



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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Keep the Light On

Alamance Presbyterian Church 2026 Stewardship Campaign

Over the first weekend in November, I found myself at Kirby & Cheryl Ward's beautiful home in Ocean Isle — with nine high schoolers and three fellow chaperones — for the annual High School Beach Retreat.

This year, our time away for rest and renewal was also marked by the seasonal shift from fall to winter, known as the end of Daylight Saving Time. As the group and I noted the impending darkness, we reflected together on how the Church has encouraged the light of our faith; not only over the past year, but throughout our lives.

We made time to remember *who* has shared that light with us, *how* it's made a difference, and *where* we also feel called to share Christ's light with the world.

Jesus tells us in **Matthew 5:16**, "*Let your light shine before others, that they may see your good works and glorify your Father in heaven.*" These words remind us that our lives — our time, our gifts, our resources — are not meant to be hidden, but shared, so that God's love can be seen through us.

We call this season of sharing "stewardship." This year we invite everyone to explore how we can "Keep the Light On" at Alamance Presbyterian Church. That includes both the physical lights in our buildings and the spiritual flame in our hearts.

Each act of generosity — each prayer, hour of service, or financial gift — helps our community better reflect Christ's light into the world.

Your faithful giving is what keeps the light burning strong. Our Youth were clear about how *you* have kept *their* hearts aflame. Our high schoolers celebrated the new youth leadership program through the Log College Project; and the ways that APC has come alongside their families in times of grief or hardship.

They honored and named all the teachers and volunteers who have shown up to guide them, and shared gratitude for how they've been invited to contribute to the church: serving on committees or on Session; leading worship; and ministering to those in need, on mission trips OR with the Food Pantry. They spoke of how the posture of invitation and lack of judgment at this church made them feel safe and seen, and empowered them to work to make others feel that way, too.

This witness, *your* witness, allows our shared light to reach further than any one of us could, alone. And so, we ask again that each of you prayerfully consider how you might continue or even increase your commitment to the ongoing work of our ministry. When we each offer what we can, our collective light guides others toward hope, healing, and faith.

Thank you for the ways you already shine with God's love. May your light continue to reflect the grace and goodness of the One who first lit it within you.

With gratitude and hope,

Pastor Jess



For the November Special Missions Offering, we partner with The Shepherd Center of Kabale, Uganda. See page 5 for specifics — or <https://theshepherdcenteruganda.org/> for even more information about the center. We've partnered with them for quite a few years.



November Birthdays

- 7 Dan Hogan, Sallie Ward
- 8 Keith Morris
- 9 Beth McCall
- 11 Bill Sharpe
- 12 Kathy Fay, Angie Forbis,
Tommy Michaels
- 13 Chris Roys
- 14 Frank McAdams
- 17 Ciara Linnens
- 19 Alanna Brown, Chris Sizemore
- 21 Kaylee Forbis
- 23 Jess Rigel
- 26 Chris Strandberg
- 30 Laura Wood



December Birthdays

- 2 Toby Jobe
- 4 Lillie Snider
- 6 Ethel Allred
- 8 Jay Busby, Paul Camp
- 9 Jack Oliver
- 11 Mary Beard
- 12 Darren Stevens
- 13 Sara Strandberg
- 14 JoAnn Camp
- 15 Gabby Brown
- 17 Lisa Benton, Debbie Gill,
Tommie Lynn Sullivan
- 18 John Roseman
- 22 Wilma Grubb
- 25 Kitty Wells
- 27 Andrew Long
- 28 Lee Shores
- 29 Morgan Haynes

Why Does the Sanctuary Piano Suddenly Look Different?



The sanctuary's shiny, black, grand pianoforte is off and away, for major repairs to its main structure and for new strings and pins.

This will be a very long process. We are not first in line at Mosaic Piano Services on South Elm Street, for these very specialized repairs! We expect to have the instrument back in its spot on the pulpit platform sometime in February, 2026.

Once those repairs are complete, we will essentially have a new piano, that will serve the church for many years to come.

Until then, we are renting a "loaner" dark brown Steinway and Sons piano; which allows worship leaders to provide music for the congregation's delight and edification. Stay tuned (pun intended) for more piano news, later.

The APC Choir and some of their family members recently gathered around the Picnic Pavilion fire pit on a brisk fall evening for some fellowship, food, and to roast some marshmallows! A good time was reportedly had by all.

If you like to sing together and eat together, the choir welcomes you to join them any time. Most every **Wednesday evening at 7 p.m.** sees the choir trot into the sanctuary to rehearse music for upcoming Sunday worship services.

They'll save a seat for you. Ability to read music is a plus, but not required.



Food Pantry Special Collections

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

- **November:** Dry pasta, sauce
- **December:** Soups
- **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

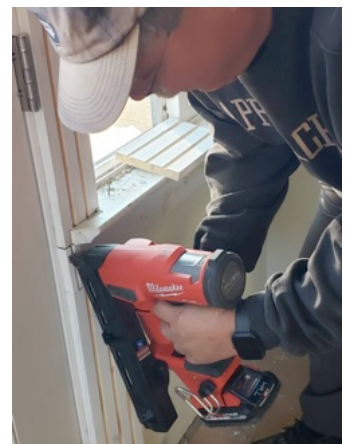
Deposit food in the big box in the Gathering Place, or contact Amy Yow directly to arrange a transfer directly to storage (336.706.3550).

Rebuilding Western North Carolina, with the Fuller Center

Thirteen intrepid souls traveled west, to work with the Fuller Center in Hurricane Helene recovery efforts.

They helped to repair and rebuild structures already in progress, in the town of Old Fort. While there, the team bunked in Montreat at night.

Pictured: Tommy Causey, Frankie Forbis, Jon Garrett, Kyle Goodman (back row, wearing a fright wig), Shannon Haynes, Wayne Henderson, Bill Hodgins, Pat Lovell, Randy Maness, Brad Reece (bestower of the wig), Terry Schubert, Billy Starr, and David Wray.



Missions Update:

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

Looking Back:

God has been gracious to **provide a time of very focused language work and ministry in the community the last couple of months.** Thank you for praying for this time of preparation for the language exam — God has been answering your prayers!

He has provided regular, consistent times with our tutors (something we've learned not to take for granted!) **and renewed motivation and energy to help us make the most of these final months of focused Zapotec learning.** (We'll continue language learning organically as part of ministry after the exam, but our focus will shift to preparations to begin translation.)

Now (or Almost Now)

Lord willing, **Jesse will take the Zapotec exam in the next week!** This milestone represents almost four years of hard work and learning in San Dionisio. At times, it felt like we'd never make it here and we'd never learn this seemingly impossible language! **Even now, Zapotec continues to surprise us all the time with the unusual things that happen in the language with the grammar and phonology.** God has been faithful! It has not been by our strength, but by his!

Looking Ahead

Assuming Jesse passes the language exam (we're not too worried!), **we will shift focus** to writing up in-depth linguistic analyses of the grammar and phonology of the language, finalizing a corpus of "texts" that we've analyzed and translated syllable-by-syllable,

revising our database of Zapotec vocabulary, revising our literacy materials, and requesting approval of our tentative orthography.

All of these things are requirements in our organization be able to start formally translating Scripture. **They not only demonstrate our capabilities in the language, but they also serve the community by creating the start of a body of resources about their language** — something they've never had before! (Imagine not even being able to look up a word's definition because there was no dictionary!)

We're also entering a very intense spiritual time around here, due to the traditional practices surrounding Day of the Dead (Nov. 1-2) and also the Christmas holiday. **Please join us in praying for this region during this time of darkness but also heightened spiritual awareness.**

- *Jesse & Erin, Samuel,
and Amos*

Pray with Us!

- **PRAY:** The end of the year brings many unique opportunities to connect with the church in San Dionisio. **We feel the Spirit nudging us to commit to some new ways of participating in the church that will deepen our relationships with**

the local believers. Please pray for God to guide us as we pursue these new opportunities.

- **PRAISE:** Our new home has been a source of enormous blessing to us already. Having a secure, stable place to live makes a big difference in our quality of life day-to-day.
- **PRAY:** For the church in San Dionisio as they face heightened persecution and pressure this time of year from their community. **Because they refuse to participate in pagan practices, they experience very strong social pressures to conform and nearly constant political and practical pressures to "fall in line."** Pray for wisdom and firmness for them.



Samuel and Amos have gotten lots of Zapotec and Spanish practice at our sessions lately!

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.

Wycliffe
Bible Translators



Amos always has lots of fun on our visits in the community.



Samuel LOVES plants and went hunting for all sorts of flowers and seeds with his Zapotec babysitter on our recent visit. Tons of flowers are blooming this time of year because we're near the end of the rainy season.

"Thanks!" to everyone who helped with the Kids ROCK service project at Alamance Elementary School. We added three new circles, repainted all the existing circles, *and* helped Ms Keri clean up the preschool playground.



November Special Mission Offering: The Shepherd Center of Uganda

Lisa O'Brien Lubulwa, CTEN Missionary, writes: "Thanks so much for advocating for The Shepherd Center for Christmas!"

"This year we have 51 boys. As usual, we will have a party for the boys and their parents/guardians, give them gifts of clothing and hygiene items, and bless their families with food packages for the holiday. (The food packages usually include things like rice, corn flour, beans, ground peanuts, and meat.)

"We encourage each boy to spend at least some time over the Christmas holiday with family. Food insecurity is a big factor in why they can't/won't stay at home; so the food packages help — especially with boys who live on-site full time.

"Our current budget is \$76 per boy: for the party (\$10), gifts (\$66), and \$35 for the food packages. A total of \$111 per child equals a total goal of \$5,653."

"With that \$66 for gifts, we hope to purchase the following for each child:"

- 1 sweatshirt
- 2 dress shirts
- 2 t-shirts
- 1 undershirt
- 2 pairs of pants
- 2 pairs of shorts
- 2 pairs of underwear
- 1 belt
- 2 pairs of socks
- 1 pair of shoes
- 1 pair of sandals
- 1 handkerchief
- 2 bars of soap for washing clothes
- -1 container of vaseline
- 1 tube of toothpaste
- 1 toothbrush
- Some "pocket money" (about \$1.50)



Trunk or Treat 2025: Sunday, October 26

We saw so many Wednesdays, K-Pop Demon Hunters, Galindas, Spidermen, narwhals, unicorns, and other creatures at Trunk or Treat!

We welcomed 520+ people to our Trunk or Treat. We sold about 200 hotdogs. We collected 102 pounds of canned food for the Food Pantry. We gave away a metric ton of candy and prizes, out of 39 well-decorated car trunks that made this event such a hit. Thank you, everyone who worked so hard to help so many people have this awesome autumnal amusement.

Here is some photographic evidence of the jollity on display at Trunk or Treat 2025.

If you don't see *your* picture here, don't be sad! Our policy is not to post identifiable pictures of children for whom we do not have a photo release. And there's simply not enough room in this newsletter to include images of all the fabulous costumes and cars at this year's Trunk or Treat.







Eek!





Youth Group had a wonderful time carving pumpkins,
at the Garrett's.



Kids ROCK had a wonderful time carving
pumpkins at the Gill's — with the added
attraction of miniature donkeys.



Thank-you

Dear Alamance Presbyterian Church:

Thank you for your contribution of \$1,210.00 to Backpack Beginnings on October 7.

Your generous support enables Backpack Beginnings to meet the essential needs of local children and families. Our mission is to connect them with the resources they need to thrive. By providing basic necessities along with education, group classes, and personalized coaching, we address urgent needs while building long-term stability.

During our 2024-25 fiscal year, we provided 924,922 pounds of food, 945,204 diapers, 237,824 items of clothing, 131,111 hygiene items, 50,961 household goods, 77,834 school supplies, 33,904 toys, 13,947 baby accessories/equipment, 1,608 Comfort Backpacks, and 42,376 books to local children and families via our Community Partners and Family Market. Our new Beyond the Basics program celebrated 10 individuals who completed the six-month program. Overall, these resources supported 27,436 children! Thanks to your donation, we anticipate increasing these numbers in 2024–25!

Thank you for your donation to Backpack Beginnings. Through your contribution, we can continue to serve children in need in our community. Backpack Beginnings is a non-profit organization under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. To learn more about us, please visit www.backpackbeginnings.org.

Sincerely,

Parker White

Founder/Volunteer Executive Director
BackPack Beginnings: Resources for Today, Support for Tomorrow

Nursery! Nursery!

Alamance's *Child, Youth, and Vulnerable Adult Protection Policy* **requires two adults in the nursery at all times.** With Sunday school *and* worship to cover, **we need four adults every Sunday.**

Director of Children's Ministries Joy Thomas frequently scrambles to find help at the last minute, or has to fill in herself.

In May, **we hired Jane Preston**, a longtime nursery volunteer. We're thrilled to have her.

Of course, Jane covers only two of the four required spots. **We still need two volunteers each week.**

Because Jane will be there, volunteers need not hesitate to feel comfortable in the nursery **even if they have physical limitations.** Are you willing to help? **Reach out and claim your spot in the Sunday rotation.** Let's help Joy build a schedule, not scramble to fill it.

To help ensure consistent coverage, please use the SignUp genius on the home page of the church website (www.alamancechurch.org) or this direct link ([Nursery Volunteer SignUp](#)) to let Joy know which dates and times you can serve in the church nursery.

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.



MEETS Meets

MEETS (Meet, Eat, Entertain, Travel, Socialize) is an adults-only fellowship group. They invite you — if you are at least 21 years old — to join them. Contact Kathy Fay via email for more information about the group, at kathyefay@gmail.com.

The next planned event for MEETS is:

- **Saturday, November 22, 5 p.m.:** Joymongers Brewery, 576 N. Eugene St.

As ever, adult friends and family members are welcome. Don't bring children to MEETS events, please and thank you.

Memorials and Honoraria

To the Operating Fund: In memory of Kathy Kimbro by Willie & Glenda Goncharow, Martha K. Johnson, Gary & Susan Smith. In memory of Michael Holt by Toby Jobe. In memory of Michael Holt by Toby Jobe. In memory of Jim Witherspoon by Willie & Glenda Witherspoon.

To the Children's Ministry: In memory of Kathy Kimbro by Danny & Joy Thomas, Hank & Debbie Gill.

To the Youth Fund: In memory of Michael Holt by Ron & Kathy Medder.

To the Food Pantry: In memory of Catherine Roberson by Jackie Fogleman.

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

To the Cemetery Care Fund: In memory of Jim Witherspoon by Darrell Parker. In honor of the Smith family (Betty Lou, Treva, Joyce, and the rest) who provided snacks for Allen Dick's funeral service October 4 by Kathy Dick, Eddie & LouAnn Dick, Miller & Michelle Patterson.

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>

Remember ★ Honor ★ Teach



★ **December 13, 2025** ★

National Wreaths Across America Day



Help Colonel Arthur Forbis Chapter NSDAR honor local heroes!

Sponsor a wreath today to be placed on a veteran's grave this December at Alamance Presbyterian Church Cemetery.

Scan the QR code to make a donation online or visit www.wreathsasscrossamerica.org/NC0529



Bereavement Teams

The APC Fellowship Ministry Team asks:

"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 individuals 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.

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

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

Alamance Presbyterian Church
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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.



Keep the Light On

Alamance Presbyterian Church 2026 Stewardship Campaign

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

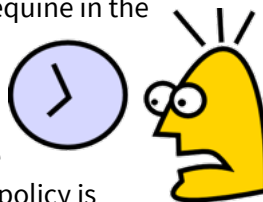
To follow the adventures of Alamance on our Instagram page, just scan this QR code. You can also find us on Facebook, YouTube, and www.alamancechurch.org.



Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **December, 2025** issue of ***The Relay*** is **Monday, November 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 horse and deliver them in person (park the equine 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, 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.