



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
BIRTHDAYS	2
EASTER PHOTOS	1, 5-6
FOOD PANTRY	3
MEMORIAL GIFTS	7
MISSIONS	3-4
MORE ABOUT CHARITABLE DISTRIBUTION	3
PASTOR JESS NOTES	2
POTATO DROP	1
THE BACK PEW	8

Special Missions Offering

For the **April 2026** Special Missions Offering, the Mission Ministry Team has designated the Pastor’s Discretionary Fund.

See page 3 of this newsletter for more about the fund.



Gleaning: Reduce Waste. End Hunger.

The Society of St. Andrew brings people together to harvest and share healthy food, reduce food waste, and build caring communities by offering nourishment to hungry neighbors.

The Society of St. Andrew envisions a world in which physical and spiritual hungers are met through God’s grace and abundance in Jesus Christ.

In the Spring of 1978, Reverend Ken and Jean Horne, Reverend Ray and Marian Buchanan, Reverend Jeff and Susan Allen — and their families — began praying daily for God’s guidance in beginning a shared ministry. Out of this period of intentional prayer, a plan for an intentional Christian community emerged, dedicated to helping resolve the problem of world hunger.

This plan was presented to the Virginia Annual Conference of The United Methodist Church in 1979. Bishop Goodson appointed Ken and Ray to a “special appointment beyond the local church” so they could found The Society of St. Andrew in Big Island, Virginia.

SoSA was founded on the mandate of **1 John 3:18**: “Let us love not only in words, but in deed and in truth.” The Society of St. Andrew (SoSA) takes its name from a moment of profound faith found in **John 6**. When faced with a hungry crowd of thousands, most of Jesus’s disciples saw an impossible problem; and suggested sending the people away. But Jesus offered a different solution: Feed the hungry.

While others questioned, Andrew went to work. He didn’t wait for a

miracle to appear; he sought out a solution within the community. He found a young boy willing to share his small lunch of five loaves and two fish.

Andrew brought what he found to Jesus, believing that if we do our part, the Lord provides abundance. By gathering what remains so that nothing is lost, SoSA continues St. Andrew’s legacy of hearing the call and serving our neighbors in need.

On Wednesday, April 22, the Society of St. Andrew of the Carolinas will hold a “Potato Drop” in the parking lot of Alamance Presbyterian Church.

A truckload of an estimated 40,000 potatoes gleaned from already-harvested fields in our region will be deposited in a great mound in the lower parking lot, across the street from the main campus.

Local food banks and food pantries and hunger-relief agencies and congregation members — and anyone in the community who wants to come and collect as many potatoes as they can use — are welcome to drive by and stick some spuds in a bag or box. There is no charge for the taters.

All who come are asked to provide their own containers. Volunteers from the APC congregation can let Pastor Kyle Goodman know they will be on site to help direct traffic and pack bags for those who come to collect some of the root vegetables (kyle@alamance.org; 336-707-7556).

At the end of the event, SoSA will come back and collect any potatoes that are left, and clean up after themselves.

Thank you, SoSA of the Carolinas, for including us as partners in your mission!

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
- 20 Daniel Church
- 21 Ed Gonzalez, Jennifer McMurtrie
- 22 Blaine Mills, Cindy Morris
- 24 Chad Fields, Erica Lane
- 25 Pat Greeson
- 26 Laura Roseman
- 28 Katrina Schubert
- 30 Angela Burgess, Naomi Church,
Lois Vinson



May Birthdays

- 1 Savannah Jones, Linda Reid
- 3 Pat Royal, Terry Schubert
- 9 Lou Sadie Hackett, Jason Long
- 10 Chris Fay
- 11 Norman Causey,
Diane Hollingsworth, Albert Smith
- 14 Cheryl Ward
- 17 Connie Hackett
- 18 Madison forbis, Mason Forbis
- 20 Birdie Church,
Joanna Whitesell
- 23 Loretta Allred, Connor Roys,
Michael Skerlak
- 24 Clint Aydelette
- 26 Eileen Hogan
- 27 Judy Uniatowski
- 29 Kennedy Dail

Rev. Jessica Rigel Accepted a Call to Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church

The connections that the Rev. Jess Rigel built with us over the last seven years will last a lifetime. After March 15, however, her relationship with APC is fundamentally different. She will always be our friend; she is no longer our pastor. Pastor Jess now serves as Lead Pastor at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church.

In our shared denomination, there are important boundaries observed around a change of leadership.

Some come directly from the **Book of Order** of the Presbyterian Church (U.S.A.):

G-2.0905: After the dissolution of the pastoral relationship, former pastors and associate pastors shall not provide pastoral services to members of their former congregations without the invitation of the moderator of session.

Salem Presbytery's policy makes these boundaries even clearer. Departing pastors are asked not to return to their former church for one year after the next pastor is called. Any contact with the congregation must

occur with the permission of the moderator of the Session.

The strict policy protects the congregation and the departing pastor. When a pastor accepts a call to a new congregation, pastoral responsibilities belongs **there**. Both the pastor and the congregation need space to build their own relationships, without the continuing demands of a former church. Even well-intended contact can distract from the needs of the new congregation.

If you reach out to Pastor Jess with pastoral concerns, she will respond kindly, but will direct you to Pastor Kyle or another APC staff member. She is not available for weddings or funerals. She will not return to participate in Alamance Church events.

Since Jess still has family in our area, you may see her in the community. Please greet her warmly and ask about her new life in Swannanoa. You can ask about book clubs or the welfare of her corgis. It is not appropriate to discuss matters related to her pastoral role at Alamance. Please do not take offense if she declines that conversation.

These boundaries are not a punishment. They provide healthy structure for a relationship that is changing, yet still deeply meaningful.



Food Pantry Special Collections

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

- **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
- **March:** Peanut butter, jelly

Deposit food in the big box in the Gathering Place, or contact Amy Yow directly to arrange a transfer directly to storage (336.706.3550).



Another Plea for Food

Alamance Elementary School has started a food pantry, to supplement groceries for students' families who suffer the loss of SNAP benefits.

We plan to support families at A.E.S. in any way we can — as well as the 120-150 households already served every month through the APC Food Pantry. As the need dramatically increases, we asked for your support to help meet it.

Important Information about 2026 Charitable Giving

- submitted by Dana Adams

For the 2026 tax year, taxpayers who do not itemize can claim an above-the-line deduction for cash donations to churches: up to **\$1,000 for singles** or **\$2,000 for married couples filing jointly**. This deduction is taken in addition to the standard deduction, allowing non-itemizers to receive tax benefits for donations.

Key Details for 2026 Non-itemizers

- **Non-Itemizer Deduction:** A new, permanent provision starts in 2026 allowing those taking the standard deduction to deduct up to \$1,000 (\$2,000 married) in cash donations to qualified charities, including churches.
- **Qualified Donations:** Donations must be made in cash (checks, credit cards, payroll deductions) directly to a qualified 501(c)(3) church. (Yes, Alamance is a 501(c)(3) church.)
- **Documentation:** You must maintain a written acknowledgement from the church for donations of \$250 or more.

Key Details for 2026 Itemizers

- **Itemizing:** If total deductions exceed the standard deduction (\$16,100 single, \$32,200 married for 2026), you can still choose to itemize deductions for your charitable contributions.
- **AGI Floor for Itemizers:** For those who itemize, charitable contributions are only deductible to the extent they exceed 0.5% of the taxpayer's Adjusted Gross Income (AGI).

DISCLAIMER: Tax laws can change. This information is based on current 2026 projections from the IRS (irs.gov). Please consult your financial or tax advisor with any questions about this information.

Special Missions Offering for April: Pastor's Discretionary Fund

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund is used to provide financial aid to people who need help with rent, utilities, medical expenses, and other various and sundry costs of daily living. The Mission Ministry Team has designated the fund as the Special Missions Offering for April, 2026.

An emergency may be caused by an illness or injury that prevents a person from working — and thus from receiving a paycheck that would normally allow them to meet their living expenses. Sometimes, the emergency is caused by a total loss of income because a job has disappeared (for whatever reason).

Often, the church receives requests for help from elderly relatives of one (or more) generations of family members who have “come home to roost” because of the loss of their own living quarters. Those elderly persons' limited resources cannot stretch to adequately shelter the entire extended family, no matter how greatly they want to provide aid, all by themselves.

The Pastor's Discretionary Fund has recently been called upon more often than usual — and for greater amounts of money for each request.

The need is great. The fund is greatly diminished. The Mission Ministry Team asks that you prayerfully consider donating to the Pastor's Discretionary Fund; all through the year, and in this month in particular.

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

Special Offering: Thank You!

What a pleasure to share with you all throughout the month of March! We are so thankful for your partnership through the Special Mission Offering. We are pleased to share that the total for that offering was \$3,220!

**Introducing
 Solomon “Solly” Neal Atkinson!**

Thank you so much for your prayers for a smooth birth! Solly made his entrance 10 days early! Erin and he are both doing well, though we’d appreciate your prayers for some reflux-related struggles we’re having.

We are especially thankful for how God answered your prayers for a good experience at the different clinic we had to use for the birth. We arrived in good time and had a very positive experience, praise God!



Welcome to the world, Solomon “Solly” Atkinson! Praising God for a safe delivery in Oaxaca! (March 4, 2026)

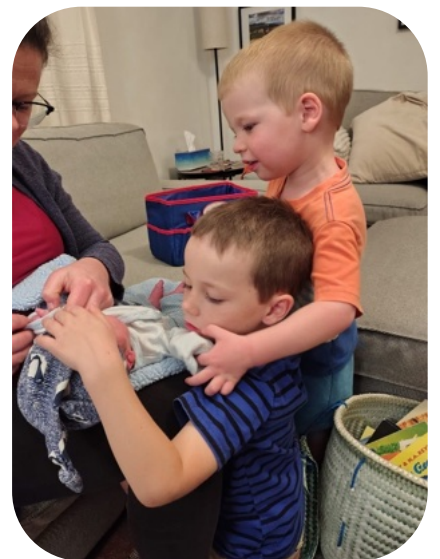


STAY CONNECTED:

- 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.





Support the
 “Alamance Presbyterian Night”
 fundraiser, on
Tuesday, April 28
 from **11 a.m. - Midnight**
 at the Applebee’s
 4406 W. Wendover Avenue location.
 A portion of the cost of your meal
 — order from the entire menu! —
 will be donated to APC.

Come early. Stay late. Tell your friends.



“Who wore it better?”

Christ is risen! He is risen indeed!

... and so were these stalwart youngsters,
 for the 7 a.m. Community Sunrise Service
 at the Tabernacle ball field, on Easter
 Sunday morning.

The weather was cool and cloudy. Rain
 held off until everyone had a chance to go
 home and don their Easter finery for the
 Alamance worship service at 10 a.m.





Easter Egg Hunt
and
Decorating the Flower Cross



Memorials and Honoraria

To the Operating Fund: In memory of Chris Strandberg by Jim Stovall, Doug & Jenny Taylor, Steve & Betty and Jamie Garrett, Clint & Linda Aydelette. In memory of James Nelsen by Kirby & Cheryl Ward, Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In memory of Willie Kimbro by Kirby & Cheryl Ward, Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In memory of John Burns by Kirby & Cheryl Ward, Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In memory of Carol Dail by Jackie Fogleman, Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of Peggy Busby by Matthew & Bronda Coleman, Jackie Fogleman, Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of Michael Roseman by Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of Dorothy Strayhorn by Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of Willie Kimbro by Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of John Gidley by Jackie Fogleman, Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of Joseph Blair by Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of Vernie Thomas by Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of Bobby Curtis by Kirby & Cheryl Ward. In memory of Ann Lewis by Kirby & Cheryl Ward.

To the Music Fund: In memory of Willie Kimbro by Toby Jobe. In memory of Peggy Busby by Buddy & Peggy Fields, Celyn Holt, David & Cathy Wray, Wayne & Pat Wyrick, David & Gayle Coble Lancaster, the Agapé Circle, Hank & Debbie Gill. In memory of Carol Dail by Toby Jobe. In memory of Dorothy Strayhorn by David & Cathy Wray. In honor of the quartet members Tom Barnes, David Hensley, Toby Jobe, and Katie Long for their gracious singing for Peggy Busby's funeral service by Jay & Terri Busby and Robin & Bill Long and family.

To the Cemetery Care Fund: In memory of Lester P. Dyson by Sidney R. Sparks, Nancy Dyson.

To the Minister's Discretionary Fund: In honor of Gerald Coble for sponsoring the Pleasant Garden basketball teams; and him and others for their time and talents by Loretta Allred, Floyd Fogleman.

To the Youth Fund: In memory of Chris Strandberg by Toby Jobe. In memory of John Burns by Toby Jobe. In memory of Michael Holt by Paul & JoAnn Camp.

To the Children's and Youth Ministries: In honor of Jess Rigel by Danny & Joy Thomas.

To the Sanctuary Ramp Fund: In memory of Carol Dail by Paul & JoAnn Camp. In honor of Fay Haralson by the Sherlie Andrew's Sunday school class.

Bereavement Teams

The APC Fellowship Ministry Team seeks persons to form a few Bereavement Teams. Members interested in assisting grieving families by joining a team would be responsible for preparing and serving refreshments — and cleaning up afterward.

Do you feel led toward this opportunity for fellowship? If so, please contact Fellowship Team member Phyllis Monroe (336-549-7178) or Cathy Wray (336-202-6590).

Thank You Notes

Dear APC Church Family,

We would like to extend our heartfelt "thank you," for all the love shown to our family during our mother's recent hospital stay and passing.

Your cards, calls, prayers, love and support meant the world to us during such difficult time. We truly appreciate your thoughtfulness. Thanks again.

Love,

Jay & Terri Busby, Bill & Robin Busby Long, and family.

We are grateful for everyone's prayers, everyone's prayers, kind words, and support during Chris's fight with cancer; and his passing.

Your compassion has been a great comfort to our entire family during this difficult time.

Blessings,

Sara and Colton Strandberg



**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
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

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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.

Despite the Dark

Sometimes it is not strange to think that God is out behind the darkness of the night that there is hope, however small and odd the thought might be. Sometimes it is all right believing that good will yet win out against the weight of hate, and that the light will shine again when all the voices doubt and you have fought the dark with all your might. Lift up your hand and see its grace anew and open wide the window to the dawn to hear the birds that sing the morning in. For this is still a thousand times more true than fear and lies and giving in to wrong. So keep your faith — believe, begin again.

- Kenneth Steven

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.

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.www.alamancechurch.org.



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).

Class of 2026:

Becky Brinkley
Naomi Church
Beth McCall
Kitty Wells

Class of 2028:

Tommy Causey
Frankie Forbis
Hank Gill
Eileen Hogan

Class of 2027:

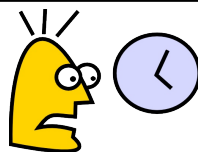
Beth Pulliam
Steve Starr
Tommy Lynn Sullivan
David Wray

Youth Elder:

Nora Church

Clerk of Session:

Beth McCall



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **May, 2026** issue of *The Relay* is **Friday, April 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), hitch up your team of mules and deliver them in person (park the domestic equine hybrids in the back, please), or phone the office (336-697-0488 x 121) to deliver the news. Newsletter policy is posted on the church website.

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.

