



As the school year ends, so the vacation season begins. And soon will be heard the plaintive refrain, “Are we there yet?” Even though many of us are beyond the stage of life that usually utters this question most frequently, we all know the feeling of impatience that gives rise to it. We know all too well that impatience is not a quality limited to the young. In every situation we can find ourselves eager for things to move along, get going, or finish up. As Presbyterians, we often discuss, debate, and review matters at hand for what can seem to be an interminable amount of time before coming to some sort of resolution.

But having to wait a long time for things to resolve is not restricted to any denomination or people group. Indeed all of life involves waiting of one kind or another, whether it’s waiting for Christmas, waiting to find a mate, or waiting for difficult circumstances to change. That’s probably why waiting is mentioned frequently in Scripture. It’s important to remember, however, that we are not merely told to be passively patient as we wait, but to reframe how we wait in light of God’s presence with us and promises to us.

We all know the consequences that ensued when Abraham and Sarah just couldn’t wait any longer for God to fulfill his promise to give them a son of their own. Deciding to “give destiny a shove,” they arranged for Abraham to father a child with their servant, Hagar. Sadly, the arrival of Ishmael became the source of enduring conflict which was magnified following the birth of Isaac, the child of the promise. God’s subsequent blessing and provision for Ishmael, even though he was not the one through whom God’s covenant would be maintained, speaks abundantly of God’s sovereign mercy and providence.

Waiting can be very hard, but as those who belong to the Lord our waiting is infused with hope and trust. Isaiah 40:31 assures us “they who wait for the Lord shall renew their strength; they shall mount up with wings like eagles; they shall run and not be weary; they shall walk and not faint.” An eagle’s nest is normally located on a high tree or tall crag. They don’t sit passively in their nest waiting for something to happen, but throw themselves out the nest to catch the thermal updrafts swirling nearby, riding the wind with ease and grace.

So we must learn how to catch the wind of the Spirit even in our waiting, not entirely knowing where that wind will take us, but trusting that the One who rules over the wind will carry us safely to a place of wholeness, peace, and joy. We might not be there yet, but by the grace of God we will be.

Yours in Christ,

Ed

# NEGA PRESBYTERY STAFFING UPDATES

As discussed at the May Stated Meeting, the Northeast Georgia Presbytery is entering a season of transition as it celebrates the retirement of Anita Green after many years of faithful service. The Presbytery is deeply grateful for Anita's dedication, leadership, and commitment, and extends its heartfelt blessings as she begins this exciting new chapter of retirement.

As part of this transition, several responsibilities have been reassigned. Libby Christiansen, Administrative Assistant, is now serving as the primary contact for communications, newsletters, meeting registrations, contact information updates, general inquiries, and other administrative needs. Katie Carroll, Finance Administrator, is overseeing bookkeeping, reimbursements, financial records, and finance related questions.

## Contact Information

Libby Christiansen  
Administrative Assistant  
comdir@negapby.org

Katie Karel  
Finance Administrator  
finance@negapby.org

As both positions are part-time, email remains the most effective method of communication.

Congregations and leaders can greatly assist during this transition by providing detailed information when sending payments or checks to the Presbytery. Including clear instructions in the memo line helps ensure that gifts, registrations, reimbursements, and other payments are applied accurately and efficiently.

Additionally, anyone who regularly receives reports or information and notices something missing is encouraged to reach out. While Anita worked diligently to train her successors in every aspect of her role, there may occasionally be processes or routines that are still being learned. Questions, reminders, and patience are sincerely appreciated during this transition period.

Libby and Katie are excited to serve the congregations and leaders of Northeast Georgia Presbytery. They are committed to providing assistance, finding answers when needed, and supporting the work of the Presbytery in every way possible.

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Search Committee Search Underway In February, the Presbytery voted to create a new position, combining the roles of both the General Presbyter and the Stated Clerk. The Nominating Committee has been charged with identifying individuals to serve on the Search Committee that will look for candidates to fill that position. At least three Ruling Elders and three Teaching Elders are needed for the Search Committee. If you are interested in serving on that committee, or know of someone else who could serve, please send names and contact information to Rev. Rindy Trouteaud, Chair of the Nominating Committee. Her email address is: rindy@trouteaud.com. Please be in prayer for the Search Committee as they begin their work.

# AROUND THE PRESBYTERY

*Announcements & Opportunities*

## Ordination Anniversaries

We celebrate and give thanks for the NEGA clergy marking ordination anniversaries this month. The Clergy Care Committee encourages you to hold these individuals, their families, and their ministries in your prayers.

Steven Barnes  
Jerry Brinegar  
Brock Burnett  
William Carr  
Emily Cheney  
Paul Evans  
Robert Googe  
Katelyn Gordon Cooke  
Doug Hilliard  
Jennifer Horton  
Percy Johnson  
Bruce Lancaster  
William Morgan  
R. Monty Nelson  
E. Schley Pease  
Ed Rees  
De Rodgers  
Rindy Trouteaud  
Alex Williams  
Ted Worley



Dear NEGA Pastors,

We ask so very much of our pastors emotionally, spiritually, and physically. The Clergy Care Committee seeks to offer respite. We are exploring the possibility of providing a retreat, funded by the committee, for our pastors. We seek your input, so that we can offer the best experience. Please take a few moments from your busy schedule to respond to the questions below.

**Please do NOT “reply” directly to the email you receive. Instead, please email your responses to Ross Brown - [ross@rossb.net](mailto:ross@rossb.net).**

- 1) What time of year would be best for you?
- 2) Which days of the week would work best for you?
- 3) Where should we hold the retreat? Is geographical proximity or quality of venue more important?
- 4) What kind of program or speaker would be most interesting or beneficial to you?

## Recap of the May 2026 Stated Meeting Northeast Georgia Presbytery — 128th Stated Meeting

The Northeast Georgia Presbytery gathered for its 128th Stated Meeting on Monday, May 19, 2026, at Commerce Presbyterian Church, co-hosted by Commerce Presbyterian and Calvary Presbyterian Church of Elberton. Rev. Jeff Cain offered the welcome on behalf of both congregations. Registration opened at 1:00 p.m. with a reception honoring Anita Green, who concluded nearly 23 years of faithful service as Business Administrator.

### Actions Taken

- Approved the consent agenda, including the minutes of the February 28, 2026 stated meeting and the dismissal of Rev. John McCrosky to Cherokee Presbytery.
- Elected Dr. Cheryl Evans Jones as Ruling Elder Commissioner to the 227th General Assembly, and commissioned her during worship.
- Approved the merger of Timpson and Wiley Presbyterian Churches and seated a five-member Administrative Commission to oversee the merger and the disposition of property.
- Adopted the revised Manual of Operations on its second reading.
- Received the Parity Report governing Ruling Elder Commissioner representation for October 2026 through May 2027.
- Designated the day's offering for Peace Place, Inc., a shelter for women and children survivors of domestic abuse.
- Reports Received
- Stated Clerk (Jacob Douylliez), including updates on two ongoing disciplinary matters.
- Transitional General Presbyter (Ed Rees), whose contract concludes October 1, 2026.
- Coordinating Team (Joslyn Fields).
- Personnel Action Team (Lee Koontz), including the welcome of Katie Karel as Bookkeeper.
- Budget and Finance Initiative Team (Jeff Cain).
- Board of Pensions, Presbyterian Women, Committee on Ministry, Clergy Care, The Table, Nominating Committee, Committee on Preparation for Ministry, Congregational Connections, Anti-Racism Cohorts, and the Administrative Commission for First Presbyterian Church.
- Worship was led by Rev. Heather Koontz, whose proclamation on Acts 2:42–47 and Psalm 8 bore the title "Awe Came Upon Everyone." A Leadership and Development event was announced for August 22, 2026, at Friendship Presbyterian Church in Athens. The next stated meeting will convene October 20, 2026, at First Presbyterian Church, Clarkesville.

### Looking Toward General Assembly

As Dr. Cheryl Evans Jones and Rev. Harrison Tullar prepare to travel on behalf of Northeast Georgia to the 227th General Assembly in Milwaukee, they carry with them more than commissioner badges. They carry the prayers of forty-six congregations, the questions our sessions are wrestling with, and a share of the discernment that belongs to the whole church. General Assembly is the place where the wider church listens to itself — where overtures from presbyteries across the country come into conversation, where mission priorities are weighed, and where the PC(USA) tries to name what faithfulness will ask of it in the season ahead. The work will not be tidy, and it will not move at the pace any of us prefer. But the same Spirit who gathered the first community in Acts — devoted to the apostles' teaching, to fellowship, to the breaking of bread, and to prayer — gathers this assembly too. Northeast Georgia goes with them.

# May 2026 Stated Meeting

*Northeast Georgia Presbytery*



*Thank you*

to Commerce Presbyterian Church  
and Calvary Presbyterian Church  
for hosting!

