



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 Year's Revolutions

As the calendar rolls over and we begin the arduous process of learning to write 2026 instead of 2025, my mind is turning over some New Year's "revolutions." Not resolutions; revolutions.

The word *revolution* is, in its way, a *contranym*: a word that can mean two opposite things. A revolution can be the same old thing coming around again and again, like January after every December. Or, it can be the very moment when it all changes, when the world will never be the same.

Looking back over the past year, I see both meanings in our congregation's life. In some ways, we are still navigating challenges we faced last January.

I profoundly wish things had worked out with our first daycare renter, but it wasn't meant to be. Since then, we have been actively working to rent out our education building's daycare space to a different ministry partner.

In the next few weeks, you'll see a new construction project starting on that building. To include infants and toddlers, we are now required to install exterior exits for two classrooms. Once that work is complete, our new renter will move quickly to apply for all the necessary licenses. I am cautiously optimistic a new center might open this spring.

Last January, we were just beginning to explore partnering with Volunteers of America to build a senior living community on our campus. We spent the year studying similar projects, listening to you, and discerning whether this was the right choice for our congregation.

Last month, Session voted to move forward. We are signing a Memorandum

of Understanding with them, as a long process of due diligence and partnership begins.

This will be the biggest project our church has undertaken in our lifetimes. It will revolutionize the way we do ministry on our campus — but it will take several more Januaries to see it completed.

We begin this January much as we have in other years: wondering how we will meet budget. Since I started at Alamance almost nine years ago, we have lived on some extraordinary generosity, the accumulated resources of the past, and a string of what I would describe as serendipitous miracles.

It's possible we could continue that way, but your leadership knows better than to count on it. This year, we are empowered to do things differently. We believe 2026 will be pivotal for Alamance. We believe it can be a revolutionary year.

Friends, I do not say this to sound an alarm. Quite the opposite! As I continue to say, "The sky is not falling for Alamance; it's the ground beneath us that has shifted." In such a landscape, it can be hard to get our bearings and find our footing. On the other hand, that kind of tilled soil is ripe for planting.

We are as willing as we have been in quite some time to try something new, something bold. Some 250 years after the settlers of this community came together and talked about freedom and revolt from the crown's tyranny, we are considering our own revolutionary ideas. The Log College last fall was one such experiment, and there will be more.

(continued on next page)



For the January Special Missions Offering, we are collecting items to fill Blessing Bags — see page 3 for specifics.

Large boxes are already in place outside the sanctuary, to receive your donations of hygiene items, small garments like socks and mittens, and individually packaged snacks.

Donations of U.S. currency will also be accepted, so that we might purchase things to fill those bags in good time to distribute them to those who most need them.

January Birthdays

- 7 Marlie Sullivan
- 11 Becky Brinkley, Steve Starr
- 14 Phil Smith
- 15 Linda Maness
- 23 Nancy Dyson, Jane Preston, Patty Starr
- 25 Jon Garrett, Trip Gentry, Randy Maness
- 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, Chris Strandberg
- 8 Geneva Boswell, Graham Dail, Dylan Roys
- 9 Pat Lovell
- 11 Tyler Trull
- 12 Brenda Stephens Greene, Teddi Irwin, Nick Purvis, Roger Wood
- 15 Holly Causey Daas
- 16 Danny Thomas
- 17 Matthew Smith
- 19 Fay Haralson, Kai Ward
- 20 Phil Wadsworth
- 21 Joy Thomas
- 23 Hannah Humble
- 24 Nora Church, Dena Fail

Friends, all revolutions have a few things in common:

- **Necessity:** There must be a driving force. We have it: a smaller, aging congregation with a large, aging building to maintain — and a continued commitment to mission.
- **A spark:** Something that ignites movement. We have that too: the 2024 daycare closure and financial wake-up call.
- **Leaders:** Session and staff are eager to lead us down these unfamiliar roads.
- **Volunteers:** We need your energy, creativity, passion, and willingness to try new things. We need willing hearts and a mindset that asks, “Why can’t we...?” instead of protesting, “That’s not how we’ve always done it.” We need that kind of gumption from you!
- **Steadfastness.** Revolutions require grit. Determination. Commitment. They require people who are willing to sacrifice, persevere, and overcome obstacles. They need people who don’t give up or give in!

Let me be clear: Our cause is *not* Alamance Church itself. Our cause is the Kingdom of Heaven, the reign of Christ, and the part our community plays in it.

We are a Presbyterian church. There’s an old Presbyterian motto: *Reformata et Reformanda est*. It means that we are Reformed — and continuing to be re-formed.

We are not meant to be monolithic, unchanging. The world is always changing; as we are called to respond, to adapt, and to follow the Spirit’s lead: the Spirit who makes all things new.

So, Alamance, are you ready for a revolution? A Reformation? Ready or not ...

In Christ’s steadfast love and hope,

Kyle



MEETS & Mingle

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. Contact Kathy Fay via email for more information about the group, at kathyefay@gmail.com.

The next planned event for MEETS is on **Friday, January 16, 7 p.m.** at The Loaded Grape, 2915 Battleground Ave., Suite F (www.loadedgrape.com).

As ever, adult friends and family members are welcome.

Food Pantry Special Collections — and a Thank You

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

- **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

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).



A big shout-out of “Thank you!” is due to Southeast Guilford High School students and teachers — and especially to Mr. Chris Cook — for their most recent food collection drive for the APC Food Pantry. They delivered 6,252 pounds of shelf-stable food items.

Over the past five years, SEHS has donated 26,189 pounds of food to us.

Blessing Bags

The Special Missions Offering for January is Blessing Bags for the unhoused in our wider community.

As promised in this flyer, collection boxes for the items desired are at both main entrances of the sanctuary.

BLESSING BAGS

THIS JANUARY, HELP US COLLECT ITEMS TO SUPPORT OUR NEIGHBORS IN NEED

Please leave **NEW** donations of the following items in the bins outside the Sanctuary. You can also make a monetary donation through the church for our January Special Offering!

- Gallon sized Ziploc Bags
- Socks
- Winter Hats
- Winter gloves
- Toothpaste
- Toothbrushes
- Band-aids
- Peanut Butter Crackers
- Soap
- Band-aids
- Chapstick
- Granola Bars
- Soap
- Trail Mix
- Bottled Water
- Menstrual Pads



Missions Update:

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

Lord willing, we will fly back to Oaxaca early Thursday, January 1 after a very full six weeks here in the US. Please pray for our travels, especially that they'd be smoother than on the trip up in November!

After six weeks of traveling within the US to share about our ministry and support family, holidays, birthdays, my grandfather's funeral, we are very tired and looking forward to finding our routines again in Oaxaca! But we feel very blessed and thankful to have had this time in the United States. It's always tough to leave!

Praise and Prayer

It's been a tremendous blessing to be able to be in the US during the past few weeks to support family during a difficult season. However, it's also been a challenging and stressful time,

with lots of unexpected travel, constantly changing plans, and grief. We very much appreciate your prayers for our family.

Praise: We just finished a long weekend in central Florida visiting our old church and community from our seminary days at Reformed Theological Seminary, Orlando. It's been almost five years since we visited! We're thankful for a rich time of connecting and sharing about what God is doing in Oaxaca.

Pray: We are traveling again this weekend, this time to Maryland for my grandfather's funeral. Please pray for God's comfort for our extended family and for our little family to hold up well with all the travel and new places. We keep reminding Samuel and Amos that we are learning a lot about flexibility this trip!

Pray: As we recently shared in our Facebook group, we currently have a monthly Wycliffe ministry budget shortfall of roughly \$700/month. Please pray with us that God will draw some new partners to our Wycliffe team!

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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.



Newsletter Policy

The Session of Alamance Presbyterian Church adopted a formal policy for *The Relay*, at its stated meeting on September 22, 2019. Policy points are based on an article in the April 2004 issue of *The Newsletter Newsletter*.

Editorial policy of *The Relay*

Our newsletter:

- Will always seek to reflect the spirit of Christ.
- Will seek to portray the congregation in a positive light, without exaggeration.
- Will not report matters that would expose members to ridicule or embarrassment.
- Will not fuel controversies. However, when controversial issues must be reported, the newsletter will report both sides in an unbiased manner.
- Will not include opinions in *news* articles. Opinions will be reserved for articles clearly identified as *opinion* pieces: the pastor's column, letters to the editor, open letters to the congregation, etc.
- Will not print material deemed inappropriate by the editor or pastoral staff.
- Will always strive for accuracy. When appropriate and useful to readers, errors will be acknowledged and corrected as soon as possible. A respectful hearing will be given to anyone bringing errors to the staff's attention. Extra effort will be used to verify the accuracy of all information, especially about individuals.
- Will not publish copyrighted material without the permission of the copyright holder.
- Reserves the right to edit any submitted material for length, style, and content.
- Will not accept submissions after the stated due date.
- Will not use language that is derogatory toward any person or group on the basis of appearance, gender, race, religion, political affiliation, or national origin.
- Will follow the strictures of the HIPAA (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996), a United States legislation that provides data privacy and security provisions for safeguarding medical information.

Knit, Pray, Love (the Alamance Presbyterian knitting ministry) recently celebrated its 20th anniversary. The late Barbara Carter and Catherine Allred began a prayer shawl ministry in September, 2005.

The ministry was born out of tremendous grief at the unexpected death of their friend, Tookie Starr. Barbara and Catherine were inspired by the lovely prayer shawl Tookie received during her time in hospital.

Since then, thousands of people have been blessed by the many items donated by the Knit, Pray, Love team. There are currently about a dozen members of that ministry team. Some of them are regulars. (Some of them are decidedly irregular. See the next column for proof.)

Knit, Pray, Love Ministry

A chance encounter between a Cone Health nurse and an APC member led to KPL's extension of its ministry beyond just prayer shawls.

Forced to seek shelter from a sudden storm, two people headed into a downtown Greensboro business. One was the Cone Health nurse. The other was that APC member. When the nurse observed the church member industriously knitting through the storm, she revealed the need for holiday baby caps for newborns at Cone's Women's & Children's Center.

The church member — who was busy counting stitches at the time — somewhat absent-mindedly wrote down the nurse's contact info; and

later passed it along to the earnest needleworkers of KPL.

Soon, those excellent persons were knitting and crocheting (and donating) hundreds of hats. And on **Sunday, January 18**, Lou Gonzalez leads a class to teach a *new* generation the basic skills needed to create beautiful and useful hand-made things! Contact her at 336-301-9191 for more information.



Here is how the Presbyterian Church (USA) government is organized:

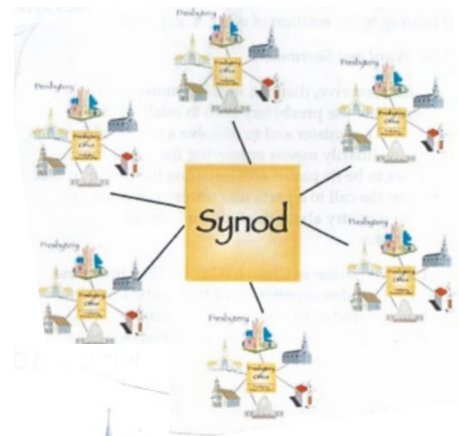
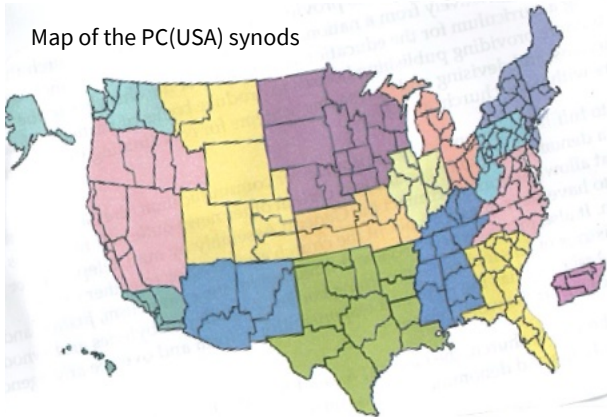
1. Individual congregations elect Ruling Elders, who work together as a Session to conduct the business of that church.
2. Any number of congregations is organized into the next level of government, the Presbytery. This is usually — but not always — on a geographical basis. APC belongs to Salem Presbytery.
3. Several presbyteries are grouped together into the next level of oversight, the Synod. The Presbyterian Synod of North Carolina was formally organized in 1813 at Alamance Presbyterian Church. That synod was absorbed into the current Synod of the Mid-Atlantic, sometime after 1973.
4. The highest level of government is the General Assembly, which meets every two years. Its offices are located in Louisville, KY. Find out more at www.pcusa.org

General Assembly

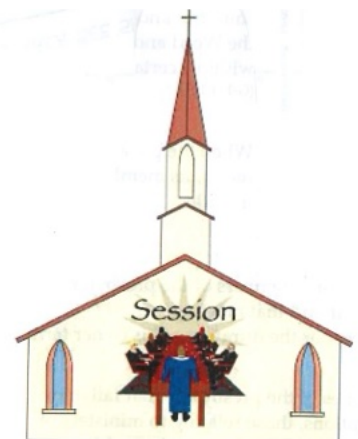


Commissioners
173 Presbyteries
Equal Number of Ministers & Elders
16 Synods

Map of the PC(USA) synods



Presbytery



Memorials and Honoraria

February 6,
2026

Tickets: \$25
Section 132



Alamance Presbyterian Church Greensboro Gargoyles Night

Join your Alamance Church friends for a night
at First Horizon Coliseum,
as we watch Greensboro's new hockey team
take on the Royals of Reading, PA.

Order tickets directly at [gofevo.com/event/
Alamancepresbyterian2](https://gofevo.com/event/Alamancepresbyterian2)

Deadline for the group rate
is **January 26.**



To the Food Pantry: In memory of Joe Blair by Toby Jobe. In memory of Barbara Alexander by Elizabeth Hadley. In honor of Bruce & Susan Anthony by Ruth Forest. In honor of Dr. Hannah Starr by Ruth Forest.

To Kids ROCK: In memory of Kathy Kimbro by Toby Jobe.

To Seniors & Friends: In memory of Ann Lewis by Toby Jobe.

To the Music Fund: In memory of Marie Hodgin by Patricia Routh, John & Sue Drinkard. In honor of Toby Jobe and her work at Alamance by Patricia Routh.

Bereavement Teams

The APC Fellowship Ministry Team inquires: "Have you ever lost a loved one and then been overwhelmed with the many decisions that need to be made?"

"This church would like to help grieving families, in a small way, by providing fellowship and light refreshment following a funeral or memorial service."

The Fellowship 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).

Grave Markers for Military Veterans

The U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs provides foot markers or headstone emblems free of charge for military veterans **who have died since September, 1990.**

Here is a link to the VA website page about burials and grave markers: <https://www.va.gov/burials-memorials/memorial-items/headstones-markers-medallions/>

Here is a link to a PDF version of the application form for a headstone medallion: <https://www.va.gov/vaforms/va/pdf/VA40-1330M.pdf>

Another Plea for Food

Alamance Elementary School is starting 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.

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

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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 2025:

Lou Gonzalez
Shannon Haynes
Ty Kimbro
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

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.



The Nativity in the Narthex

The large Holy Family figures in the narthex first adorned the display window of downtown Greensboro's Belk department store, in the mid 1950s. When the store decided to retire the nativity set, Alamance church member Bill McDowell (Display Manager at that Belk location) donated the set to the church.

The plaster of paris figures were formed with molds imported directly from Germany. After 20-25 years of use at APC, the figures began to deteriorate. They were "banished" to a damp basement closet, where they crumbled even further.

In 1992, church member Bill Early patched and remolded the figures. The remaining pieces were repainted by Cathy Early, Lou Gonzalez, Edna May, and Grace Stewart Dagenhart.

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.

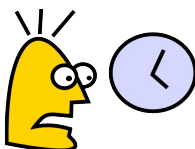


Find Us on Instagram

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.



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.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **February, 2026** issue of **The Relay** is **Monday, January 26**. 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 oxen and deliver them in person (park the bovines 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, and on page 5 of this issue.