



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

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New Elders

At a Called Congregational Meeting on Sunday, January 12, 2025, the following were elected as Elders, Class of 2027: Beth Pulliam, Steve Starr, Tommie Lynn Sullivan, David Wray.

Grant Smith was elected to serve a one-year term as Youth Elder.

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 for an extra hour of sleep.

Feeling Glad!

Gladness is the word I drew from the Star Word basket this year (these are still available on the stage in the sanctuary).

What an apt word for the first month of 2025! There is much for me to be glad about, at least in this corner of God's wide world. We ended the year with only a \$22,000 deficit. (Who could have seen *that*, when the deficit hit \$100,000 over the summer?)

My gladness is not rooted in money, but rather in the ways money has addressed our church's anxiety. We received an expected trust fund distribution of \$10,000 one week late, that would have made the deficit even less. Instead, *that* money will help *this* year's bottom line. Perhaps best of all, we did not have to use one penny from our Children's Ministry, Youth Ministry, and Worship Arts Ministry funds to support those ministries. We were able to fund all three ministries solely through our operating income.

With greatly increased pledging and a \$100,000 gift supporting us in 2025, our financial forecast is so much brighter than it was this time last year.

You have likely seen Rebecca Oden Pugh's letter by now. Her leaving has pained me, yet let me continue to suggest that there is much to be glad about. For one thing, we can be glad about eight years of world-class piano accompaniment and performance. The fact that she stayed so long with us is a testament to the relationships this congregation built with her.

I am so glad for her new opportunity at First Presbyterian Church. FPC has

unquestionably the most spectacular pipe organ in Greensboro. You may not be aware that the organ is Rebecca's primary instrument: now she'll be able to play one of the best.

The other thing that makes me glad is that we will still see Rebecca. She and her husband, Larry, live right here in our community; and she will not be a stranger. We may be saying goodbye to our accompanist, but we are not saying goodbye to our friend. She will still be around.

Rebecca has already helped us tremendously with our search for her replacement. *That* announcement will soon be forthcoming.

The thing that's bringing me the *most* gladness is our new renter. The hardest thing that happened to APC last year was closing a daycare that had meant so much to this community over the last 40 years. That daycare cannot be replaced, and it still must be grieved.

With one thing closing, another thing has begun. We could not be more delighted to welcome Jump Ahead Learning Academy to our campus.

Jump Ahead is more than just a daycare. The APC Child Development Center board dreamed of becoming a star-rated center. Jump Ahead is seeking a five-star rating when they open this spring. They will welcome children aged two-to-five to our campus.

Jump Ahead is already hard at work painting and prepping classrooms, on the middle floor of the Education building. They have hired a new director.

(continued on next page)

February Birthdays

- 2 Bill Long
- 3 Burt Caveness, Joe Miller
- 6 Branson Linnens, Charlie Oliver
- 8 Geneva Boswell, Graham Dail, Dylan Roys
- 9 Pat Lovell
- 10 Kynsleigh Crompton
- 11 Tyler Trull
- 12 Teddi Irwin, Nick Purvis, Brenda Stevens Greene, Roger Wood
- 16 Danny Thomas
- 17 Matthew Smith
- 19 Bella Craig, Fay Haralson, Kai Ward
- 20 Phil Wadsworth
- 21 Joy Thomas
- 23 Hannah Humble
- 24 Nora Church, Dena Fail
- 26 Delaney Burns, Colton Strandberg
- 28 Andrew Burgess



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

(continued from page one)

Jump Ahead plans an open house for the church and community when they complete their preparations.

APC is not involved in the operation of this new school, but we will partner with them in ministry to our community.

There's even more to come! We hope to welcome a second daycare, to the Yellow House. They will serve a different demographic, at a different price point, than Jump Ahead.

Just as when we had both the CDC and Mothers Morning Out operating on our campus, these two centers will provide different options for our community.

I am so glad that this is not the end of the good news. There are a few other BIG things in the works that your leadership team is not quite ready to share with you.

The new Session meets on **Saturday, February 8** to chart a strategic course for the congregation. I am so glad we are able to do that from a strong position. I hope you will join me in a season of gladness for all the extraordinary blessings God has shared with us over the last few months.

In faith,

Kyle

Rebecca's Letter to the Congregation

January 30, 2025

Dear friends,

After almost eight wonderful years serving APC, I have been called to accept a position at First Presbyterian Church of Greensboro. It is sometimes hard to know when a season has ended, and it is not without some difficulty that I have made this decision. The role I'm taking on as Assistant Organist at FPC is a significant opportunity that I am excited to pursue. My last Sunday with Alamance will be **February 23**.

When I started working here, I never expected to come to love this place, this staff, and all of you as much as I do now. You have shown me unwavering support over the years. You have cheered me on as I completed my master's degree. You have shared my joy in getting married, and showered me and my husband with love and generosity that we are so grateful for. You have always fostered my creativity and musicianship without hesitation. Thank you for the ways you have shown up for me. I am honored to have been a part of your fellowship.

Having recently moved to this area, I have no intentions of becoming a stranger to you. I look forward to maintaining connections with this community, even if it looks a bit different going forward. To quote Richard Bach, "Don't be dismayed at good-byes. A farewell is necessary before you can meet again. And meeting again, after moments or lifetimes, is certain for those who are friends."

Thank you all,

Rebecca Oden Pugh

All Beautiful the March of Days

Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday, or Shrove Tuesday) is the last day of *Shrovetide*, a Christian 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.**



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. Enjoy an "extra" hour of sleep.



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 **third 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 **4:00** on **Saturday afternoon, February 22.** at Liberty Grounds. (<https://libertygroundsnsc.com/> / <https://www.facebook.com/libertygroundsnsc/>)

Liberty Grounds has a nicely-curated selection of local and regional craft beers, wine, coffees, smoothies, delicious housemade Chai, ice cream, and pastries.

You may bring food in, purchase from a food truck, call for delivery, or take out from several nearby restaurants. Or, have supper after you leave!

As always, adult friends and family members are welcome. Please contact Kathy Fay via email at kathyefay@gmail.com.

Missions Update:

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

February Special Offering

Hey, APC! We are thrilled to be sharing with you throughout this month of February for the Special Offering. We are so grateful for this wonderful opportunity to partner with you, my childhood church, to bring the Word to the community of San Dionisio here in Oaxaca. Keep your eyes peeled for **three short videos that will be shown throughout this month**, which will answer your burning questions about our life and ministry here in Oaxaca!

Our goal for the Special Offering this month is \$2,500 – which will enable us to pay our primary Zapotec tutors and also start to really do literacy development in the community in earnest. You'll hear more about the process of developing the first-ever alphabet for this community in our first video!

Read on for a brief account of how God has been using corn to encourage us about the process of Bible translation!

Corn, Corn, and More Corn

"Wow!" We exclaimed as we entered Sandy's house. It was our first Zapotec class back after the holidays. "That is a LOT of corn!"

When the rainy season tailed off in October, it meant that the corn harvest fell over the holidays while we took a brief trip to the US. **Like most families in San Dionisio, Sandy and her family are partially dependent on small-scale farming**, though how much they farm varies with the year and the amount of rain. **Corn is king in Oaxaca (it's where corn was first**

cultivated) and it's difficult to overstate the dietary importance of corn tortillas in people's daily diets, so families are very happy when the corn harvest is good. On bad years, they have to buy corn and it's a significant financial hardship for many.

Last year, we had a good rainy season, which meant this year's harvest was sizable. After teaming up with neighbors or hired hands for an all-day harvest, the cobs are taken home and dried carefully before they're finally ready to shell. Shelling the corn is done by hand and is often a very social process – you chat together with your neighbors, kids, and friends as you work together on the pile of cobs.

Once shelled, the piles and piles of corn kernels are then carefully stored and **used to make tortillas, the basis for every meal, all the rest of the year.**

Once we got over our amazement, we sat down and started catching up and practicing our Zapotec as Sandy showed us how to take a cob and use our palms to break off individual corn kernels, shelling as we talked. I (Erin) was a little wild in my shelling at first and sent kernels flying all over the

room (and a few directly at Sandy and Jesse!) but I'm happy to report that I am much more reliable now!

Samuel is the most avid sheller of all. Both he and Amos immediately ran for a bucket and some cobs as soon as we arrived at Sandy's house the last few times. At these sessions, we've continued shelling as we chatted. Somehow, the mountain doesn't seem to be growing much smaller!

As I was reflecting the other day, I **realized what an excellent metaphor corn shelling makes for translation. Without corn – literally, the "daily bread" and "bread of life" around here – families are left hungry. In the same way, without the Word of God in their language, they are left starving spiritually.**

Just as it takes a long time to work through every cob, one by one, translation takes a LONG time. **(The average New Testament translation in Mexico takes 20 years or more.)** It's a painstaking, time-consuming process that must be done by hand, one at a time, diligently inspecting cobs for bad kernels and carefully gathering every kernel for storage.

The mountain never seems to grow smaller until one day, you are somehow shelling the last cob!

Wycliffe[®]
Bible Translators

STAY CONNECTED:

Our Wycliffe page/Giving: wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson

Facebook Group: facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca

Sign up for newsletters: jotform.com/form/92304614403144

Jesse's email: jesse_atkinson@wycliffe.org

Erin's email: erin_atkinson@wycliffe.org

To give online: 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.

What a day that will be, to translate the last verse of Scripture into Zapotec!

Furthermore, it takes all sorts of people being involved, working patiently together, to achieve the goal: hot, fresh, satisfying tortillas fresh off the *comal*; and the rich, satisfying Word of God in which God spreads a feast for our souls.

And that includes you, our partners. Know that you, too, are part of what God is doing here to bring about this feast for this Zapotec community. We could not be here without you as our Kingdom partners!



*Jesse, Erin, Samuel,
and Amos*



Join APC as we
travel to serve

WESTERN NORTH CAROLINA

WHEN: SUN., MARCH 23RD--SAT., MARCH 29TH

**WHERE: HIGH PASTURES CHRISTIAN RETREAT
CENTER IN BURNSVILLE, NC**

WHO: YOU! & THE FULLER CENTER FOR HOUSING

**COST: \$150 FOR HOUSING & FOOD + \$25 FOR
TRANSPORTATION**

**CONTACT KYLE ASAP TO JOIN US!
WE NEED FINAL NUMBERS BY 2/20!**



Boy Scout Sunday Chili

in Brown Fellowship Hall,

12 noon - 2 p.m. on Sunday, February 9

Sunday, February 9 is Boy Scout Sunday. Boy Scout Troop 368 and the Rosies will help in worship that Sunday. Be sure to welcome them!

After worship, they invite you to sit down and eat some of their award-winning chili, in Brown Fellowship Hall. They are also selling quarts of the chili, for \$10 per container.

SUPERBOWL SUNDAY

*WITH 2-TIME SUPERBOWL
CHAMPION LEE ROUSON*



February 9, 2025

10:00 AM – Worship with Lee Rouson

11:30 AM – BSA Scout's Chili Lunch

12:30 PM – Annual Flag Football Game

Memorials and Honoraria

To the Operating Fund: In memory of Ginny Hanner by Joe & Dodie Miller, Clint & Linda Aydelette, Jackie Fogleman, Laura Seastrum, Carla Wells. In memory of Marie Hodgkin by Roy Allred, Doris Allred McMasters, Peggy Russell, Cindy Brownfield, Floyd Fogleman, Irby & Frances Hipp, Danny & Joy Thomas, Pat Murray, Karen Harniston, Clint & Linda Aydelette. In memory of Jim Carter by Cindy Brownfield. In honor of Lee Shores' birthday by Bob & Grace Dagenhart. In honor of Nancy Dyson's 90th birthday by Richard & Wilma Grubb, Jackie Fogleman. In honor of Geneva Boswell by Mike & Lisa Winslow.

To the Sanctuary Ramp Fund: In memory of Ginny Hanner by the Sherlie Andrew Sunday school class.

To the Food Pantry: In memory of Marie Hodgkin by Bob & Grace Dagenhart. In memory of Tracy Gibbs by Bob & Grace Dagenhart. In memory of Jim Carter by Bob & Grace Dagenhart.

To the Music Fund: In memory of Marie Hodgkin by Buck & Amy Yow, Nancy Pearman, Mary Anderson. In honor of Katie Long, Rebecca Pugh, and the Adult Choir by the Marie Hodgkin family.

To the Benevolence Fund: In honor of Kassie Lee by Clint & Linda Aydelette.

To the Cemetery Care Fund: In memory of Ginny Hanner by Norman & Edna Causey; John & Carol Gonet; Darrell Parker; John & Dell Riggins Jr.; Jo, Michael, and Bradley Starr; Nancy Durham.

To Todd Luke's Ministry: In memory of Marie Hodgkin by Steve & Patty Starr.

In honor of Nancy Dyson's 90th birthday by Steve & Patty Starr.

To the Coble House: In memory of Ginny Hanner by Celyn Holt.

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.

The Coble House

The manse was decommissioned as a preacher's house in 2018, and re-named. Coble House is dedicated to the memory of church member 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; or look on the Coble House page on the church website (www.alamancechurch.org).

Food Pantry Special Collections

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

- **February:** Canned pasta
- **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

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.

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
Rebecca Oden Pugh, Pianist
Joy Thomas, Dir., Children’s Ministries
Dana Adams, Financial Coordinator
Lynn Barnes, Secretary

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

Alamance Presbyterian Church
4000 Presbyterian Road
Greensboro, NC 27406
(336)-697-0488
www.alamancechurch.org
info@alamancechurch.org

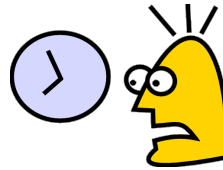
Live-streaming Worship Services

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

1. Go to our website, www.alamancechurch.org. 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 **March, 2025** issue of **The Relay** is **Monday, February 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), climb on a camel and deliver it in person (park the camel in the back yard, please), or phone the office (336-697-0488 x 121) to deliver the news. Newsletter policy is posted on the website, 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.

Daylight Saving Time

The annual turning ahead one hour of the clocks happens on **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.

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 Uffman classroom (unless otherwise noted).

Class of 2025:

Lou Gonzalez
Shannon Haynes
Ty Kimbro
Trey Oliver
Terry Schubert

Class of 2027:

Beth Pulliam
Steve Starr
Tommy Lynn Sullivan
David Wray

Class of 2026:

Becky Brinkley
Naomi Church
Beth McCall
Kitty Wells

Youth Elder:

Grant Smith

Clerk of Session:

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.



**Annual Meeting of the
Congregation**

will be **immediately after worship on Sunday, February 23**, in the sanctuary of the church.

At this meeting, a 2025 budget will be submitted for approval; and changes to the Calls for both pastors will be considered.