama. The Caring Closet provides immediate-needs items for the 200 children, because kids learn best when they feel their best. The Home plans to offer a Caring Closet in Wilcox County's two other elementary schools during the 2025-26 school year.

The first item delivered for the Closet at Ervin Elementary was a washing machine that allows staff to clean children's uniforms and other items like nap mats that may not get cleaned when taken home to family.

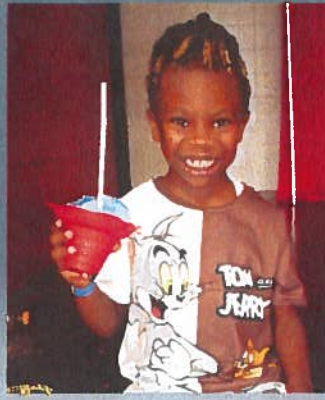
Later this summer, the Closet will get packed with supplies that students need but are not ordinarily offered by the school, such as new uniform pants and shirts, hoodies, undershirts and underwear, socks, deodorant, toothbrushes, snacks, and bottled water.

"Supplying the children with basic-needs items helps them learn better in their school environment," Mission Outreach Director Cindy Fisher said. "It levels the playing field for those at a disadvantage at home and increases their academic performance and quality of life. Not having adequate and appropriate clothing can impact a variety of social and economic aspects of a child's life, including peer acceptance and education opportunities."

In May, the Home completed a yearlong weekend backpack program that sent food home with 40 children in the most need at F.S. Ervin Elementary School. The Home celebrated the end of the school year with meals for 185 children in partnership with M.I.N.D.





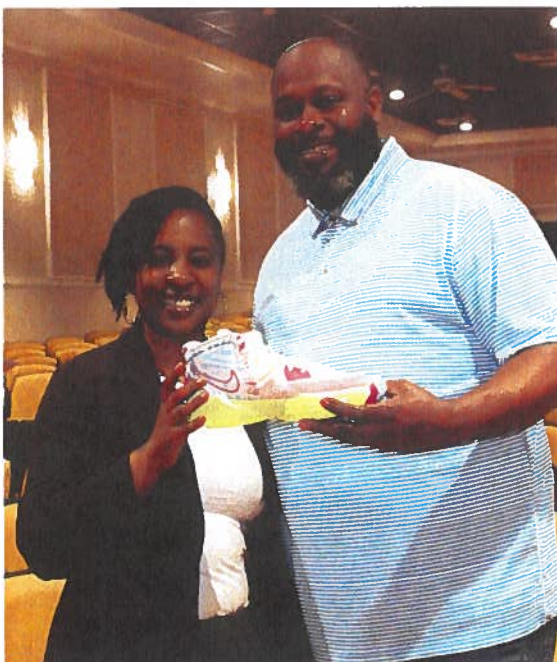
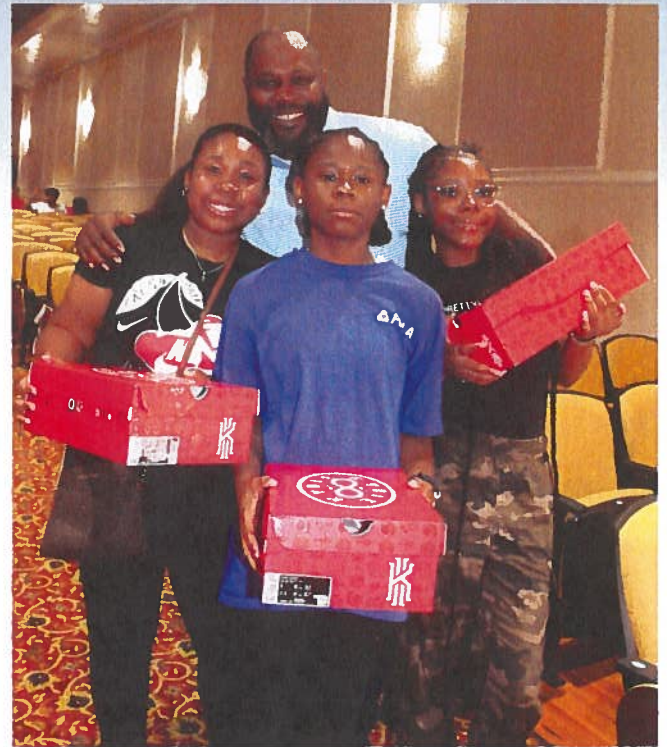


For the end-of-the-school-year celebration this year, the children got a full meal from the Home at their special May Day festivities on May 9. The lunch included chicken, baked beans, and coleslaw and was prepared by Arlington Presbyterian Church, which is located in Wilcox County.

The Home staff returned to Wilcox County on May 14 with two vans full of 530 Nike tennis shoes that were donated by nonprofit High Socks for Hope in Tuscaloosa. The sneakers were Nike's Kyrie Irving brand, named for a well-known professional basketball player.

The shoes were given to seventh and eighth graders at Camden School for Arts and Technology and to ninth through 12th graders at Wilcox Central High School.

The Nike shoes were also given out to students at Ascension Leadership Academy and families living on our Talladega campus.



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

**August 21, 2025**

### **Omnibus Motion:**

1. To approve the minutes of the May 15, 2025 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 accept the invitation to host meetings of the Presbytery: on November 20, 2025, at Edgewood Church; February 19, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church of Talladega. Hosts are needed for stated meetings of May 21 & August 20 & November 19, 2026.

**Unfinished Business:** from the May 15, 2025, Presbytery meeting, amendments to PS&L Standing Rules as in attached document

**Administrative Commissions:** 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. The report of the AC for Providence is attached.

### **Session Minutes Information: Jay's Jottings repeated:**

Thanks be to God for all who serve as the clerk of session in our congregations! Clerks are the record keepers, telling the story of the congregation and its participation in Christ's mission in the world. Clerks are the process managers who keep the leadership organized and focused on the sense of calling God has placed before you.

I fear that many clerks have the sense that they are having to go it alone without much support or encouragement. One of the roles of the Stated Clerk is to seek to provide that support for all the Presbytery's clerks. One responsibility we share is the reading of the session minutes which was intended to provide group support. The Covid pandemic broke down many networks connecting leaders in congregations and isolation set in. I offer to read minutes that have not been read in two or more years. I have the joy of feeling connected to a congregation, and its vision and mission, through reading the minutes and in conversation with pastors and clerks.

I am concerned that clerks may not feel supported and connected when the only contact is through the session minutes without the sharing of good ideas in small groups. Do you share my concern? So, how might we address this? I am not a mind reader! This is where I need to hear your ideas. Email me at [statedclerk@pslpcusa.org](mailto:statedclerk@pslpcusa.org). Call me on my cell phone at 610-247-5413. Let me know how we can be supportive of each other.

Maybe a group of new clerks seek connection with other new clerks? Might it be a gathering for old and new clerks to review concerns and share ideas.? When is a good time? Saturday morning?



Following a Presbytery meeting? Gathering around a meal? Would you and your church host such a gathering? I look forward to hearing from you.

**Session Minutes reviewed in the past year:**

Selma, Valley Creek	Alexander City, FPC
Anniston, Church of the Covenant	Jacksonville, FPC
Birmingham, Westminster	Tuskegee Institute, Westminster
Tuscaloosa, FPC	Birmingham, Edgewood
Oxford, Dodson Memorial	Green Pond
Birmingham, Independent PC	Birmingham, South Highland
Forestdale, First United	Birmingham, Oakmont Chapel
Birmingham, Riverchase	Trussville, Cahaba Springs
Tuscaloosa, Grace	Montgomery, Immanuel
Gardendale	Northport, Bethel

**Healthy Boundaries Training**

**All ministers and ruling elders are required** to participate in **Healthy Boundary Training** for the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley every three (3) years. Below is the address to a Jotform Registration Form. This registration form contains registration information as well as the link to the video (which is password protected) and the password. The video takes you to another link for you to watch the content. After watching, It is **very important** to return to the Jotform, acknowledge your completion and SUBMIT the form. This will ensure the stated clerk receives notice that you have completed the training. Thank you for participating in the required Healthy Boundaries training. Your comments on both the process and the content are welcome. Please reply to [statedclerk@pslpcusa.org](mailto:statedclerk@pslpcusa.org) for questions and or comments. **Copy & paste for healthy boundaries training:**  
**<https://form.jotform.com/232904765254157>**

**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.

**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 \$28.42 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 the 36 congregations which have supported Per Capita! Much encouragement to those 19 congregations who have yet to give.

Stated Clerk's recommendations for edits to our Standing Rules: 3/3/2025

**additions in bold italic:** ~~deletes strikethrough.~~

FYI -- I have been communicating with our Trustees who are realizing that they do not have an avenue to report to the Executive Council. I have two recommendations (1 & 2 below) for including the Presbytery Committees (as they are titled in the Standing Rules) in the regular work of the EC.

The third suggestion comes from confusion over wording in the Standing Rules regarding quorum for our meetings, and from shrinking numbers of churches. Pat Goodman did a lot of research comparing quorums from many Presbyteries!

A reminder -- the process for changes in the Standing Rules is described in the Rules:

SR-2.01.03 These Standing Rules may be amended as follows: A proposed amendment shall be presented in writing to the Executive Council, which in turn shall present the proposal to the next meeting of Presbytery with its recommendations. To become effective, an amendment must be approved by two-thirds of the votes cast at one meeting of Presbytery and adopted without further revision by two-thirds of the votes cast at the next meeting.

1) on page 12: SR-6.01.01.03 The Executive Council shall ordinarily meet monthly and on the call of the moderator of the Executive Council. ***At each meeting, the Executive Council shall invite and receive reports from the Presbytery Committees: Trustees, Nominating and Representation, and Anti-Racism .***

2) on page 16: SR-6.01.03 Presbytery Committees

***A representative from each of the Presbytery Committees (Trustees, Nominating and Representation, Anti-Racism) shall be invited to report to the Executive Council at its meetings.***

3) on page 6: SR-3.01.05 A quorum of a ~~stated~~ meeting of the Presbytery ~~shall be 20 Ministers of Word and Sacrament and 20 ruling elders, representing at least 20 congregations. A quorum of a called meeting of the Presbytery shall be 15 Minister of Word and Sacrament and 15 ruling elders, representing at least 15 congregations.~~ ***shall be no be fewer than three ministers of the Word and Sacrament who are members of the Presbytery and three ruling elder commissioners from three different congregations. (Book of Order G-3.0304) This permits Administrative Commissions to function as the Presbytery.***

Administrative Commission Report to Presbytery  
Providence AC  
August 21, 2025

The Providence Presbyterian Church Administrative Commission has not met since our last report. Session continues to guide the process towards dissolution in keeping with the decision made by Presbytery at the May meeting. Here is an update on where that progress stands:

- The original sales contract was canceled by the potential buyer. Foundry Commercial, the real estate body in covenant with the Presbyterian Foundation, reached out to the second interested party and sale is anticipated to close in late August or early September. ARC of Montgomery, a private school, is purchasing the facility to use as a school. While there are numerous hurdles to clear, there is no indication that the sale will not reach closure. Arc is purchasing the building in “As-is” condition, including the majority of the furnishings. Remaining members of Providence have all chipped in to find new homes for church supplies Arc is not interested in and have used all proceeds from sale or donation to offset the costs of keeping the building open and utilities turned on.
- Session has met and approved Transfer of Letter of Membership requests for several former members. They will make one final effort to contact all remaining roll members to extend that opportunity.
- Session appointed a team of three to make recommendations for legacy funding of ministry with the proceeds of the sale. The Administrative Commission will hear from that team once the date for closing is clarified and will assist in that process.
- Once the sale is final and all legal matters settled, Session and the AC will set the date for dissolution. That action, previously approved at the May meeting of Presbytery, will become effective at that time.
- Rev. Nan Adams has accepted a call to serve First Presbyterian Church of Palestine, Illinois.

Respectfully submitted,

Wes Padgett – Elder, Providence, Krysten Holloway Scrivner – Elder, Westminster Birmingham  
Jerry Sailor – Elder, Providence, Sue Westfall – General Presbyter, PSL  
Jonathan Yarboro – Pastor, First Wetumpka

The Presbytery Of Sheppards And Lapsley

Report Of The Commission on Preparation For Ministry — August 2025

INQUIRERS

Theodore Longlois  
Abby Bunn

CHURCH

Independent  
Church of the Covenant

INSTITUTION

Princeton  
Columbia

CANDIDATES

Annabelle Beavers  
Peyton Chandler  
Patrick O'Connor  
Barbara Tomek-White  
Daniel Killilea  
Teddy Vaughn

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

Union (Richmond)  
Graduate - Vanderbilt  
Graduate - San Francisco  
Graduate - Austin  
Louisville  
Graduate - Columbia

**FOR INFORMATION:**

Patrick O'Connor was certified ready to seek a call at the June meeting. He intends to pursue ordination as a hospital chaplain in California.

**FOR ACTION:**

None at this time.

Submitted on behalf of the Commission on Preparation for Ministry:

Rick Atkerson (2025), Jeff Johnson (2025), Nicole Newton (2025), Kathy Wolf Reed (2026), Adrienne Stokes (2025), Lee Walthall (2026), Luke Ponder (2026), Henry Kline (2026), Cort Gatliff (2026), Emily Frandsen (2027), Clay Price (2027), and Angela Wright (2027).

Respectfully,

Rev. Nicole Newton, Moderator

Equip, Nurture, Connect Committee  
Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley  
July 25, 2025

Present: Sue Westfall, Pat Goodman, Joe Genau, Robert Newman and Jenny Thagard

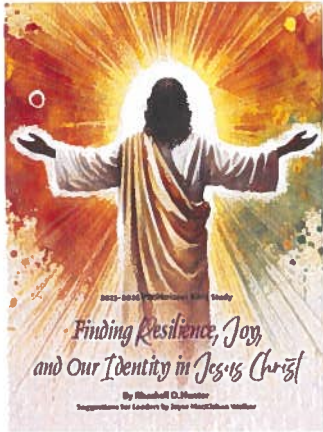
The meeting was opened with a devotion based on Psalm 138:7-8 and *The Princess Bride*.

- **Main Event**—A Leadership Retreat Tuesday, November 11- Wednesday, November 12 at Living River is being planned by the Main Event team. **Phillip Blackburn** will be the keynote speaker. Phillip Blackburn is the director of the *Thriving in Rural Ministry Program* at the University of the Ozarks in Clarksville, Arkansas. In addition, he and his wife Tasha co-pastor First Presbyterian Church in Fort Smith, Arkansas. He has written many articles for The Presbyterian Outlook about rural and small church ministry. Joe Genau and Elizabeth Goodrich will work on a flyer to be distributed at the August Presbytery meeting. The Main Event is also considering a 3 hour workshop on Graphic Design for churches and ministries to help with newsletters, web sites, and social media.
- **PSL Youth Council**—Robert Newman reported that the PSL Youth Council had 90 individuals at the Montreat Youth Conference from 9 different congregations, and 30 at the Montreat Middle School conference. They are looking to take a charter bus to the middle school conference next summer because of the increase in the number of youth participating. New youth and adults are being recruited for the youth council. A Continuing Education Retreat Youth Workers is in the planning stages.
- **PSL Children**—Living River is planning a Fall Elementary Retreat November 7-9 (elementary children register with their church); and a spring You and Me Retreat (younger elementary children with parent/grandparent attend together) date to be determined.
- **ENC Committee**—The Equip, Nurture and Connect Committee is seeking new members, and discussed whether the Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery would be interested in being represented; and are seeking a representative from UKirk ministries within the Presbytery.

The meeting was closed with prayer by Joe Genau.

## Presbyterian Women of the Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley

July 2025



Presbyterian Women groups are gearing up for the 2025-2026 study, *Finding Resilience, Joy, and Our Identity in Jesus Christ* by Rhashell D. Hunter. The Rev. Dr. Hunter brings a rich background as professor of Presbyterian heritage and polity at Louisville Presbyterian Theological Seminary. She has served as Director of Racial Equity & Women's Intercultural Ministries in Louisville. She serves as an adjunct professor at McCormick Theological and at Chicago Theological Schools Doctor of Ministry, while being a member of the Academy of Homiletics. Her pastoral experience includes Community Presbyterian in Flint, Michigan, and Fourth Presbyterian in Chicago.



We are also looking forward to the Synod Triennial Gathering. This year we will partner with the Synod of South Atlantic and journey to Epworth by the Sea on St. Simons Island, Georgia for 3 days of workshops, gatherings, worship, and fellowship. Women, check your calendars for October 17<sup>th</sup> – 19<sup>th</sup> and get your registrations in! Our worship leader is Rev. CeCe Armstrong and the Keynote Speaker is Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter. I have included the flyer and register information, so please share with your congregation.

### Recruiting! [still!]

1. Jan Albert of Bowling Green Presbyterian Church in Kentucky is our region's representative on the PW Churchwide Search Committee.
2. Julianne Tharp of Edgewood Presbyterian is so excited to be our representative that she jumped in with both feet and contacted Mission Haven and our Synod leader! We can look forward to receiving reports on the future mission and vision of Mission Haven as the PC(USA) reimagines our role of mission work in the world. The Summer Update is attached.
3. Coordinating Council for the PW in our Presbytery is still looking for interested women to assist in reforming PW at the presbytery level.



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]



# *Synod of South Atlantic ~ and ~ Synod of Living Waters Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering*

*October 17<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup>, 2025*

*Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia*



*The Lord is my strength and my shield; my heart trusts in him, and he helps me. My heart leaps for joy, and with my song I praise him.*

*Psalm 28:7*

## ***Worship Leader***

***Rev. CeCe Armstrong***

*Co-Moderator, 226<sup>th</sup> General Assembly  
Associate Pastor, St. James Presbyterian  
James Island, Charleston, S.C.*

## ***Keynote Speaker***

***Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter***

*Author, 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study  
"Finding Resilience, Joy and  
Our Identity in Jesus Christ"*

*You are invited to attend an exciting Presbyterian Women Synod Gathering  
October 17-19, 2025, at Epworth by the Sea Conference Center.*

Our PW Synod Gathering, held once every three years, is an opportunity for women to nurture faith, exchange ideas, discover mission opportunities, strengthen relationships, and relax. Participants will enjoy workshops, tours, plenary sessions with inspiring speakers, worship, music, Bible study, and more.







# Registration Form

Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering  
Synod of South Atlantic and Synod of Living Waters  
Epworth by the Sea, St. Simons Island, Georgia  
October 17-19, 2025

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City / State / Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_ (Alternate) \_\_\_\_\_

Email Address \_\_\_\_\_

Church Name \_\_\_\_\_

Presbytery \_\_\_\_\_

Number of PW Synod Gatherings you have attended previously \_\_\_\_\_

Are you an ordained elder? \_\_\_\_\_ Are you a voting delegate? \_\_\_\_\_

Will you be lodging on site at Epworth? \_\_\_\_\_

If so, remember to reserve housing directly from Epworth. Meals are included. [www.epworthbythesea.org](http://www.epworthbythesea.org)

If not, remember that staying off-site requires you to purchase meals from Epworth.

## Workshops – List the Workshop Number for your first and second choices

Day / Time	First Choice	Second Choice
Saturday Morning		
Saturday Afternoon		

<b>Gathering Registration Fee</b>			<b>\$100.00</b>
<b>Late Fee (If Received After September 2<sup>nd</sup>)</b>	<b>\$25.00</b>		
Cost of Trolley Tour (Includes Tip)	\$30.00		
Cost of Supplies for Classes:			
If you signed up for The Joy of Painting Workshop	\$25.00		
If you signed up for Prayer Beads	\$15.00		
Discount (1 <sup>st</sup> Time Attendee of any PW Synod Gathering)		Deduct \$10.00	
Discount of \$5.00 per person for 4 or more from the same church. These registration forms must be mailed together.		Deduct \$ 5.00	
<b>Total Amount Due</b>			

**Cancellation Policy: Fees refunded, less a \$20.00 administrative fee, before September 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**No refunds after September 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**Make checks payable to PW SOSA Gathering**

**To avoid a late fee, submit by September 2<sup>nd</sup> to**

**Vicki Bell ~ 1311 Old Philadelphia Church Road, Quincy, FL 32352**

**[vabb1954@gmail.com](mailto:vabb1954@gmail.com)**



## Epworth by the Sea Rates for Lodging/Meals

Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering  
Synod of South Atlantic and Synod of Living Waters  
October 17 – 19, 2025

**Reynolds** – Located behind the chapel with car to door parking

**Per person rate per night** includes lodging, meals, tax, and motel fee:

Single	Double	Triple	Quad
\$158.84	\$110.98 per person	\$92.25 per person	\$85.86 per person

**Pitts/Booth & Jones** – Close to dining hall, lobby, and meeting rooms, car to door parking

**Per person rate per night** includes lodging, meals, tax, and motel fee:

Single	Double	Triple	Quad
\$175.55	\$123.81 per person	\$101.80 per person	\$95.41 per person

**Robertson Inn** – Lovely views of the Intracoastal Waterway

**Per person rate per night** includes lodging, meals, tax, and motel fee:

Single	Double	Triple	Quad
\$198.22	\$133.66 per person	\$108.96 per person	\$101.38 per person

**Turner Lodge** – Overlooking the historic Frederica River and the iconic Marshes of Glynn

**Per person rate per night** includes lodging, meals, tax, and motel fee:

Single	Double	Triple	Quad
\$208.96	\$144.40 per person	\$117.31 per person	\$104.96 per person

**Commuters - \$5.62 Per Person / Per Day** plus meals as follows:

Breakfast	Lunch	Dinner
\$13.48	\$20.22	\$25.84

**Lodging Reservations should be made online at <https://epworthbythesea.org>**

1. Go to the Epworth by the Sea webpage at <https://epworthbythesea.org>
2. Click on *Reservations*
3. Scroll down to *PW Synod Gathering, October 17-19, 2025*
4. Click on ***Housing Registration*** which is to the right of *PW Synod Gathering*

### Directions to Epworth by the Sea

Epworth is located on St. Simons Island, Georgia, approximately one hour from both Savannah, Georgia and Jacksonville, Florida. After reaching Brunswick, Georgia, take the F.J. Torras Causeway east off U.S. Highway 17 to St. Simons Island. At the end of the causeway, stay in the left lane and continue north toward Sea Island Road. Go straight through the traffic light, staying on Sea Island Road. Turn left at the first street marked Hamilton Road and then right onto Arthur J. Moore Drive.



## HELPFUL INFORMATION

### 2025 Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering

Synod of South Atlantic and Synod of Living Waters

Epworth by the Sea, 100 Arthur J. Moore Drive, St. Simons Island, Georgia

Phone: 912-638-8688 Website: [www.epworthbythesea.org](http://www.epworthbythesea.org)

#### EVENT SCHEDULE:

##### **Friday – October 17, 2025**

10:30 AM - 4:00 PM	Registration
12:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Visit Mission Area/Market Place
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Trolley Tour (Prior Registration Required)
4:00 PM - 5:00 PM	Synod Business Meeting
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Plenary
8:45 PM	Silent Auction Begins

##### **Saturday – October 18, 2025**

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM - 10:30 AM	Morning Plenary
10:45 AM - 12:00 PM	Workshops
12:00 PM - 1:30 PM	Lunch
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Visit Mission Area/Market Place
1:00 PM - 5:30 PM	Visit Silent Auction
1:30 PM - 3:00 PM	Trolley Ride (Prior Registration Required)
3:30 PM - 4:45 PM	Workshops
5:30 PM - 7:00 PM	Dinner
7:00 PM - 8:30 PM	Plenary
9:00 PM	Silent Auction Ends

##### **Sunday – October 19, 2025**

7:00 AM - 8:30 AM	Breakfast
9:00 AM - 11:00 AM	Plenary/Worship
11:45 AM - 1:00 PM	Lunch/Departure

#### **What to Bring**

- ✓ Bible, 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study
- ✓ Proof of medical insurance coverage
- ✓ Casual clothes, jacket, comfortable walking shoes
- ✓ **Refillable water bottle**, umbrella, insect repellent
- ✓ Money for: offering, Market Place, & Silent Auction
- ✓ Gift Card for Hubbard House (Mission Project)

#### **Silent Auction**

Share in the fun of the silent auction by donating and/or bidding. Past auction items have included paintings, centerpieces, homemade quilts, self-care baskets, game night baskets, PW booklist baskets, and many lovely hand-crafted items. Proceeds will go to support the Presbyterian Disaster Assistance Fund. Items may be shipped in advance. If you'd like to donate items to the auction, access the form at [www.pwsosa.com](http://www.pwsosa.com) or contact Nancy Carlton at [Nancy0832@gmail.com](mailto:Nancy0832@gmail.com).

#### **Mission Partners**

We will have our familiar mission partners and some new ones. Hubbard House is a full-service domestic violence center for women and children in Jacksonville. As our mission project, we ask that you bring a gift card (major store of your choice) for household items to help them start a new life.

#### **Registration Reminders**

- ❖ Registration will begin on April 1<sup>st</sup> ~ Register before September 2<sup>nd</sup> to avoid a late fee
- ❖ Register online at <https://pwsosa.com> before September 2<sup>nd</sup>
- Or
- ❖ Mail your registration form **BEFORE September 2** with your \$100.00 registration fee plus any other fees for workshops or activities to: Vicki Bell, 1311 Old Philadelphia Church Road, Quincy, FL 32352
  - ❖ Cell 850-510-3314 ~ [vabb1954@gmail.com](mailto:vabb1954@gmail.com)
  - ❖ Make your check payable to PW SOSA Gathering

**Cancellation Policy for Registration Online and By Mail: Fees refunded, less a \$20.00 administrative fee, before September 21<sup>st</sup>.**

**No refunds after September 21<sup>st</sup>.**



2025 Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering  
Synod of South Atlantic ~ Synod of Living Waters  
October 17-19, 2025 ~ Epworth by the Sea



## Workshops

1. **Rev. CeCe Armstrong – Journey to Joy** In the middle of heavy emotional times and turmoil, there is always room for joy. Using the movie, *Inside Out*, this workshop will explore four emotional dilemmas and the necessity to find joy along the journey. The participants are encouraged to watch the Pixar movie *Inside Out* prior to the PW Gathering. There is a Pixar movie titled *Inside Out 2* and participants may want to see that also.
2. **Rev. Dr. Rhashell Hunter – Meet the Author ~ Q & A Time with Rhashell Hunter** Rev. Hunter will give a brief introduction to the 2025-2026 PW Horizons Bible Study. She will also talk about why she wrote the study, why resilience is important, and why in this era we might want to decide to live in joy and claim our identity in Christ. There will also be a Q & A Time. Bring your 2025-2026 Horizons Bible Study for an autograph!
3. **Dr. Cheryl Carson – Connecting with God Year-Round** The church liturgical calendar offers us plenty of times within the year to focus ourselves on God through spiritual practices – during seasons such as Advent, Epiphany, Lent and Easter, Pentecost and especially ordinary time. This workshop will provide hands-on opportunities to explore practices that can deepen our connections with God throughout the year.
4. **Susan Jackson Dowd – Presbyterian Women Information Forum** Susan is the Executive Director of Presbyterian Women, PC (USA). Join her for a PW overview, where we are as an organization and a conversation about the future. How will we continue to nurture faith, support mission, work for justice and peace, build inclusive communities, and witness to God's kingdom now and into the future?
5. **Debbie Durden – Book Discussion of *The Unexpected Joy of the Ordinary*** by Catherine Gray. This book explores the beauty of finding happiness and contentment in life's simple pleasures instead of constantly seeking and/or having the "next best thing." It provides practical tips and inspiring insights to help us appreciate the ordinary moments that make life extraordinary. Those attending this workshop should read the book ahead of time and bring a copy of the book and/or notes and questions from their reading to the discussion.
6. **Rev. Christina Greenawalt – The Joy of Painting** I grew up loving to watch the *Joy of Painting*, learning to express myself in creative ways. I learned many lessons from Bob Ross - beyond happy trees. Mistakes sometimes make things better, each piece of art is uniquely ours and like us - beautifully and wonderfully made! Would you like to take a lasting memory of your time at Epworth home with you to be a tangible reminder of the Joy you experienced with the women of the Synod as we each experienced joy in Christ in a multitude of ways? Join this painting workshop and learn and work with other women to find your Joy of Painting. Materials Cost: \$25 for each person
7. **Linda Jackson and Olga Malave-Radi – United Nations Commission on the Status of Women** Linda Jackson and Olga Malave-Radi, the SOSA representatives to the 2025 United Nations Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), will share what they experienced and learned at the Annual Session in March 2025. The CSW is the biggest global policy-making body dedicated exclusively to promoting gender equality and the empowerment of women.
8. **Rev. Wilson Kennedy – Utilizing Special Offerings as a Tool for Congregational Generosity** Special Offerings, one of the cornerstone ways Presbyterians bind ourselves together in mission and ministry, will be changing in 2026. This workshop will share important information about the changes, give you tools for interpreting these changes in your congregations, and help you understand the nature of stewardship in these challenging times.



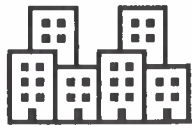
**2025 Presbyterian Women's Triennial Gathering  
Synod of South Atlantic ~ Synod of Living Waters  
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## *Workshops*

- 9. Gloria Love - Building Joy Through Resiliency: What We Can Learn from Survivors of Human Trafficking**  
Gloria Love, Director of Holistic Services at Rethreaded, will guide participants through the key elements of growing a lasting joy through resiliency. The topic will draw heavily on the lessons learned through working alongside survivors of human trafficking. Through the Survivor Development Program at Rethreaded, staff learn to show up on purpose with their purpose in mind. This creates the foundation for resiliency, recovery and learning to thrive in spite of the severe complex trauma created by human trafficking. One of the most profound by-products of this is joy. Come ready to learn the art of articulating your purpose, growing your resiliency muscles, creating and sustaining joy. Click on [www.rethreaded.com](http://www.rethreaded.com) to read more about this mission.
- 10. Dorothy Marsh - Making Protestant Prayer Beads** The Protestant "Rosary" was created in the 1980s by a group of American Episcopalians seeking a more contemplative, more meditative method of prayer. These beads are a great way to have a more centered prayer life. They have the ability to keep your mind from wandering while focusing on your prayers. Materials Cost: \$15.00 for each person
- 11. Daryl Mullee - The 2023 USA Mission Experience (USAME) to the US-Mexico border** was an opportunity for Presbyterian Women to learn about migration and border issues, and discern a faithful response. Participants heard from individuals about why they came to the U.S.- threats to their safety, lack of jobs, persecution over religious beliefs, civil war-and what they knew, if anything, about what their passage and new homeland would be like. And in terms of discerning a faithful response, participants had the benefit of learning from organizations and individuals already doing this work in many ways and in many places.
- 12. Becky Rose - Being in Partnership with the Presbyterian Women of Guatemala** We will explore the joys and challenges of establishing a partnership with the Presbyterian Women of Guatemala and the Florida Presbytery - from choosing this mission, to writing the partnership agreement, to establishing and maintaining a relationship, and communicating through Zoom.
- 13. Constance Watson - The Joy of Seeing the One Who Sees Me; An Egyptian Slave Speaks (Genesis 16: 13)**  
Hagar made her Joyous Discovery in the midst of a desperate situation. Can you recall any desperate situations you have faced in your lifetime? I sure can! Do you recall a time of intense distress where you found yourself spiritually, emotionally, mentally, physically, relationally or financially incapable of handling what you were facing? I have been there and I have the t-shirts, the ball caps, the water bottles and the stories to prove it!! Like Hagar's story, I want our workshop time together to be a time of sharing our stories of discovering God's presence with us in the midst of our adversities, failures, hardships and losses...for this is where you fully discover the ultimate value, the soul soothing peace and the "UNENDING JOY" FOUND IN YOU SEEING THE GOD WHO SEES YOU!!!
- 14. Shelagh Wirth - Leadership Training** Have you ever wondered if you would be a good leader? Have you been asked to serve on a PW Council/Coordinating Team, or at Presbytery Level or even Synod level? Then you don't want to miss this workshop. Come and hear about all the ways you can serve our Lord and Savior. Come and engage with present leaders or soon to be leaders as we explore ways you can use your talents for PW and your church.
- 15. Valerie Young - Rescue 2 Renew** Let's discover together the joy of renewal of faith, life, furniture, and the Church. This workshop combines Valerie's talent for furniture restoration and her extensive background in service to the church. She has served on various committees on the Synod and General Assembly level and currently serves as Synod Executive and Stated Clerk for the Synod of South Atlantic. Several of her beautiful furniture restorations can be viewed online at <https://www.facebook.com/Rescue2Renew> and <https://pin.it/k98ThWtX2>.





## *Mission Haven Update – June 2025*

### *COMPLETED RENOVATIONS: Apartment 2-E*

As with your own home, regular maintenance and occasional improvements are necessary. Except in the case of a broken appliance or other urgent need, we schedule repairs during vacancies. The sudden departure of one of our mission partners from 2-E provided an opportunity for us to “spiff up” this living space. Thanks to the generosity of Presbyterian Women, we had the funds to re-paint and re-carpet the apartment, renovate the kitchen (including a new stove, refrigerator, sink, microwave, and faucet), replace the bath vanity, install storage cabinets, mount new lighting fixtures, and more! Special thanks to Alice for overseeing this comprehensive activity.



### *CURRENT RENOVATIONS: Apartment 2-F*

Similarly, we are taking advantage of a brief vacancy in our other upstairs apartment. The walls and kitchen cabinets have been painted, a new fan was installed, and sink and countertops were replaced. We’ve purchased a new stove and microwave to be installed soon. In addition, supplies such as paper towels, trash liners, soap, and kitchen equipment will be included. Again, your contributions enable us to create a “PW worthy” living space for our guests.

### *FUTURE RENOVATIONS: House 167*



Our big endeavor for the remainder of this calendar year will be the long-awaited renovation of “the big house.” The Dimmocks were long-term residents here, and now that they have moved on, we can address many deferred maintenance projects. Our regular contractor will perform needed tasks. The target completion date of December 2025 will enable us to host a missionary family of five beginning in January 2026.

**Housing ~ Hospitality ~ Clothing ~ Prayer**

**Presbytery of Sheppards and Lapsley**  
**Analysis of Revenues & Expenses - Summary**  
**January to June 2025**

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)
<b>Revenues</b>						
General Fund	\$10,193.80	\$18,789.33	\$108,240.13	\$112,735.98	(\$4,495.85)	\$225,472.00
Mission Giving-Income	\$1,093.31	\$1,851.92	\$12,219.03	\$11,111.52	\$1,107.51	\$22,223.00
Per Capita Income	\$5,316.54	\$15,318.67	\$126,020.71	\$91,912.02	\$34,108.69	\$183,824.00
<b>Total Revenues</b>	<u>\$16,603.65</u>	<u>\$35,959.92</u>	<u>\$246,479.87</u>	<u>\$215,759.52</u>	<u>\$30,720.35</u>	<u>\$431,519.00</u>
<b>Expenses</b>						
<b>Council</b>						
Council Expenses-Other	\$0.00	\$931.25	\$0.00	\$5,587.50	\$5,587.50	\$11,175.00
Salaries & Allowances						
Executive Presbyter	\$9,806.46	\$10,146.59	\$61,010.08	\$60,879.54	(\$130.54)	\$121,759.00
Administrative Salaries	\$1,125.00	\$375.00	\$2,250.00	\$2,250.00	\$0.00	\$4,500.00
Staff Expenses	\$0.00	\$350.00	\$541.30	\$2,100.00	\$1,558.70	\$4,200.00
<b>Total Salaries &amp; Allowances</b>	<u>\$10,931.46</u>	<u>\$10,871.59</u>	<u>\$63,801.38</u>	<u>\$65,229.54</u>	<u>\$1,428.16</u>	<u>\$130,459.00</u>
<b>Total Council</b>	<u>\$10,931.46</u>	<u>\$11,802.84</u>	<u>\$63,801.38</u>	<u>\$70,817.04</u>	<u>\$7,015.66</u>	<u>\$141,634.00</u>
<b>Equip, Nurture, Connect</b>						
Other ENC Expenses	\$0.00	\$1,266.66	\$10,486.15	\$7,599.96	(\$2,886.19)	\$15,200.00
<b>Total Equip, Nurture, Connect</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$1,266.66</u>	<u>\$10,486.15</u>	<u>\$7,599.96</u>	<u>(\$2,886.19)</u>	<u>\$15,200.00</u>
<b>Mission</b>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$12.50</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$75.00</u>	<u>\$75.00</u>	<u>\$150.00</u>
UKirk Birmingham	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
Trustees	\$5,847.61	\$5,478.57	\$49,256.48	\$32,871.42	(\$16,385.06)	\$65,743.00
<b>Presbytery Per Capita Expenses</b>						
Stated Clerk & Moderator	\$3,205.92	\$2,546.25	\$15,263.33	\$15,277.50	\$14.17	\$30,555.00
Presbytery Commissions	\$17.00	\$333.32	\$2,799.06	\$1,999.92	(\$799.14)	\$4,000.00
Asst.to Stated Clerk/Ofc Mgr	\$5,435.55	\$5,435.50	\$32,654.71	\$32,613.00	(\$41.71)	\$65,226.00
<b>Total Presbytery Per Capita Expenses</b>	<u>\$8,658.47</u>	<u>\$8,315.07</u>	<u>\$50,717.10</u>	<u>\$49,890.42</u>	<u>(\$826.68)</u>	<u>\$99,781.00</u>
<b>Per Capita-Expenses</b>	<u>\$2,879.79</u>	<u>\$8,279.42</u>	<u>\$68,261.21</u>	<u>\$49,676.52</u>	<u>(\$18,584.69)</u>	<u>\$99,353.00</u>
<b>Mission Giving-Expenses</b>	<u>\$1,093.31</u>	<u>\$1,851.92</u>	<u>\$12,219.03</u>	<u>\$11,111.52</u>	<u>(\$1,107.51)</u>	<u>\$22,223.00</u>
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<u>\$29,410.64</u>	<u>\$37,006.98</u>	<u>\$254,741.35</u>	<u>\$222,041.88</u>	<u>(\$32,699.47)</u>	<u>\$444,084.00</u>
<b>Net Operating Total</b>	<u>(\$12,806.99)</u>	<u>(\$1,047.06)</u>	<u>(\$8,261.48)</u>	<u>(\$6,282.36)</u>	<u>(\$1,979.12)</u>	<u>(\$12,565.00)</u>
<b>Other Revenues</b>						
Designated Income (Loss)	\$7,811.86	\$0.00	\$7,892.51	\$0.00	\$7,892.51	\$0.00
Property Contributions	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00	\$0.00
<b>Total Other Revenues</b>	<u>\$10,246.51</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$22,552.37</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$22,552.37</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Other Expenses</b>						
<b>Total Other Expenses</b>	<u>\$2,792.89</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>\$16,757.34</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>	<u>(\$16,757.34)</u>	<u>\$0.00</u>
<b>Net Total</b>	<u>(\$5,353.37)</u>	<u>(\$1,047.06)</u>	<u>(\$2,466.45)</u>	<u>(\$6,282.36)</u>	<u>\$3,815.91</u>	<u>(\$12,565.00)</u>

## **PRESBYTERY CALENDAR – 2025**

### **AUGUST**

- 21 Presbytery meeting at First, Birmingham, 9:00 AM
- 22 Presbytery office closed
- 24 At the River discussion via Zoom, 3:00 PM
- 26 Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM

### **SEPTEMBER**

- 1 Presbytery office closed in recognition of Labor Day
- 3 Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 9 COM/CPM via hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 16 Executive Council, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 22 CPM, via hybrid, 10:00 AM
- Stewardship Kaleidoscope Conference, New Orleans
- 23 Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM

### **OCTOBER**

- 1 Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 14 COM via hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 15-18 Synod Leaders – Orange Beach
- 21 Executive Council, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 23-25 Congo Partnership Conference, Stillman
- 27 CPM, via hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 28 Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM

### **NOVEMBER**

- 5 Presbytery Staff meeting, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 7-8 Children's Retreat at Living River
- 9-12 Mid Council Leaders
- 11-12 Main Event Retreat at Living River
- 13 Living River Board
- 18 Executive Council, via Hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 20 Presbytery meeting at Edgewood, 9:00 AM
- 21 Presbytery office closed
- 24 CPM, via hybrid, 10:00 AM
- 25 Anti-Racism, via Zoom, 10:00 AM
- 26-28 Presbytery office closed in recognition of Thanksgiving