



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

CONTENTS	PAGE
HAPPY NEW YEAR	1
FOOD PANTRY	2, 4
MEMORIAL GIFTS	7
MISSION MENTION	3, 7
NO, THANK YOU NOTE	6
THANK YOU NOTES	4
THE BACK PEW	8

Upcoming Events

Epiphany: **January 8**

Pick up a new Star Word for the coming year.

Middle School Retreat:

January 14-16

MLK Day: **January 16**

This is a federal holiday. Church offices will be **closed**.

Soup & Salad fundraiser:

January 22

This **immediately-after-morning-worship** meal is to raise funds for our Children's and Youth ministries.

Mardi Gras Pancake Supper:

February 21

Meal celebrates the end of the season of Epiphany. Profits fund youth programs of the church.

Ash Wednesday: **February 22**

First day of Lent.

Happy New Year!

For those cultures that follow the Gregorian calendar, New Year's Day falls on January 1 each year.

Because there are so many religions in the world — and so very many different calendaring systems in the world — a person's definition of "new year" could be any time of day or night, in any season.

Some cultures celebrate the turning of the year on or around the Winter Solstice, the shortest day of the year. Others use the Spring Equinox, a time of new growth and preparation for planting. Some celebrate at or around the Autumnal Equinox, when harvest impels them to put away the fruits of one year's labor in anticipation of the year to come.

Some New Year Food Traditions

A slew of superstitions surrounds a myriad of foodstuffs that are traditionally eaten at a new year's meal. Realistically, those foods are "special" because they are so readily available at whatever season the new year happens.

Are you from the southern region of the United States? Doubtless you make sure to dine on some variation of pork (ham, hog jowls, pork butt, bacon); cooked winter greens (turnip, mustard, collards, or some combination thereunto); rice; corn and/or cornbread; black-eyed peas (or other legume, but usually that sort of bean); yams or sweet potatoes.

Pork is so that you'll have meat in the coming year. Peas or beans are so that you'll have food at all — some say it is so that you'll have coins to spend. Greens are

so that you'll have folding money. Rice is so that you'll have food. Corn, cornbread, and bright-orange sweet taters all signify piles of gold.

Around the world, in pig-eating cultures, pork is unanimously chosen over chicken for a new year meal. Pigs, it seems, dig forward when they look for food. Chickens scratch backward. One looks forward to fresh adventures in the year ahead, not backward to rehearse old regrets and resentments.

Sea-going cultures eat fish and seafood at the new year — pickled herring is traditional among Nordic countries.

All sorts of noodles, signifying long life, are also a new year staple across cultures.

In some parts of Spain, families stay awake until their town's church bell tolls midnight. Everyone in the household eats one grape as each peal for the hour is tolled. Smart people manage not to choke on the grapes by peeling and seeding them ahead of time.

Whenever you celebrate, and whatever special foods you eat on New Year's Day (or the eve of the holiday), Alamance Presbyterian Church prays that the year ahead is a happy and healthy one.



January Birthdays

- 1 Mikayla Stuart
- 6 Alaska Schubert
- 7 Marlie Sullivan
- 11 Becky Brinkley, Steve Starr
- 14 Phil Smith
- 15 Linda Maness
- 16 Barbara Alexander
- 23 Nancy Dyson, Jane Preston, Patty Starr
- 25 Jon Garrett, Trip Gentry, Jim Witherspoon
- 26 Brad Reece
- 28 Pat Murray
- 29 Ken Hollingsworth
- 30 Hailey Humble
- 31 Wendy Mills, Melinda White, Buck Yow

February Birthdays

- 2 Bill Long
- 3 Burt Caveness, Joe Miller
- 6 Branson Linnens, Charlie Oliver
- 8 Geneva Boswell, Ken Carraway, Graham Dail, Dylan Roys
- 9 Pat Lovell
- 10 Kynsleigh Crompton
- 11 Tyler Trull
- 12 Teddi Irwin, Nick Purvis, Brenda Stevens, Roger Wood
- 13 Clarence Oliver
- 15 Holly Daas
- 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, Lou Walker

The APC Food Pantry

The Food Pantry seeks to provide nutritious food that will last a family in need for 6-7 days, for up to 30 families a week.

Pick up extra shelf-stable foods when you grocery shop. Donations may be put in the big box in the Gathering Room, or in the red bin outside Brown Fellowship Hall.

Clean, dry, used, plastic grocery bags are always wanted. Put them in the same box in the Gathering Room.

Needed: a volunteer to accompany Doug Clapp to Second Harvest Food Bank on food collection runs. Contact Amy Yow (336-706-3550) to apply.

Use the link <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/795307800019/false#/invitation> to sign up as a helper in distributing food to our guests, and/or to pick up weekly food donations from the Forest Oaks Food Lion.

Special Collections

The APC Food Pantry has designated specific food items to be donated each month. Here's a list of the specific items wanted:

- **January:** Canned beans
- **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

Saturday Mornings at the Food Pantry

Saturday morning volunteers work from **8:30-11 a.m.** to separate, pack, and deliver food. Pre-packed grocery carts of food are delivered to recipients in a car line — clients stay in their cars. Once their names are verified, volunteers load up the cars. This is an efficient method for clients to receive food.

Call Kris Levine at (336)-558-6759 — or use this link to schedule yourself onto the Food Pantry volunteer calendar: <https://signup.com/client/invitation2/secure/795307800019/false#/invitation>

Please sign up rather than just showing up!



Pleasant Garden
Fire Department
2022 Officer of the Year:

Captain Brian Forbis

Missions Update:

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

LIFE LATELY:

- **We are eagerly awaiting the birth of baby boy #2, due February 1!** We are very grateful to have a friend from the U.S. coming to help during the last week of pregnancy. Then Jesse's parents will be staying with us for a couple of weeks before Erin's parents are able to come a few weeks after the birth.
- **We celebrated our first trilingual Christmas!** While Erin's foot injury did throw a wrench in some of our plans, we saw so many evidences of God's goodness and care during the last few weeks. It was a sweet time as a family, but also a time missing loved ones in NC!
- **Erin's foot is healing very well!** We keep saying that we can tell that there are LOTS of people praying over this injury. It's healing so much more quickly than expected, which is an enormous blessing as baby's arrival approaches.
- **We are (finally!) almost ready to pour the roof on the construction project at our house.** Hallelujah! This is the final step in the process here for the "obra negra," or the basic house structure. Afterwards, we'll slowly tackle electrical, plumbing, plaster, windows and doors, and paint, Lord willing! Thank you so much for your prayers for this process and all the adventures it entails.

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING GOAL:

We are so, so thankful to once again partner with you this year through the January Special Offering! Alamance has been a faithful partner of our work with Wycliffe here in Oaxaca since the beginning of Erin's ministry, back in January, 2015; and now as a family! **Our goal for the January Special Offering is \$2,000.**

This amount allows us to:

- **Hire an additional Zapotec language tutor** and grow the future translation team.
- **Rent an office space in the community** for a year where we can have language lessons, distribute literacy materials, and make new connections.

-Jesse, Erin, & Samuel

Stay tuned for our two videos that will be shown during worship this month!

Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah), Mexico



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

How Lovely

The staff of Alamance Presbyterian Church offers its heartfelt thanks to the congregation, for the more-than-generous outpouring of donations to the Staff Love Offering. It has been our pleasure to serve God and the congregation this year.

Christmas Angel Tree

A big “Thank you!” comes from parents of the children on this year’s Christmas Angel Tree. The gifts were so very much appreciated. Several parents shed tears of gratitude.

Thanks are also extended to the Red Hat Circle and to Kids R.O.C.K., who provided toiletries for the families.

This year, we served 14 families. That was 36 children, from ages two months - 17 years old.

Enjoy this photographic evidence of the church secretary, making sure that at least one bike was in working order!

Thank you, *Amy Yow*



Danny Thomas proudly stands beside 208 bags of Malt-O-Meal cereals



Malt-O-Meal plenty

Year-end Thanks from the Food Pantry

Special thanks for all the extra donations of food we received in December, 2022:

- Malt-O-Meal, Asheboro plant: 208 bags of cereal.
- Guaranteed Supply Company: 200 pounds of food staples.
- Southeast Middle School: 210 pounds of food staples.
- Alamance Fire Department: 255 pounds of food staples.
- Southeast High School : 5,454 pounds of food staples.
- Southeast Baptist Church: 120 \$25 Food Lion gift cards.
- Anonymous gifts: Milk, eggs, and bananas.

This year we were able to serve 924 families, 2,868 people — because of your generous donations of food, money, and time. Thank you.



Southeast Guilford High Schoolers, their adult leaders, and some of the 5,454 pounds of donated goods they collected for the APC Food Pantry

Matthew 25

in the PC(USA)

Matthew 25:31-46 calls us all to actively engage in our communities and the world, so that our faith comes alive and we discover new ways to be fearless disciples.

Matthew 25 Presbyterians have committed to:

- Build congregational vitality
- Dismantle structural racism
- Eradicate systemic poverty

Both the 222nd and 223rd General Assemblies of the PC(USA) exhorted the denomination to act boldly and compassionately to serve people who are hungry, oppressed, imprisoned, or poor.

Stephen Ministry at APC

The Stephen Ministry is a "distinctly Christian caregiving ministry" that provides high-quality, confidential, Christ-centered care to people who are hurting. Members of the APC Stephen Ministry actively engage with the Congregational Care and Outreach team to connect our congregation with local community resources for help in times of emergency or distress.

Training classes for new Stephen ministers are already underway. Search your heart now, to discern if the Holy Spirit is calling *you* to this ministry. Another class is planned for Spring of 2023.

APC Stephen Ministry Leader Becky Brinkley can answer your questions (336.269.6096,



Grace Extended

Alamance Presbyterian Church participates with the Grace Community Church in southeast Greensboro in a food-relief mission. Each Wednesday evening, Grace Church prepares and serves meals to over 200 folks in the Glenwood neighborhood — many of whom are experiencing homelessness.

In **2023**, APC will work on the **third Wednesday of every even month** at Grace Community Church (643 W. Gate City Blvd, Greensboro, NC 27403; in the old McIver School); for food service and worship from **5:15-7 p.m.** Those dates are: **Feb. 15, Apr. 19, June 21, July 19, Sep. 20, and Dec. 20.**

Open Door fellowship will NOT meet on the days we serve at Grace.

The Mission Team knows that to continue this ministry requires some missional funds. The team hopes that Alamance will walk by faith to support this shared ministry.

Questions? Eager to volunteer? Let Jess Rigel or Kyle Goodman know that you want to join this partnership which engages us ecumenically in the wider community. Sign yourself up to volunteer at this link: https://signup.com/group/987658676044?utm_source=group-badge-volunteer-green

A Limited Clothing Drive

APC is collecting specific items of clothing, in adult sizes, for the guests of Grace Community Church. Wanted: Clean, gently-worn coats and/or blankets; brand-new, still-in-the-package underwear and/or socks.

Bring any such items you donate to the front pew of the sanctuary, **until January 15.**

The clothing will be distributed through Grace Church, in time for the coldest winter weather.

Officer Nominations

The Nominating Team of the Session of Alamance Presbyterian Church invites you to **nominate persons for the office of Elder, Class of 2025.**

This year's team is Kris Burns, Tim Hobbs, Pat Lovell, Scott Mendenhall, and Steve Starr.

Officers serve for a three-year term. The Class of 2025 will serve in the years 2023, 2024, and 2025. Elders **nominated** by Session are **elected** by the congregation.

Considerations in selecting Elders

Willingness to serve, regular worship attendance, financial support of the church, service to the church, service to the community.

A person nominated for the office of Elder should be a member of Alamance Presbyterian Church for at least a year — and familiar with particular needs of the congregation.

You should **contact anyone whom you plan to nominate**, to tell them that you will do so — and to ask their permission, to be certain that they wish to serve.

You may **self-nominate**, should you feel so led to do.

Duties of an Elder include: Regular attendance at monthly meetings, active participation in congregational life, and serving on at least one ministry team. Those teams are: Christian Education, Worship & Music, Administration (church finances, personnel), Building and Grounds maintenance (including the cemetery), Missions, Fellowship, and Congregational Care & Outreach.

Currently serving Elders are listed on the back page of this newsletter.

Convey your suggestions unto our Lead Pastor, Dr. Kyle Goodman (kyle@alamancechurch.org, 336.697.0488 ext. 124).

Unacceptable Gifts

Oh, how the spirit of generosity spills over onto every aspect of life, at Christmastime! But sometimes, when those spills happen, they create messes for others. As our old friend Fredrich Buechner would say, **"Faithful stewardship is where our heart's generosity meets the world's truest need."**

"Have no fear," our preachers assure us, "we have no qualms about asking for donations. We are only too happy to beg for donations for nearly everything under the sun."

Because there are so many worthy charitable causes which can use help, money, time, and odd bits of specifically-asked-for items, here is a list of things that most charitable organizations — including this church — are not able to receive as donations:

1. Old pianos in any state of disrepair.
2. Old pianos in general, even those in good condition — call to ask before wedging that heavy piece of furniture into the back seat of a sports-car and driving miles and miles to drop it off.
3. Broken toys.
4. Bags of unwashed laundry. (We kid you not.)
5. Television screens, of any sort — call first to determine if they will be of actual use. (In case of a fire that destroys a home, among the last things the erstwhile homeowner immediately needs is the kind-hearted donation of seven old television sets from folk who are replacing their own sets with newer models.)
6. Old pianos.
7. Old electronic devices: VHS players, "square" t.v. sets, vacuum-tube radios, computers from the 1990s, record players, slide projectors, etc.

8. Rotary dial telephones. In fact, any telephone, of any description.
9. Broken and/or dirty furniture.
10. Old pianos.
11. Household linens/blankets/quilts that have been stored for decades in outside facilities rife with insect and rodent colonies. (Should we observe that your Dear Great-Grandmother's hand-stitched quilt has mice running around between the layers, that precious item will be trotted straight to the dumpster.)
12. Old pianos.
13. Broken lamps.
14. Washing machines, clothes dryers, dishwashers, stoves, microwave ovens, trash compactors, refrigerators, freezers, etc. Unless we ask for it, we can't use it — even if it is a top-of-the-line appliance, in good working order.
15. Broken musical instruments that are not pianos.
16. Instamatic cameras.
17. Old sewing machines, even if they are running well.
18. Ancient copies of printed encyclopedias. (The information in them is no longer useful to researchers; and they don't burn well. We've tried.)
19. Buckets and cans of dried-up paint/stain/varnish.
20. Old pianos.
21. Broken dishes, drinking glasses, vases, etc.
22. Bibles. We are, of course, called to do our part in fulfilling the Great Commission of **Matthew 28**. But that happens best when we share the faith in our hearts, not the weathered tomes gathering dust on our shelves. It is not a sin to recycle an old Bible.
23. Printers.
24. Firearms, cannons, bazookas, ammunition.
25. Old pianos.
26. Pets.

All kidding aside, there are sound reasons for those "We do not accept blah blah blah" signs at donation sites. Items that cannot be sold for a profit, or put directly to use by a charity, must be safely discarded by the charity. Just as would you, the charity has to pay extra to dispose of hazardous waste items such as computers and t.v. sets.

Acceptable Gifts

An *acceptable gift* is a special kind of gift — the kind that pleases God. It's a biblical theme throughout both the Old and New Testaments and uses the words "pleasing" and "acceptable" when referring to these gifts. God finds them pleasurable, satisfying and delightful.

"For if the eagerness is there, the gift is acceptable according to what one has — not according to what one does not have." - **2 Corinthians 8:12, NRSV**

"Each of you must give as you have made up your mind, not reluctantly or under compulsion, for God loves a cheerful giver. And God is able to provide you with every blessing in abundance, so that by always having enough of everything, you may share abundantly in every good work. As it is written 'He scatters abroad, he gives to the poor; his righteousness endures forever.'" - **2 Corinthians 9:7-10, NRSV**

"By contrast, the fruit of the Spirit is love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self-control. There is no law against such things." - **Galatians 5:22, NRSV**

Memorials and Honoraria

To the Operating Fund: In memory of Carol Foust Sharpe by Jackie Fogleman. In memory of Doris Walsh by Laura S. Fogleman. In memory of Margaret Lily by Monica Hughes.

To the Children's Ministry: In honor of Joy Thomas by David & Nancy Michaels.

To the Music Fund: In honor of the Christmas carolers by Bob & Grace Dagenhart. In honor of Rebecca Oden by David & Nancy Michaels. In honor of Wilma Grubb, on her birthday, by Peggy Busby.

To the Lift Van Fund: In memory of Whitey Boswell by Mike & Lisa Winslow.

To the Coble House: In honor of the Red Hat Circle by Marie Hodgkin. In honor of Patricia Routh by Marie Hodgkin. In honor of Sue Drinkard by Marie Hodgkin. In honor of Joel & Ann Long by Marie Hodgkin.

To the Cemetery Care Fund: In memory of Linda Carraway by John & Mary Watkins. In memory of A.W. Higgins by John & Mary Watkins. In memory of O.L. & Lottie Watkins by John & Mary Watkins. In memory of Charles & Elise Whiteley by James & Sue Whiteley. In memory of Ben, Ethel, and Charles C. Parker by Darrell Parker.

JANUARY SPECIAL OFFERING

Benefitting the Atkinsons' Wycliffe Ministry
Jesse, Erin (Padgett), & Samuel - Wycliffe Bible Translators
Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah), Mexico

SPECIAL OFFERING GOAL:

\$2,000

This amount enables us to:

- Hire an additional Zapotec language tutor and grow the future translation team.
- Rent an office space in the community for a year where we can have language lessons, distribute literacy materials, and make new connections.



WHAT WE DO:

We serve the Zapotec people of San Dionisio in Oaxaca. They do not currently have any access to God's Word in their language, or even an alphabet to write their language.

Our vision is to see them transformed by the power of Scripture in the language that best speaks to their heart.

Working alongside the community, our goal is to translate the Bible into their language, Zapotec, and assist them with literacy and other church materials.

GIVE ONLINE AND LEARN MORE: WYCLIFFE.ORG/PARTNER/JEATKINSON

OUR FACEBOOK GROUP (UPDATES, NEWSLETTERS, PHOTOS): "ATKINSON ADVENTURES IN OAXACA"



Wycliffe
BibleTranslators

Special Offering for January, 2023 is for Wycliffe Bible Translators Jesse & Erin Atkinson



**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**, Youth Director
- Katie Long**, Director of Music
- Rebecca Oden**, Pianist
- Joy Thomas**, Dir., Children's Ministries
- Dana Adams**, Financial Coordinator
- Lynn Barnes**, Secretary
- Mary Ellen Shores**, Director,
Child Development Center
- Ryian Gunn**, Asst. Director, CDC
- Missionaries: Jesse & Erin Atkinson**,
Linguists, Wycliffe Bible Translators

Alamance Presbyterian Church
4000 Presbyterian Road
Greensboro, NC 27406
(336)-697-0488

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 2022: | Class of 2024: |
| Barbara Alexander | Kris Burns |
| Tom Cimino | Terry Busby |
| Scott Mendenhall | Graham Dail |
| Steve Starr | Willie Goncharow |
| David White | Pat Lovell |
| Class of 2023: | Youth Elder: |
| Darren Hadley | Nathan Garrett |
| Tim Hobbs | |
| Kathy Medder | Clerk of Session: |
| Judy Uniatowski | Graham Dail |

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 Livestream, either with your e-mail or your Facebook account. The Livestream site will send you an e-mail that will instruct you how to enter a password of your own choosing.

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 now 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.



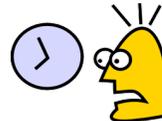
**Connect with Us
Electronically**

"Like us" on Facebook! We maintain several pages on Facebook. "Like" the pages to receive automatic notice on your own Facebook wall.

**... and check the website!
It's updated weekly.**

www.alamancechurch.org.

**Newsletter
Deadline**



Deadline for the **February, 2023** issue of **The Relay** is **Monday, January 23**. Post your articles by "snail mail," by e-mail (lynn@alamancechurch.org), hop on a camel and arrive here in person, or phone the office (336-697-0488 x 121) to deliver the news. Newsletter policy is posted on our website, www.alamancechurch.org.

If you need help making any changes or updating your giving for 2023 in the church's online giving portal, EasyTithe, please contact Dana, our Financial Coordinator (dana@alamancechurch.org, 336.697.0488 ext. 127). Thanks!



Our mission statement:

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

We are a **Matthew 25** Church.

We are a Hunger Action congregation.

We have a Stephen Ministry.