



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

Mercy Chefs March Mission Trip

Eight volunteers — Linda Causey, Kyle Goodman, Darren Hadley, Shannon Haynes, Pat Lovell, Albert Smith, Tasha Mason, and Amy Yow — took the church bus to Paducah, Kentucky for three days of service with the Mercy Chefs *Beacon of Hope Kitchen* there.

What did they do when they got to Kentucky? Prepared meals; and delivered them to church, relief workers, and residents of the areas that are affected by a series of devastating tornadoes in December, 2021. On their first day, 236 lunches were prepared and sent out into the community.

Mercy Chefs is a faith-based, non-profit disaster relief organization. Their mission statement is “Just Go Feed People.” They do that with professionally prepared, restaurant-quality meals at the scenes of natural disasters, and for national and international emergencies. Mercy Chefs partners with existing like-minded organizations in the areas where they are called to serve.

When winter tornadoes ripped through Mayfield, Kentucky last December, Mercy Chefs deployed there. The first meals were served less than 24 hours after impact. At first, they served victims, volunteers, first responders, and search-and-rescue teams. Since then, they've shifted to a proven long-term recovery response.

Mercy Chefs established a base of operations in Paducah, KY. This *Beacon of Hope Kitchen* serves Graves County and the surrounding areas using a four-fold approach:

- Provide hot meals to individuals and communities in need.
- Support local agencies that provide continued tornado relief.
- Provide lodging and meals for long-term relief teams traveling to the area.
- Implement the *Mercy Chefs Grocery Box Distribution Program* in Western Kentucky.

Mercy Chefs was founded in 2006, as a response to Hurricane Katrina. The *Beacon of Hope Kitchen* model was first implemented in 2018 after Hurricane Michael devastated Panama City, Florida.

The Paducah *Beacon of Hope Kitchen* is in a middle school, about 20 minutes away from the epicenter of most of the tornado damage. This is a prime location, as Mercy Chefs fulfills its

commitment to shepherding this community through the first chapter of recovery.

For all that's lost, there's goodness and hope still to be found in Mayfield. Three months later, more places than not remain piled with rubble. But First Presbyterian Church of Mayfield has already cleared its lot. They put up a huge sign that boldly proclaims “The church is STILL HERE! We are rebuilding on this site.”

First Presbyterian's witness on their now cleared property is powerful. So is that of Graves County Jail, which is allowing its class D offenders to stay in the jail building, to help with meal distribution. The inmates aren't just doing the work. They'll be running the whole operation for the jail.



Learn more at: <https://mercychefs.com>

(More photos are on pages 2, 7 and 9.)

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April Birthdays

- 4 Kallie Crompton
- 6 Amarylis Allred, David White
- 9 Hazel Aydelette
- 10 Michael Holland, Jill Skerlak
- 13 Nathan Gerringer
- 14 Jim Carter
- 15 Becky Oliver
- 16 Dub Bridges
- 19 Bain Allred
- 20 Daniel Church
- 21 Ed Gonzalez, Jennifer McMurtrie,
Mary Ann Sugg
- 22 Blaine Mills, Cindy Morris
- 24 Chad Fields, Erica Lane
- 25 Mikey Donoho, Pat Greeson
- 27 Chad Drye
- 28 Katrina Shubert
- 30 Angela Burgess, Naomi Church,
Lois Vinson



May Birthdays

- 1 Jim Poe Sr., Linda Reid,
Savannah Thomas
- 3 Pat Royal, Terry Schubert
- 6 Keegan Mendenhall
- 7 Mason Donoho
- 9 Lou Sadie Hackett, Jason Long
- 10 Chris Fay
- 11 Norman Causey, Albert Smith
- 12 Cayce Church
- 14 Cheryl Ward
- 17 Connie Hackett
- 18 Madison Forbis, Mason Forbis
- 20 Birdie Church, Joanna Whitesell
- 22 Shirley Johnson
- 23 Conner Roys, Michael Skerlak
- 24 Clint Aydelette
- 26 Eileen Hogan
- 27 Judy Uniatowski
- 29 Kennedy Dail
- 31 Ryan Brooks

Grace Extended

Recently, Alamance Presbyterian Church was invited to participate in a new mission engagement, through Grace Community Church in southeast Greensboro. Friends in the Southeast Guilford community approached our leadership, to ask if APC could help prepare and serve a meal on the third Wednesday of each month.

Grace has a program, very similar to our Open Door, that takes place each Wednesday in the Glenwood neighborhood. They need help preparing and serving meals to the over 200 folks — many of whom are experiencing homelessness — who attend those weekly suppers.

After much prayer and discussion, we agreed to try it out for the next six months. What does this mean for us — and for YOU?

Every third Wednesday, through August of 2022 (**April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17**), we will partner with Grace Community Church (643 W. Gate City Blvd, Greensboro, NC 27403; in the old Mclver School) for a time of service and worship from

5:15-7 p.m. instead of hosting Open Door on those Wednesdays.

Needed: 4-6 volunteers to help prepare and transport food each month, and 5-10 volunteers to help plate and serve at Grace Church.

If you want to come and serve, but there isn't enough to do, you can still participate: by enjoying the worship experience that begins at **5:45**, and the meal that starts around **6:20**.

The Mission Team wishes to continue with this ministry. It does require some missional funds, so we hope that Alamance will embrace this opportunity, and walk by faith in working to fund and support this shared ministry as we move forward. Thus, the Special Offering for **April, 2022** is for this series of meals. Give generously for the cost of food. Plan to attend at least one meal there.

Questions? Want to volunteer for any Wednesday? Let Jess Rigel or Kyle Goodman know that you want to join in this missional partnership which engages us ecumenically in our community.



Mission volunteers at the *Beacon of Hope Kitchen* in Paducah, KY took some time to go on a fun field trip. They crossed the river to Metropolis, IL and wandered the streets and shops dedicated to the comic book character Superman. A good time was had by all.

Easter Events for the Refrigerator

April 10, Palm/Passion Sunday:

- Worship at **10 a.m.**
- Egg Hunt (for APC children only) at **4 p.m.**

April 11, Monday of Holy Week

- Seniors & Friends luncheon in Coble House, at **11:30 a.m.**

April 14, Maundy Thursday:

- Worship at Community in Christ Presbyterian Church (5401 Liberty Road, www.cicpresbyterian.com) at **7 p.m.**

April 15, Good Friday:

- Church offices **closed.**
- Worship at **7 p.m.**

April 17, Easter:

- Sunrise service at Tabernacle Methodist Church's ball field, at **7 a.m.**
- Worship at **10 a.m.**

April 18, Easter Monday:

- Church offices **closed.**



Easter flowers

Easter Sunday,

April 17, 2022

(order deadline: Wednesday, April 6)

Please deliver this to church office,
or e-mail your order to info@alamancechurch.org



In honor of:

In memory of:

Given by:

Person ordering:

Daytime phone #:

E-mail:

**My check in the amount of
\$13.50 per plant is attached
and made payable to
*Alamance Presbyterian Church.***

Easter flowers are from Mindenhill Farm, a local nursery.

What Faith Is

What people don't realize is how much religion costs.
They think faith is a big electric blanket when, of course, it is the cross.

- Flannery O'Connor

Thanks,
from The Shepherd Center
of Uganda

- submitted by Patrick Tushabomwe

Dear the Alamance Family, receive greetings from the Shepherd center Uganda. We hope 2022 is going well on your side. Back here we are in a rainy season, this time it is heavier than before. Many trees are falling, power breaks down, and there are muddy roads as many of them are not tarmac. Life has turned to normal here as we have no more COVID cases.

This card is specifically to thank you for the support you have rendered to us since when you got to know us in 2019 during my visit to the U.S. Your support has enabled us to accomplish many projects which include the wall fence, purchase of the ministry van, food relief programs, boys' Christmas packages, Rachael's support and above all the love and prayers.

We sincerely appreciate, we are because you are. We can never thank you enough.

The Shepherd Center of Uganda is a non-profit organization founded in 2007 by Patrick Tushabomwe, to rehabilitate street children in Kabale, Uganda, Africa.

Though the numbers fluctuate a bit, The Shepherd Center is home to 30 boys who receive the necessities of education, food, shelter, medical care, and a loving home — and another 18 who have been reconciled to their families. The other 18 have their education, clothes, food (as needed), and help with medical care provided; so that they can stay with their families who do not have the financial means to provide these

things for them. Without this help, these boys would likely be back on the street because of the financial burden on their families.

In the community, The Shepherd Center raises awareness that these street children exist, and that they want a future that does not end on the street.

More information about The Shepherd Center can be found on their website, <https://theshepherdcenteruganda.org>.



Missions Update:

Submitted by Jesse, Erin,
and Samuel Atkinson:
Wycliffe Translators,
Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah), Mexico

What a treat for Samuel and me (Erin) to be able to worship with you in person a couple of weeks ago! We were very briefly in NC for a visit and enjoyed getting to see you guys on Sunday morning!

We remain so grateful for your abundant generosity in the January Special Offering. Your giving enables us to keep progressing with language learning! Here's a small taste of what it's like to learn Zapotec:

Greetings in Zapotec

Greetings vary according to the time of day in San Dionisio. They're very important to get right in this culture, which places high value on observing many social "scripts" for conversation. These are written using the International Phonetic Alphabet, which we use to transcribe all the many different sounds we're hearing while we're learning. (Eventually, we will develop an alphabet alongside the community.)

Good morning: sak ʀsil

The first word, "sak," is said a little bit forcefully and means "good." The second word starts with a voiceless trill (ʀ) and then the rest of the word sounds like "seal" in English.

Midday greeting: sak lajɔ̃zi

The first word, "sak," is said the same as above, a little forcefully. The second word sounds like "lie-ee-gee" in English.

Good afternoon: sak uɔ̃zi

The first word, "sak," is the same, and the second word sounds like "oo-gee" in English.

Good evening/good night: sak uʃin

You know the drill with the first word!
The second word starts with a voiceless

vowel, one of those more exotic sounds we've run into with Zapotec. It's a bit like just a very quick, soft whispered "u." Many times, your mouth simply makes the shape for a "u" before quickly moving on to the next part of the word. The second syllable sounds like "sheen" in English.

You may have noticed in these greetings that sometimes the beginning of words have some unusual sounds. We're finding that **Zapotec tends to lots of funny things at the beginning and end of words and phrases!** Sometimes things get "devoiced," sometimes there are clusters of consonants all stuck together (e.g. "bldi" for "door"), and sometimes there are other phonological processes that we have yet to figure out!

Another fun challenge with learning Zapotec is that it is a tonal language, sort of like Mandarin Chinese. Most Zapotec languages have High and Low tones, plus some contour tones (e.g. High falling to Low). However, we're starting to wonder if San Dionisio Zapotec also has a Mid tone, like a few other Zapotec languages do.



Samuel Atkinson, at play

PRAY WITH US:

- **We had our audience with the town authorities in San Dionisio a few weeks ago.** Thank you so much for your prayers about this important meeting. God answered them abundantly! The meeting went even better than we had dared to hope, and we have the town president's welcome and blessing to work in the community. Praise God!
- For **an office space to rent** in San Dionisio, which will facilitate language learning and building relationships in the community.
- For **a couple more language tutors** to join our team.
- For **the local churches to catch a vision for having Scripture in their language** and to be excited about God's Word.

Oaxaca (wah-HAH-kah), Mexico



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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 e-mail: jesse_atkinson@wycliffe.org

Erin's e-mail: erin_atkinson@wycliffe.org

Missions Update: Todd Luke: Mexico

Dear friends of the Cistern Building Ministry,

I'm super excited. COVID delayed the start, but cistern building season has arrived. From March 8-14, my wife, Maria, and I will host a group of four from the Memphis, Tennessee area. There will be a few firsts:

- First U.S. mission team since March, 2020.
- First four cisterns built in 2022.
- First time building cisterns in the village of Felipe Angeles.

Together with our Mexican partners, we'll pour the concrete foundation and walls for four cisterns. It will be interesting to witness how the community reacts. Townsfolk new to what we do react with extreme caution and skepticism. We are a uniquely local and diverse, multi-lingual construction crew that cares deeply about the work, the people involved, the neighbors, and passers-by. It's subtle, it's sweet, and it makes people think.

We'll also break in some new equipment, including a new cistern mold. We purchased the items with funds from the loan repayments made by hundreds of our satisfied cistern-owner partners. This is sustainability.

Cistern owners from 2002-2021 make annual payments on their no-contract, zero-interest loans. In so doing, they help make a continuous and abundant rainwater supply available to new families throughout the country. We are so thankful.

Please pray for our kick-off week:

- For our Mexican partners: Victor, Raul, Isaias, Lucas, Diego, Encarnacion, Felipe Torres, Pati, Flor, Roberto, Pili, and others.
- For the four families with whom we will work to build their cisterns.

- For our American cistern building team: A twenty-something woman, a sixty-something man, aged-53 me, and two guys aged 76 and 80. All the men have done this many times before. The young woman is a cistern building first-timer, but a veteran in international service.
- For the neighbors and passers-by who also want a plentiful and replenishing rainwater supply for their families; and who are always trying out ways to quench their thirst for purpose and peace.
- For the unnamed partners who donate funds to pay for cisterns.
- For Maria Luke, who will oversee the meals — and who is also prayerfully preparing the way for her and me to live in Xpujil for more than six months per year (unless or until God says otherwise).

We are ready to see how God will use your prayers, our prayers, and our combined efforts to put God's will in motion. Be well, and thank you for all you do for this little ministry.

Todd Luke

224.808.9825

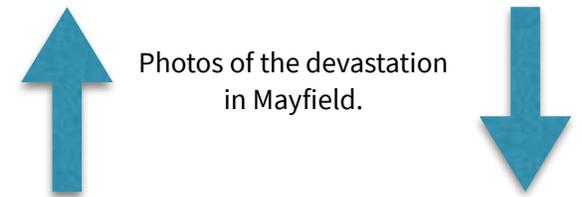
The Outreach Foundation seeks gifts to support the mission and ministry of Todd Luke. All gifts of any size are welcomed to help with the cost of building cisterns

Todd & Maria Luke's Gospel-driven outreach is to build cisterns in Mexico. The cisterns give families, many of whom are indigenous Ch'ols suffering from lack of clean water, access to an abundant supply of rainwater that makes a family healthier. Ch'ol Presbyterian laymen organize families to work together to build family-owned cisterns that collect rainfall.

Generally, American partners work with their Mexican partners to lighten the physical load. During the process, the Mexican partners teach useful construction skills, demonstrate the value of partnership, pray together, and share the Good News casually and naturally.

\$2,200 for one family-owned rainwater catchment tank — which can collect, store, and distribute up to 15,000 gallons a year for decades — is a solid, long-term investment.





Ministry Musings

Greetings Family,

Spring is the air! Lent is upon us! Energy and enthusiasm for new mission opportunities are cropping up all over the place! Not only are we excited about the recent adult mission trip to help with tornado cleanup in Kentucky, we have several *new* opportunities to serve alongside our neighbors, that all are welcome to engage.

Here are some of the highlights:



Grace Community Church Meal

Every **third Wednesday of the month**, APC has covenanted to provide and share a meal with our friends in the Glenwood community, through Grace Community Church.

Our first engagement with this ministry was on March 16. We had a great time prepping, transporting, and serving the meal, enjoyed participating in worship, and broke bread alongside our neighbors. Nine folks from APC helped serve, and six prepped the food in the kitchen. All of us agreed that it was a fun and worthwhile experience!

If you would like to join us in this new partnership, we would love to have a steady stream of folks getting to share in this experience. We will need six volunteers to help prep the meal, and 10-12 to help serve the meal on the following **Wednesdays: April 20, May 18, June 15, July 20, August 17.**

Those who want to help in the kitchen should arrive at Brown Fellowship Hall **by 3:30 p.m.** the day of the event. Those who want to help serve can meet us at Grace Community Church **at 5 p.m.**

We're usually back no later than 7:30, but if folks drive themselves, they can leave earlier if need be. If you want to help, please let me know. Look for a sign up link shortly!

Peacehaven Community Farm Work Day

Our dear friends at [Peacehaven Community Farm](#) are gearing up for a new CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) season; and the Fellowship and Mission Teams are excited to plan an intergenerational farm work day to partner with them! Details are still in the works, but plan

on a Saturday morning opportunity to help weed, water, feed chickens, and do other farm chores alongside the staff and Core Members! **STAY TUNED!**

Middle School Mission Trip

We have not had an opportunity to go on a middle school mission trip for several years, and are so excited to be able to offer this important experience to our 6th-rising 9th graders this year!

We will travel to Charlotte, June 19-24; to work with [Cross Missions](#) through Myers Park Presbyterian Church. There, we will partner with various non-profits throughout the city and learn more about doing Christian service work!

High School Mission Trip

When given the option this year to participate in the Montreat Youth Conference or go on a service trip, our high schoolers overwhelmingly voted to engage with serving others!

This year, we will travel July 16-23, partnering with [Youth Mission Co.](#) in Memphis, TN!

Not only will we do projects to alleviate food insecurity; we will also get the chance to visit the National Civil Rights Museum at the historic Lorraine Motel, to learn more about our nation's history, and about human rights.

Of course, we also have many ongoing mission engagement opportunities that we always welcome folks to engage with!

We help feed the hungry in our community every Saturday morning through our APC Food Pantry; we prepare a meal and serve at Greensboro Urban Ministry the **third Saturday of every odd month (May, July, September, and November)**; we always

welcome volunteers for Children’s Church and the nursery on Sunday mornings; we need hands to help with our annual Vacation Bible School; we welcome new Stephen Ministers — and there are many, many, *many* other ways to plug in and serve!

If you’re jonesing for a meaningful activity that will support your church and grow your faith, let us know! We would be happy to connect you to a ministry that will empower you to help empower others.

Until next month, in love and light,

Pastor Jess



Mercy Chefs
Beacon of Hope Kitchen
workers hard at work.



Seniors & Friends Luncheon is April 11

Call the church office to put your name on the list for lunch in the Coble House on **Monday, April 11**. Whatever is served is sure to be delicious, and most likely nutritious.

Bi-monthly meals and quarterly excursions are in the works for the coming year. The Fellowship Ministry Team is delighted to oversee fellowship events for this group in the congregation. Anyone who identifies as either a senior or as a friend of seniors is welcome.

B.A.E.:

Body Acceptance and Enjoyment

A new fellowship group for middle-school girls meets bi-weekly for supper and a program. The girls and their advisors — Joy Thomas, Ciara Linnens, Katie Hensley, Jess Rigel — spend time helping one another to navigate the often-choppy waters of growing up.

Games, discussion, and documentaries are part of the process. Delicious meals and snacks are eaten with great gusto.

The girls come away with practical suggestions to deal with the sorts of negative criticisms that young women experience every day.

The last scheduled meeting of B.A.E. for the 2021-22 school year is **Friday, April 29**. Contact Director of Children's Ministries Joy Thomas if you know a young woman who might benefit from B.A.E.

Plans are underway to schedule B.A.E. as a regular part of programming for the 2022-23 school year, beginning this fall.

Special Collections

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

From the APC Food Pantry Team: "Feed my sheep."

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

Some weeks we get fresh vegetables and eggs from our donors. Fresh food is a real treasure! Contact the Food Pantry to arrange for your donations of fresh produce.

We *always* need help on Saturdays to help separate, pack, and deliver food to our clients. If you feel led to help with this, please sign up on the church webpage under Food Pantry (www.alamancechurch.org)

Pick up extras when you grocery shop! Always needed: cereal, dry milk, pop tarts, spaghetti sauce, instant mashed potatoes, mac-and-cheese, and other such shelf-stable items. Food donations may be put in the big box in the Gathering Room, or in the red bin outside of Brown Fellowship Hall.

Clean, dry, used plastic grocery bags are always wanted. ***We do NOT need any more egg cartons at the present time.***

Needed: a volunteer to make reminder calls to clients, on Fridays. Contact Amy Yow (336-706-3550) to apply for this task.

Saturday mornings at the APC Food Pantry

Pre-packed food is delivered to recipients in a car line — clients who arrive on a Saturday morning stay in their cars. Once the clients' names are verified, volunteers load up the cars. This is an efficient and convenient method for clients to receive food.

The Food Pantry can always use more Saturday morning volunteers to help with distribution (**8:30-11 a.m.**). Visit <http://signup.com/go/h2b6xy> to sign up to help.

Please sign up rather than just showing up. Kris Levine, Volunteer Coordinator, needs to know ahead of time how many volunteers are expected, to make this a good experience for volunteers as well as clients! Questions? Call Kris Levine at (336)-558-6759.

Potter's House

APC has served supper to hungry guests at the Greensboro Urban Ministry Potter's House since 2004; on the **third Saturday of odd-numbered months**. 2022 dates: **May 21, July 16, September 17, and November 19**.

The work is intense, but not long: Arrive at **6 p.m.** to set up; serve food from **7-7:45 p.m.**; clean up and zip out the door by **8:15 p.m.** most usually.

Let Darren Hadley know that you or your group want to help at Potter's House (darren.hadley@triad.rr.com).

Celebrations and Concerns Policy and Advice

Every week, we publish prayer requests and celebrations. Hard copies are available in the narthex; electronic copies stay for one week on www.alamancechurch.org.

It is the policy of Alamance Presbyterian Church to respect the privacy of its congregation and its extended families. We only publish news about those who have given permission to share health information publicly. If we do not have permission to give details about a medical condition, **we will not print those details**. If we do not have permission to refer to someone by name, **we will not print that name**.

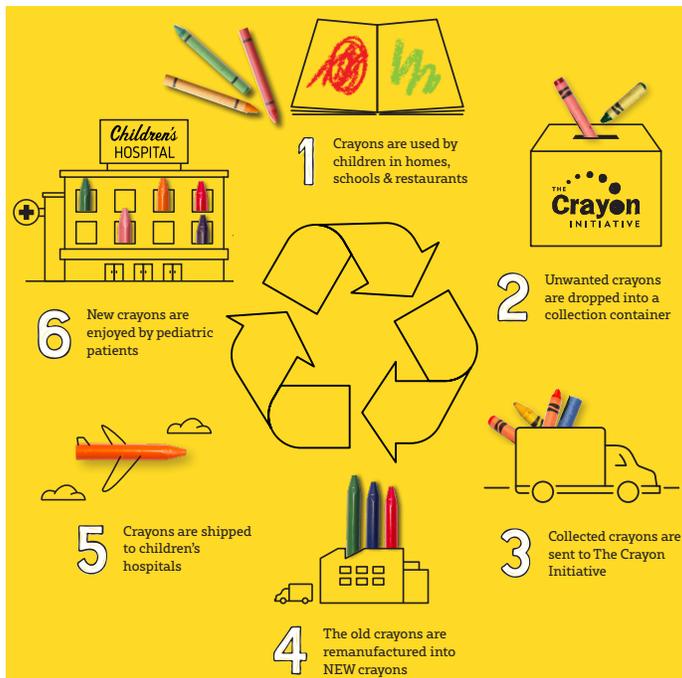
For the safety of all US military personnel, please do not use any form of electronic social media to post details of their service! This means that you should not refer to them by their “go by” name, or mention their military rank, or where they are serving; and that you should not post any photographs that might reveal where in the world they are, or what they are doing while they are there.

Political Activity Guidelines for PC(USA) Organizations

As a federal tax exempt 501(c) (3) organization, the Presbyterian Church (USA), at all levels (i.e., General Assembly, synod, presbytery, and particular church), is permitted to engage in a limited, insubstantial amount of witnessing or lobbying activities which attempt to influence legislation or issues. It is strictly prohibited, however, from engaging in political activity which includes, but is not limited to, participating or intervening, directly or indirectly, in any political campaign on behalf or in opposition to any candidate for elective political office. Violation of these limits may result in the revocation of exempt status and the imposition of certain excise taxes.

(from the PC(USA) Legal Resource Manual)

WHAT HAPPENS TO YOUR UNWANTED CRAYONS?



@thecrayoninitiative
 The Crayon Initiative
 @thecrayoninitiative
 @ ShareYourColors

Collecting Crayons

Kids R.O.C.K. sponsors a crayon collection, in conjunction with the Crayon Initiative. They seek to keep old, broken coloring sticks out of landfills, by remanufacturing them into fresh new crayons. The new items are donated to hospitals, for the pleasure of pediatric patients.

There's a blue box for your unwanted crayons, in the Gathering Place. We'll keep it out there until the end of the school year. Tell your friends at school, and at restaurants that provide coloring sheets and crayons to their young patrons. We'll happily accept their used crayons.

Embracing Easter Eggs

Director of Children's Ministries, Joy Thomas, eagerly awaits extravagant donations of plastic Easter eggs, to fill with equally-anticipated sacks and wads and tons of individually-wrapped treats. If you donate already-filled eggs, you will earn an extra star in your crown in heaven.

A basket to receive egg endowments is on the white desk in the breezeway (the one built into the staircase).

You can also throw eggs at Joy in her office on the upper floor of the middle building. (Well, you can throw them TO her. We here at the church don't actually encourage throwing eggs AT anyone.)

Ayacucho Update

- submitted by JoAnnCamp

There are amazing people in this world who use their God-given talents to be creative and serve their fellow man. One of these people is Yesinia Montes. She is about 27 years old and lives in Ayacucho, Peru. She has decided to improve the educational opportunities of young children around her. The children lack access to books so she is trying to open three places to put books so the children can use them like a library. She has officially applied for non-profit status in Peru.

Since there are no libraries in her area of Peru, she is trying to find space in government buildings to have just a small space to place her books. Right now, there is a small room in her home that is set aside for a display of books. Children can come read as long as there is an adult present. (See photo.)

This year Yesinia got a grant that allowed her to run an eight-week series in a park, where she reads with the kids one day a week. And, two days a week, she teaches children how to write their own books.

This year she has asked for a nominal fee from the 10 young children she teaches in the morning, and the 15 older children in the afternoon. My daughter, Laurie Juarez, helped her in the morning; four high schoolers volunteered in the afternoon.

In the photo, you can see two suitcases laid open in Yesinia's home, with books all around. She has more books for her camp, and games like Scrabble — these were all donated by people in the U.S.

How did they get from the U.S. to Ayacucho? The answer: Another

amazing individual, Kristin Monesmith, resides in Durham North Carolina three weeks every month and one week in Cuzco, Peru every month.

Kristin is a nurse at UNC Memorial Hospital. She works there for two 60-hour weeks, and one 40-hour week. Then she is given eight days to join a medical team that goes to Cuzco every month.

Kristin takes some candy for the children in Peru who beg her for it. However, she makes them promise to use the toothbrushes and toothpaste she also gives them, before she gives them the candy.

Kristin volunteered to take the two 45-pound suitcases with her to Peru. Because she keeps clothing in Peru, she travels light, herself. A service met Kristin in Lima at the airport when her plane landed, and put the suitcases on a bus bound for Ayacucho.

Yesinia and Laurie had a party on March 2, at which they opened the suitcases and looked at everything. Laurie said Yesinia kept exclaiming as she picked up each book and admired it. A few books have Spanish authors, but are not available to buy in Peru. Yesinia was elated to see those books in particular.

In December, APC collected new or gently-used crayons, pencils, stickers, and colored pencils for the Puriyninchik Library project in Peru. The Juarez's church in Pennsylvania collected books and games. Those books and games are the treasures that were in the suitcases.

For more about the Puriyninchik Association, check their website <https://puriyninchik.org/> or their Facebook page: facebook.com/puriyninchik.



Yesinia Montes and Laurie Juarez enjoy opening suitcases full of educational supplies.

The door is open: come on in!

Open Door weekly fellowship for all ages starts with a family-friendly meal in the Gathering Place, **each first, second, fourth (and possibly fifth) Wednesday from 5:45-6:50 p.m.**

How it works: Bring a simple side dish, if you can, to share for supper together at **5:45 p.m.** — main dish is provided.

Retire to the sanctuary at **6:15 p.m.** for a meaningful program.

When you come to Open Door, make a point of sitting with someone you don't know well — and get to know them better.

All are welcome at the table.



On Wednesday, March 16, Alamance served its first meal in partnership with Grace Community Church. Grace Church partners with three churches to provide Wednesday night meals to those who might have a need in the Glenwood Community.

We'll serve at Grace on the **third Wednesday each month**. We have committed to partner with them through September.

That's why we're **not** offering Open Door on the third Wednesdays of the month (see article above).

Lenten practices

What is Lent? Lent is a period of spiritual preparation for Easter. It begins on Ash Wednesday, six and a half weeks before Easter; and provides for a 40-day period of fasting (Sundays are excluded) in imitation of Jesus Christ's fasting in the wilderness before he began his public ministry.

The word *Lent* or *Lenten* derives from the Old English word *lencten* 'spring, Lent', of Germanic origin, related to *long* (perhaps with reference to the lengthening of the days in spring).

Check your bulletin packet **each Sunday** for an insert from Bread for the World, a Christian hunger-advocacy group. *Lenten Prayers for an End to Hunger* provides readings, prayers, and actions to help you and your family observe Lent in 2022.

Each week's insert is different, and is based on the **Revised Common Lectionary**, Year C. Scripture readings are from the New Revised Standard Version of the Bible, the same version that APC uses in worship.

Class Is Offered to the Community

The APC Congregational Care and Outreach ministry and the Alzheimer's Association host a class especially geared toward primary caregivers of elderly relatives, on **Sunday, April 3, 1 p.m.**, via Zoom.

This class, from the Alzheimer's Association, that explains the warning signs of dementia and Alzheimer's disease; on **Sunday, April 3 at 1 p.m.**, via Zoom.

The class is open to anyone in our congregation and in our wider community who is interested.

Topics covered include:

- Behavioral warning signs that something is not quite right with your loved one.
- Differences between dementia and Alzheimer's disease.
- What to do once you have a diagnosis.
- Community resources that are available to you.
- Other related issues.

To express your interest in attending the class, please contact either Becky Brinkley (336.269.6096) or Melinda White (336.362.7943).

More information, with specifics about how to link to the class, will follow in the weeks ahead.

alzheimer's 
association™

MEETS Is Meeting!

- submitted by Kathy Fay

The Meet, Eat, Entertain, Travel, Socialize group plans a casual mixer for **6 p.m., Friday, April 8** at the Coble House. Bring heavy hors 'd oeuvres to share, and a beverage of your choice. Invite your friends. Drop in after work, or join after supper. As always, attendees should protect themselves as they feel the need. Coble House has plenty of indoor space, a large yard, and back deck, allowing people to mingle with adequate social distancing.

MEETS is an adults-only fellowship group for empty-nesters, formed to expand friendships for people who are just past the life stage when their social events revolved around their children's' activities — or who have recently retired. MEETS focuses on needs and interests of people in the "empty nester" stage, but does welcome adults at least 21 years old.

MEETS helps adults make new friends, strengthen existing friendships, develop a support group; in a social group that is not dependent on being part of a couple. MEETS provides time for people to relax and play together, to refuel for daily life, to reward each other for the hard work we do in our church, jobs, family, community.

MEETS welcomes non APC members to join them. The Fellowship Team plans a variety of gatherings, to include active and less-active outings. If you would like to attend, rest assured that you will be welcome. You are always welcome to bring a friend.

To be added to the evites, email list, facebook group; or if you have questions, contact Kathy Fay or any member of the Fellowship Team.

[April MEETS evite](#)

Our Session

Alamance Presbyterian Church operates under a presbyterian form of government. Officers, called Elders, are elected by the congregation every year. Each class of officers serves for three years.

We follow the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA), which is in two parts: **The Book of Confessions**, and the **Book of Order**. Our congregation — and over 100 others in this region — is part of the Salem Presbytery. Salem Presbytery is part of the Synod of the Mid-Atlantic.

The top level of governance is the General Assembly, a national body that meets every two years.

What Is a "Session"?

The **Book of Order**: Part 2 of the Constitution of the Presbyterian Church (USA) defines a Session as the group of ruling elders who are called to nurture the common life of the people of God through their gifts of discernment and governance. They should also cultivate an ability to teach the Word when called upon to do so. When appropriately prepared and commissioned by the presbytery, ruling elders may proclaim the Word and administer the Sacraments in a particular congregation.

Ruling elders shall provide for the church's worship and encourage the people's participation. (W-2.0303)

"Ruling Elders" do not *rule* in the sense of a monarch. They are charged with assuring that *rules* are followed, decently and in good order. They are the servants of a congregation, not the overlords of it.

Never Alone

"... and, lo, I am with you always, even unto the end of the world."

Did you ever wonder what you would do in the time of crisis? Days pass into months of seemingly endless safety, but there always lurks the sudden pain, the sudden grief, the unexpected interruption that jerks life from its normal path.

I've watched some face the chasms of life and fail. I've watched others face them and walk confidently across.

As a Christian I feel a special obligation to face life. But I've long wondered whether my faith would be strong enough; whether my courage would be broad enough; and whether I would be able, alone, to meet the challenge.

And one time, it came like a dawning. The Christ seemed to angrily remind me that a Christian never faces anything alone. The great promise of Christ is to be there, with his hand on our shoulders.

We do not face life alone.

(Lois A. Cheney, **God Is No Fool**, 1969, p. 70)

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.

APC Stephen Ministry Leader
Becky Brinkley can answer your questions
(336.269.6096,
ranb2005@gmail.com).



**STEPHEN
MINISTRY**

Notice:

This congregation adheres to all federal, NC state, and Guilford County recommendations and mandates for safe behavior during the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Guilford County Board of Commissioners has lifted its mandate that masks be worn at all businesses, establishments, and public places.

Face masks continue to be **strongly recommended** in the APC Child Development Center. Masks are **now optional** at all indoor worship and fellowship events.

A Traditional Day-Fast

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.

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 that morning, such as eggs or cheese.

General Instructions on Fasting

Do not fast if you have any kind of serious medical condition — especially diabetes — without conferring with your doctor.

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.

Thank You Notes

To the Alamance Presbyterian Church Congregation:

I want to thank you for your prayers, support and meals provided me and my family during my recent illness. It was very comforting to know that my Church family cared enough for Carol and me to provide this support. I am continuing to improve every day, am getting my appetite back and hope to gain the weight I lost during the month in the hospital. Your kind and wonderful support and prayers were important to my improvement.

Thank you.

Carol and Graham Dail

Alamance Friends,

Thank you for all your prayers, best wishes, cards, calls, and everything you did for me. I will treasure the prayer shawl forever.

All of you are very special to me. Thanks to you, I am now back home recuperating.

Gratefully,

Doris Walsh

Poured Out Like Water

I am poured out like water,
and all my bones are out of joint;
my heart is like wax;
it is melted within my breast.

- Psalm 22:14

Jesus on the cross experienced just such hostility and pain. Each cruel detail was etched into the body of our Lord. Crucifixion, however, produced resurrection. The worst that men could do became the occasion for the unbelievable best that God can do.

(Eugene Peterson, *Living the Message*, p. 96)

Memorials and Honoraria

To the Operating Fund: In memory of Lester Dyson by Sidney Ray Sparks. In honor of Willie Goncharow, for all his hard work by Harold & Barbara Alexander.

To the Lift Van Fund: In honor of LaVerne Starr by the Sherlie Andrew’s Sunday school class. In honor of Jim Tew by the Sherlie Andrew’s Sunday school class.

To the Benevolence Fund: In memory of Carrie Hobbs’ 99th birthday by Harold & Barbara Alexander.

To the Ukraine Relief Special Offering: In honor of Lillie Sizemore Snider by Harold & Barbara Alexander.

To the Food Pantry: In memory of Jean Poe by Jimmy Poe.

Our mission statement

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

We adopted our mission statement in 2014. It’s based on **Matthew 28:19-20**. This scripture is often called the Great Commission.

How we describe ourselves:

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

What does that mean? It means that you are welcome to worship here no matter what Christian denomination you come from. All are welcome at the table of Jesus the Christ.



Live-streaming Worship Services

Look and listen to Sunday morning worship at Alamance live, on-line. This is a nice option all the time, and is a vital resource during the current pandemic.

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.

Sometimes, Livestream does not work as well as we expect it to work. Bear with us! With God's grace we'll all get through this together.

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, Dir., Youth Ministries
Katie Long, Director of Music
Rebecca Oden, Pianist
Joy Thomas, Dir., Children's Ministries
Dana Adams, Financial Coordinator
Lynn Barnes, Administrative Assistant
Mary Ellen Shores, Director,
Child Development Center
Jane Preston, 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 6 p.m.** in Brown Fellowship Hall (unless otherwise noted).

Class of 2022:

Barbara Alexander
Tom Cimino
Scott Mendenhall
Steve Starr
David White

Class of 2024:

Kris Burns
Terry Busby
Graham Dail
Willie Goncharow
Pat Lovell

Class of 2023:

Connie Fish
Darren Hadley
Tim Hobbs
Kathy Medder
Judy Uniatowski

Youth Elder:

Nathan Garrett

Clerk of Session:

Graham Dail



Connect with Us Electronically

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

... and check our newly redesigned website!

www.alamancechurch.org.

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

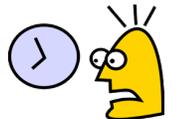


and one that will take



you directly to the Serve page, for info about how to volunteer.

Newsletter Deadline



Deadline for the **May, 2022** issue of *The Relay* is **Monday, April 25**. Post your articles by "snail mail," by e-mail (lynn@alamancechurch.org), strap on your running shoes and hobble here in person, or phone the office (697-0488 x 121) to deliver your news.

Church offices will be
C - L - O - S - E - D
on Good Friday, **April 15**;
and Easter Monday, **April 18**.

We are a **Matthew 25** Church.

We are a Hunger Action congregation.

We have a Stephen Ministry.