



# The Relay

We welcome all to the community of Jesus: to connect, to learn, to worship, to serve.

We are an ecumenical congregation in a Presbyterian Church (USA) form.

Alamance Presbyterian Church • 4000 Presbyterian Road • Greensboro, North Carolina, 27406 • 336.697.0488 • [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)

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## Marching Ahead into a New Season

Friends, a confession: Composing the *Annual Report to the Congregation* is not my favorite task. I believe it is vitally important to share information with you — the data about our mission impact is just as critical as our budgets. This year, as I reflected on the data and the outlook for the future, I have been nothing but encouraged and inspired.

We had our bell rung in the summer of 2024. It hurt. It was scary. Many of us carry the anxiety, the pain — and even the trauma of it — with us still.

But the way that Pastor Jess as acting Head of Staff, the Executive Team, Session, and this congregation responded was extraordinary.

A stewardship campaign focused on prayer, commitment, and dedication reminded us why we were a part of this congregation in the first place. Pledges were as strong as they have been in years — we had increases from so many givers. We added 15 new pledgers. We found places to trim the budget.

Objectively, it was the best fiscal year we have had in my eight years at Alamance. That doesn't mean that all our challenges are behind us.

Alamance can no longer afford to live off of the past. We cannot assume that our accumulated resources will be enough to sustain us; nor should we imagine that the same old routines, programs, and ministries will have the return they once did.

Session is committed to revisiting our mission statement and vision in order to chart a new course for our church. Last year was our wake-up call.

Well, we are wide awake now! May we be encouraged and emboldened to go where the Spirit might lead us next.

In Christ's Love and Light,

The Reverend Dr. Kyle Goodman



## Welcome, Jacob!

Jacob Dishman, doctoral candidate in the School of Music at UNC-G, starts his employment as accompanist this month.

Jacob was Rebecca Oden Pugh's choice to replace her at the piano while she was on honeymoon, in January.

Rebecca has accepted the position of Assistant Organist at First Presbyterian Church in Greensboro, and will no longer grace us with her presence each Sunday.

Session managed to persuade Mr. Dishman to warm the piano bench in her stead. We welcome him to the staff of Alamance Presbyterian Church.

## Ash Wednesday Worship

Join us in the sanctuary on **Wednesday, March 5 at 7:00 in the evening**, for a service marking the beginning of the liturgical season of Lent.

Ashes will be imposed. The Eucharist will be celebrated.

## Daylight Saving Time

The annual turning ahead of the clocks happens **Sunday, March 9 at 2 a.m.**

Should you not wish to stay up that late — or wake up that early — to accomplish the task, it is recommended to advance your timepieces by one hour **Saturday, March 8**, before you retire to bed.

## March Birthdays

- 2 Nancy Michaels
- 3 Treva Caveness
- 7 David Wray
- 8 Jared Gill, Zach Hobbs
- 9 Gerald Coble, Leta Pillion,  
Betty Sizemore, Tony Sizemore
- 12 McCartney Ward
- 14 Peggy Fields
- 17 Mike Ford, Kristen Hogan
- 18 Grace Dagenhart
- 19 Tina Garrett
- 22 Barbara Dark
- 23 Floyd Fogleman
- 24 David McMurtrie
- 27 Brad Benton
- 31 Griffin Brown



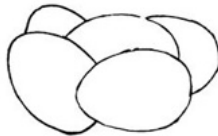
## April Birthdays

- 1 Darrell Parker
- 6 Amarylis Allred, David White
- 9 Hazel Aydelette,  
Maelyn Goodman
- 10 Michael Holland, Jill Skerlak
- 15 Becky Oliver
- 16 Dub Bridges
- 19 Bain Allred
- 20 Daniel Church
- 21 Ed Gonzalez, Jennifer McMurtrie
- 22 Blaine Mills, Cindy Morris
- 24 Chad Fields
- 25 Pat Greeson
- 28 Katrina Schubert
- 30 Angela Burgess, Naomi Church,  
Lois Vinson

## A Traditional Day-Fast during Lent

Fasting is a spiritual discipline most often associated with the Christian liturgical season of Lent. The day-fast, well known in both Jewish and Muslim traditions, means that you eat breakfast before dawn, then eat nothing all day, drink nothing but water, and finally eat supper after dark. During Lent, the days are still short enough so that it isn't so difficult (as compared to June/July!)

One note of caution: Eating a huge breakfast to “carry you through” is probably not a good idea. You may just be all the hungrier by one or two o'clock. It is a good idea to include a fair amount of protein (such as eggs) in your morning meal.



## General Instructions for Fasting

- Do not fast if you have any kind of serious medical condition — especially diabetes — without conferring with your doctor.
- A very good brand of broth to try is Knorr's. It comes in a little box of dry cubes, mixes well with hot water in a cup, is comparatively low in sodium, and tastes very rich. (The vegetable broth is surprisingly good.)
- It is important and helpful to use a devotional guide during the week. One of the points of fasting is to “make more room for God.” Fasting helps focus the mind on the ultimate goal, which is to gain control of that which we have in the past considered uncontrollable so that prayer and meditation become more important during the week.



On Super Bowl Sunday, we welcomed New York Giants Running Back, two-time Super Bowl Winner, 1986 Special Teams Player of the Year — and Southeast Guilford neighbor — Lee Rouson. What a fantastic human being!

Lee has spoken to churches, schools, and groups all across this country and all over the world. He's spoken to audiences of thousands. This was the first time he has ever spoken in Greensboro. What an honor to host him here!



## All Beautiful the March of Days

**Mardi Gras** (Fat Tuesday, or Shrove Tuesday) is the last day of *Shrovetide*, a period of celebration before the start of the somber Lenten season — usually on the three days immediately before Ash Wednesday. Mardi Gras is a last bit of merrymaking before Lent.

The expression "Shrove Tuesday" comes from the word *shrive*, meaning absolution following confession. Christians traditionally visit church on Shrove Tuesday to confess their sins and clean their souls, thus being *shriven* (absolved) before the start of Lent.

During the liturgical season of Lent, some Christians abstain from consuming certain foods, such as meat, eggs, dairy products, and alcoholic beverages. Shrovetide provides them the opportunity to use up these foods prior to the start of the 40-day fasting season of Lent.

The tradition of pancake meals and pancake races during Shrovetide comes from this practice of using up surplus eggs, milk, meat, and butter.

Alamance Presbyterian Church invites you to a Mardi Gras Pancake Supper in Brown Fellowship Hall, **6-7:30 p.m.** on **Tuesday, March 4**. (See the box on the next column for details.)



**Ash Wednesday** is a day of repentance, marked by ashes placed on a worshiper's forehead during church services.

Ash Wednesday is the first day of the liturgical season of Lent; and is calculated to take place 40 days before Easter (not counting Sundays).

This year, Ash Wednesday is on **March 5**. A worship service in the sanctuary at **7 p.m.** will include both Holy Communion and the imposition of ashes.

Daylight Saving Time starts at **2 a.m.** on **Sunday, March 9, 2025**. Turn your clocks ahead one hour the night before.



### Mardi Gras Pancake Supper

in Brown Fellowship Hall

**6-7:30 p.m., Tuesday, March 4**

This is a fundraiser for Children's and Youth ministries.

Cost is **\$10** for adults, **\$5** for children under age 12, **\$25** for families of five or more — for all that you can stand to eat.

There will be thin, flat cakes of fried batter. There will be syrup.

There will be sausage. There will be juice. There will be coffee.

There will be festive jollity aplenty. There will not be bacon.

### Ladies in Fellowship Together

Looking for a small group of ladies to fellowship with?

LIFT (Ladies in Fellowship Together) welcomes you to join them in the Coble House at **7 p.m.** (normally) on the **second Tuesday of each month**.

They are ladies in fellowship together; growing stronger in their relationship with God and with each other, providing hospitality, and uplifting others in the surrounding community.

Sherri Frazier is contact for this Presbyterian Women's Circle.

### MEETS Meets

MEETS (Meet, Eat, Entertain, Travel, Socialize) is an adults-only fellowship group. They invite you — if you are at least 21 years old — to join them at **5:30 p.m.** on **Saturday afternoon, March 15** at the home of Billy & Sherry Starr.

Soda, water, subs, wings, fruit provided. Bring an appetizer to share, and BYOB.

For an address — and to RSVP if you're not on the Evite list — contact Kathy Fay via email at [kathyefay@gmail.com](mailto:kathyefay@gmail.com).

As always, adult friends and family members are welcome.

## Missions Update:

Submitted by Jesse & Erin,  
Samuel, and Amos Atkinson:  
Wycliffe Translators,  
Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah), Mexico  
Serving the Zapotec people  
of San Dionisio

### Why does it take so long?

This is one of the questions people wonder most about our Wycliffe ministry here in Oaxaca — **why does it take so long to get to the actual translation phase of ministry?**

We talked a little bit about this in our second video released for a Special Offering held at Erin's childhood church, Alamance Presbyterian.

**The short answer is, there is a LOT of groundwork** that has to be laid in order to be able to begin translation, and a LOT of different variables in this phase of ministry. Mainly, this groundwork consists of: 1. language learning, and 2. relationship building. Thankfully, these two go hand-in-hand!

In our video, we especially focused on the importance of relationship building. In indigenous communities, trust is very hard to build because outsiders have consistently mistreated, taken advantage of, and outright persecuted the community for centuries upon centuries. (We're talking pre-Christopher Columbus days.) **The goal of our ministry is a ripe harvest of transformed hearts in this community, but if we don't first prepare the soil, which is often very rocky and hard, we are not setting the stage for success.**

**After many of you saw the video, a lot of you were wondering about how we actually build relationships from a practical standpoint!** Here are a few of the ways we approach this:

- Taking the first part of each Zapotec class to talk about our tutors' families and what's going on in their

lives. Sometimes, this takes 10 minutes; and sometimes it takes an hour! We try not to rush it because in this culture, you can't get to the "nitty gritty" without this important preamble first. **But more crucially, it's a way we can show our Zapotec tutors that they're important to us as people, not just because of what they can teach us.**

- **On a related note, simply being committed to learning their language is a huge step forward in building trust!** We enjoy surprising locals when we open our mouths!
- When we first began working in the community, **we had a formal audience with the town authorities** to present ourselves and ask their permission to work in the area. With their blessing, we're now "kosher" and the community knows we're authorized to be there.
- Asking our tutors to teach us important cultural things, like making tortillas, making traditional wooden children's toys, etc. **The more we enter into their world, the more we build trust and understanding.**
- **Jesse attends the weekly prayer meeting** on Wednesday nights at the

church. It's a long, late service, so Erin stays home and gets the boys to bed.

- **Show up for important community events**, like school graduations; **and important church events**, such as the annual anniversary or baptism services, potlucks, etc.
- **Pray with and for** our Zapotec tutors and their families.
- **Find ways to help our Zapotec friends** — connect them with doctors when they have medical issues, give rides, help with plumbing and electrical issues, buy their products, etc.
- **Attend the weekly outdoor market** and strike up conversations with vendors and other shoppers, and also visit shopkeepers around town.
- **Now, with alphabet testing, we're able to involve the broader community a bit more** because they can be a part of testing. We hope to meet with a class at the local secondary school soon, to conduct testing there!

Though this is certainly a long process, we are encouraged to see how God multiplies and uses our efforts already! We pray that, long-term, our efforts to learn this language and build relationships

**Wycliffe**<sup>®</sup>  
Bible Translators

### **STAY CONNECTED:**

**Our Wycliffe page/Giving:** [wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson](http://wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson)

**Facebook Group:** [facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca](https://facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca)

**Sign up for newsletters:** [jotform.com/form/92304614403144](https://jotform.com/form/92304614403144)

**Jesse's email:** [jesse\\_atkinson@wycliffe.org](mailto:jesse_atkinson@wycliffe.org)

**Erin's email:** [erin\\_atkinson@wycliffe.org](mailto:erin_atkinson@wycliffe.org)

**To give online:** [wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson](http://wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson)

**To give by mail:** Make checks payable to Wycliffe Bible Translators. Include a separate note saying, "Preference for the Wycliffe ministry of Jesse & Erin Atkinson, account #398700." Send to Wycliffe Bible Translators, P.O. Box 628200, Orlando, FL 23862.

and trust will mean that the community really “buys in” to the translation process and engages with God’s Word in their language. **We are so thankful for partners like you who are willing to walk this road with us, carefully tilling and preparing the soil here in Oaxaca!**

*Jesse, Erin, Samuel,  
and Amos*

**Pray with us!**

- **PRAY: For a concrete date to be scheduled in March for us to be able to meet with students at the local secondary school, to do some alphabet testing.**
- **PRAISE: We’ve stayed much healthier since the start of 2025!** Thank you so much for praying about this — God has answered!
- **PRAY: For wisdom and creativity for Erin and the other coordinators** of our organization’s biennial Conference, which will be held over the summer. For two weeks, all 150 colleagues gather together for meetings and fellowship.
- **PRAY: For the small church in San Dionisio.** Ask God to enliven their hearts and give them a thirst for strong doctrine and a vision for worshiping and using Scripture in their mother tongue.



## Blessing Bags



Kids R.O.C.K. and the Youth groups worked together to fill bags with items collected for the Special Mission Offering in January.

Items for personal hygiene — and some treats — were packed into gallon-size ziplock bags, then into colorful fabric drawstring bags.

These bags are available for you to have on hand when you want to support a neighbor in need in our wider community.

Items collected include: socks, winter hats, gloves and mittens, toothpaste and toothbrushes, bandaids, soap, lip balm, menstrual pads, bottled water, peanut-butter crackers, trail mix, and granola bars.

This promises to be an at-least-once-each-year event. Knit, Pray, Love Ministry has added Blessing Bags to its list of organizations for which to craft small, warm garments.



## More Than MEETS the Eye

- joyfully submitted by Kathy Fay

In my fantasy world, you have read every word that has ever been written about MEETS (Meet Eat Entertain Travel Socialize) so you are well versed in all its elements. Now I would like to share information that is less clinical but just as important, hopefully inspiring more of you to set aside time to enjoy MEETS gatherings.

Starting out pre-COVID as a group for empty nesters, MEETS has survived, thrived, and morphed. Attendees range from long-time, new, and returning APC members; to friends of APC. The use of the word “members” in reference to MEETS is loose: Anyone who has attended a MEETS gathering, is on the e-vite list, or wants to attend is considered a member. There are people who attend almost every time, those who attend occasionally, and some who come only to certain types of gatherings. There are people who, by their own admission, keep meaning to come but haven’t made it yet. If this is you, please join us. You are always welcome.

With MEETS being a brand new concept, rudely interrupted by a pandemic, we have had to find our groove and figure out what types of gatherings work best for us and on what day of the week.

With some trial and error, we seem to have found our footing. A casual meeting (MEETS-ing?) space, large enough to accommodate us, where we can sit and quietly converse with our seat neighbors; or get up and move about to boisterously socialize with others, is our sweet spot. I do throw some ringer locations in there to mix it up also. There are many great places to visit and we are slowly expanding

our territory to outside the Greensboro area.

Human interaction is vital. Yes, on the surface, MEETS looks like an adult fellowship group all about recreation. More importantly, what has developed are new and deeper relationships.

People who have known each other for years are getting to know one another better. Old friendships are being renewed. Some who only knew each other in passing — or not at all — have become friends. Others have branched out to attend more church groups (such as LIFT, Men’s Group, mission trips, etc.) because they now know someone else in those groups, through their exchanges at MEETS.

God had other plans for the age group for MEETS. The group has evolved into mostly people in their 60’s to early 70’s; with a few beloved outliers on both ends of that spectrum. I like to think of us as “not ready to be senior citizens.” With the stresses of raising children and establishing careers behind us, and the new challenges and joys that retirement, aging bodies, adult offspring and grandchildren bring; we have a group of contemporaries who understand our stage of life.

We have new sounding boards, prayer partners, uplifting supporters, caring souls who offer a shoulder, a kind word, a listening ear, an embrace, or make us laugh for a few hours. New friends rejoice in our delights, grieve for our sadness, pray for our families and have simple fun together. Sometimes, they even dance!

That, my friends, is the meat of MEETS.

## Vacation Bible School 2025: Sunday, July 6 - Thursday, July 10.

VBS this year is *True North:  
Trusting Jesus in a Wild World.*

Participants in *True North* will “travel” to Alaska, to see the northern lights and discover that **we can trust Jesus in a wild world.**

If you would like to help with Vacation Bible School this year, please let Director of Children’s Ministries Joy Thomas know as soon as can be, at [joy@alamancechurch.org](mailto:joy@alamancechurch.org).

There are many ways to contribute, before, during, and after the event. Requirements for volunteers include: a sweet disposition, patience with small children, even more patience with large children, enough stamina to last for a few hours each evening trotting up and down stairs and walking all over our vast campus, and — first and not least — passing a background check so that APC can assure the safety of all the children in our care.

Contact Financial Coordinator Dana Adams to accomplish the background check ([dana@alamancechurch.org](mailto:dana@alamancechurch.org)).



## Memorials and Honoraria

**To the Operating Fund:** In memory of Johnny Greene by Clint & Linda Aydelette. In memory of Ginny Hanner by Brad & Barbara Reece. In memory of Marie Hodgkin by Jim & Lynn Pope, Susan Stewart. In honor of Geneva Boswell by Mike & Lisa Winslow.

**To the Missions Fund:** In memory of Ginny Hanner by Tommy & Linda Causey. In memory of Marie Hodgkin by Tommy & Linda Causey.

**To the Music Fund:** In memory of Ginny Hanner by Thelma Greeson. In memory of Tracy Gibbs by Thelma Greeson. In memory of Jimmy Carter by Thelma Greeson.

**To Todd Luke's Cistern Ministry:** In honor of Nancy Dyson's 90th birthday by Thelma Greeson.

**To the Cemetery Care Fund:** In memory of Ginny Hanner by Randall & Sheila Lewis, Beverly Bizzell.

**To the Sanctuary Ramp Fund:** In memory of Ginny Hanner by the Agapé Circle. In memory of Tracy Gibbs by the Agapé Circle.

## A Reminder

The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996, commonly known as HIPAA, is a federal law that requires public entities to respect the privacy of individuals regarding information about their health.

We are bound both by a polite consideration of their request for privacy, and also by federal law, not to reveal details when people ask Alamance Presbyterian Church not to reveal details about why prayers for health are requested.

## Knit, Pray, Love

-submitted by Linda Aydelette

Knit, Pray, Love Ministry delivered over 50 baby hats to the Children's Hospital in February. Over half of those were for Valentine's Day! Thank you so much to all who contributed! And also a big thank you to everyone who washed the hats before they were turned in! That was a tremendous help!

Adult-sized hats are extremely welcome as we continue to help out Atrium Health Oncology. Another suggested project is to make hats for Blessing Bags for the homeless. each February. If you decide to knit or crochet such items, drop those off in the Baby Hat box that is located on the little white desk in the breezeway entrance.

"Be faithful in small things because it is in them that your strength lies."  
~ Mother Teresa

## The Coble House

The former manse was re-named the Coble House, in memory of the Honorable John Howard Coble, a long-serving U.S. Representative.

The mission of Coble House is to extend the hospitality and welcome of our church to all who seek a space to gather, celebrate, find retreat, and renew their faith.

Coble House may be reserved for church-sponsored events. It is also available to rent for private events. Coble House may well serve your entertaining needs.

For more information, contact [coblehouse@alamancechurch.org](mailto:coblehouse@alamancechurch.org); or look on the Coble House page on the church website ([www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)).

## Food Pantry Special Collections

The APC Food Pantry asks for specific food items each month:

- **March:** Peanut butter, jelly
- **April:** Canned fruits
- **May:** Canned vegetables
- **June:** Macaroni-and-cheese
- **July:** Crackers
- **August:** Canned pasta
- **September:** Cereal, oatmeal
- **October:** Canned meats
- **November:** Dry pasta, sauce
- **December:** Soups
- **January:** Canned beans
- **February:** Canned pasta

Deposit food in the big box in the Gathering Place (and clean, dry, plastic grocery bags); or contact Amy Yow directly to arrange a transfer directly to the Food Pantry storage rooms (336.706.3550).

**Please, no more empty egg cartons!** We have run out of space to store them. Recycle yours responsibly. (You can use the "foam trailer" across the street.)

**QR** stands for "Quick Response." QR codes store lots of data. Scan with the camera function on a smart phone to access information instantly.

APC has a QR code to connect you quickly to our website ...



... **and** one that will take you directly to the Serve page, for info about how to volunteer.



**ALAMANCE  
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH  
IS INCLUSIVE, ECLECTIC,  
AND REFORMED.**

We are an ecumenical congregation  
in a Presbyterian Church (USA) form.  
We are a **Matthew 25** church.  
We are a Stephen Ministry church.  
We are a Hunger Action congregation.

**CHURCH STAFF**

**Rev. Dr. Kyle Goodman**, Lead Pastor  
**Rev. Jessica Rigel**, Discipleship Pastor  
**Andrew Long**, Audiovisual Technician  
**Katie Long**, Director of Music  
**Jacob Dishman**, Pianist  
**Joy Thomas**, Dir., Children’s Ministries  
**Dana Adams**, Financial and  
Administration Coordinator  
**Lynn Barnes**, Administrative Assistant

**Missionaries: Jesse & Erin Atkinson**,  
Linguists, Wycliffe Bible Translators

**Alamance Presbyterian Church**  
4000 Presbyterian Road  
Greensboro, NC 27406  
(336)-697-0488  
[www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)

**Live-streaming Worship Services**

Look and listen to Sunday morning worship at Alamance live, on-line. Here’s how:

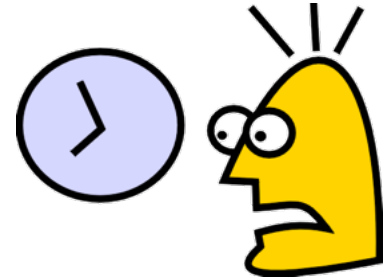
1. Go to our website, [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org). At the top of the page, choose *Livestream*. That option takes you directly to the latest worship service, and any prior recorded services that are still available for you to view.
2. **Before you can access the live streaming service**, you must open an account with Vimeo, either with your e-mail or your Facebook account.



**Newsletter Deadline**

Deadline for the **April, 2025** issue of **The Relay** is **Monday, March 24**. The deadline is printed on the back page of each issue of the newsletter.

Post your articles by U.S. mail, by e-mail ([lynn@alamancechurch.org](mailto:lynn@alamancechurch.org)), climb on a pachyderm and deliver it in person (park the elephant in the back yard, please), or phone the office (336-697-0488 x 121) to deliver the news. Newsletter policy is posted on the church website, [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org).



**Daylight Saving Time**

The annual turning ahead one hour of the clocks happens **Sunday, March 9** at **2 a.m.**

Should you not wish to stay up that late — or wake up that early — to accomplish the task, it is recommended to advance your timepieces by the requisite one hour on **Saturday, March 8**, before you retire for the evening.

Remember: “Spring ahead, Fall back.” This useful mnemonic assures that we are all looking at the same hours on our clocks, as we go about the business of living together in society.

**Current Officers**

The Session is the governing body of our congregation. Officers are called Elders. Each “class” serves a three-year term. Stated meeting is on the **fourth Sunday of each month, at 2 p.m.** in the Bible Seekers classroom (unless otherwise noted).

<b>Class of 2025:</b>	<b>Class of 2027:</b>
Lou Gonzalez	Beth Pulliam
Shannon Haynes	Steve Starr
Ty Kimbro	Tommy Lynn Sullivan
Trey Oliver	David Wray
Terry Schubert	
<b>Class of 2026:</b>	<b>Youth Elder:</b>
Becky Brinkley	Grant Smith
Naomi Church	
Beth McCall	<b>Clerk of Session:</b>
Kitty Wells	Beth McCall

**Find Us on Instagram**

To follow the adventures of Alamance on our Instagram page, just scan this QR code. You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, and [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org).



No one from the church will **EVER** email you, phone you, or message you to ask you to send gift cards. This form of request is a scam. Do not respond to these sorts of requests.