



# The Relay

Alamance Presbyterian Church • 4000 Presbyterian Road • Greensboro, North Carolina, 27406 • 336.697.0488 • [www.alamancechurch.org](http://www.alamancechurch.org)

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.

CONTENTS	PAGE
ASH WEDNESDAY	2
BIRTHDAYS	2
FOOD PANTRY	3
ESTHER EXHIBIT	3
MARDI GRAS PANCAKES	6
MEETS	2
MEMORIAL GIFTS	7
MISSIONS	4-5
NSDAR	7
THE BACK PEW	8

## Ash Wednesday Worship Service

You are invited to a service of worship marking the first day of the liturgical season of Lent, on Ash Wednesday, **February 18**.

Join us in the sanctuary at **6 p.m. on Wednesday, February 18**. Communion will be served. Ashes will be imposed.

## Special Missions Offering

For the **February 2026** Special Missions Offering, we are supporting the UNCG Spartan Open Pantry. See page 5 of this newsletter for more information.

## Change Is the Only Constant Thing

February 2, 2026

Dear APC Family,

As we close out the first month of 2026 together, I'm reminded that with any new season comes change.

As you all know, there have been several major changes at Alamance over the past few years; and it is in light of these that I began to consider what my future with our church might look like.

After much prayer, discernment, and reflection, I realized that the time had come for me to explore a new call.

I am both anxious and excited to announce that I have accepted a solo pastor position at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church in Swannanoa, North Carolina. My last day at Alamance will be Sunday, March 15.

This decision has not come easily. Serving this congregation has been a gift, and I am deeply grateful for the many memories we have created over the years together. However, as I have prayerfully considered the path ahead, it has become clear to me that this transition is a necessary one. I

feel compelled to explore new opportunities for ministry, and to continue to grow in my role as a pastor. I trust that leading the faith community at Warren Wilson Presbyterian Church is the next right step in my journey.

I hold both sorrow and gratitude as I say goodbye. I love you all with my whole heart, and I celebrate all that we have been able to accomplish with God's help. Thank you for the privilege of serving by your side for the last seven and a half

years. I cannot imagine a better introduction to ministry and a better staff and congregation to have learned from.

I hope to connect with many of you before my last Sunday on March 15, and will hold our community in prayer throughout this transition.

With love and gratitude,

*Rev. Jessica Rigel*

## Two Meetings of Note

The Annual Meeting of the Congregation of Alamance Presbyterian Church will be held in the sanctuary of the church **immediately after worship on Sunday, February 22, 2026**.

### Purposes of the meeting:

1. Receive the Annual Report of the Corporation.
2. Approve an Officer Nomination Team.
3. Vote to dissolve the church's pastoral relationship with the Rev. Jessica Rigel.

A Called Congregational Meeting will be held in the sanctuary of the church **immediately after worship on Sunday, March 1, 2026**.

### Purpose of the meeting:

To receive the report of the Officer Nomination Team; and to elect Elders, Class of 2027.

## 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



## March Birthdays

- 2** Nancy Michaels
- 3** Treva Caveness
- 7** David Wray
- 8** Jared Gill, Zach Hobbs
- 9** Gerald Coble, Leta Pillion, Betty Sizemore, Tony Sizemore
- 12** McCartney Ward
- 14** Peggy Fields
- 17** Mike Ford
- 18** Grace Dagenhart
- 19** Tina Garrett
- 22** Barbara Dark
- 23** Floyd Fogleman
- 27** Brad Benton
- 31** Griffin Brown

## Ash Wednesday

**Ash Wednesday** is a holy day of prayer and fasting in many Western Christian denominations. It is preceded by Mardi Gras (Fat Tuesday) and marks the first day of Lent: the seven weeks of prayer, fasting, and almsgiving before the arrival of Easter Sunday.

Ash Wednesday is traditionally observed with fasting and abstinence from meat in several Christian denominations.

Because it is the first day of Lent, many Christians begin Ash Wednesday by marking a Lenten calendar, praying a daily devotional, and making a Lenten sacrifice that they will not partake of until the arrival of Easter.

Many Christians attend special Ash Wednesday worship services at which churchgoers receive ashes on their foreheads or the top of their hands. The wearing of ashes has been a sign of repentance since Biblical times.

The imposition of ashes is typically done with the sign of the cross, signifying that the recipient is a follower of Jesus. Ash Wednesday derives its name from this practice.

The ashes are prepared by burning palm leaves from the previous year's Palm Sunday celebration.

## 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](mailto:kathyefay@gmail.com).

The next planned event for MEETS is on **Saturday, February 28, 4:30 p.m.** in the back two rooms of Pleasant Neighbors wine shop (4734 Pleasant Garden Road, Pleasant Garden, 27313; <https://pleasantneighbors.com>).

Pleasant Neighbors is dog-friendly. You are welcome to bring food with you. They have beer on tap, as well as a large selection of bottled and canned products.

As ever, adult friends and family members are welcome.



Thirty MEETS members and guests met at The Loaded Grape on Battleground Avenue, on January 16. According to report, a good time was had by all.

## Food Pantry

## Special Collections

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

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

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 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.



# Esther in the Age of Rembrandt

An Exhibit at the  
NC Museum of Art

*A Seniors & Friends Outing*

Thursday, February 19

10:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

**Tickets are \$22 per Person**

Order your tickets online or call Dana  
in the office at (336) 697-0488

**Bus spots are first come, first serve**

Call Becky Brinkley (336) 269-6096

**Lunch will be at the Museum**

Lunch is not included in the price



More than 50 hardy souls turned out to sit in section 132 of the First Horizon Coliseum in Greensboro, on February 6; to see the Greensboro Gargoyles play a home game.



## Missions Update:

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

**A New Year, A New Phase of Ministry**

We returned to Oaxaca on New Year's Day, after six weeks in the US to support family. In many ways, this month has marked a reset for our family and ministry!

Now that we have completed the Zapotec language exam, **we're in a new phase of ministry**. We're pressing ahead to finish the requirements for beginning translation, like writing up analyses of the grammar and phonology of the language, writing reports on the culture and belief systems, and prepping our linguistic database and text analyses for checking. All of these are important pieces of the foundation for sound Scripture translations.

We're also **preparing to present ourselves to the new town authorities in San Dionisio**. We did this back at the beginning of our ministry in the community, to receive their permission to work there and learn the language; but now that it's been a few years, we need to do this again. (In their communal

**STAY CONNECTED:**

**Our Wycliffe page/Giving:** [wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson](http://wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson)

**Facebook Group:** [facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca](https://facebook.com/groups/AtkinsonAdventuresInOaxaca)

**Sign up for newsletters:** [jotform.com/form/92304614403144](https://jotform.com/form/92304614403144)

**Jesse's email:** [jesse\\_atkinson@wycliffe.org](mailto:jesse_atkinson@wycliffe.org)

**Erin's email:** [erin\\_atkinson@wycliffe.org](mailto:erin_atkinson@wycliffe.org)

**To give online:** [wycliffe.org/partner/JEAtkinson](http://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.

government system, the town authorities change out every 1-3 years, depending on the position.)

**When we go, we need to take samples of our work with us; so we are finalizing many new literacy materials, the Alpha Tiles app, and a 2026 calendar that's written in Zapotec to share with them. These materials help demonstrate that we're following through on our word to help the community and that we really have learned their language, which helps to generate trust. Please be praying for favor at this important audience!**

Next, we hope to meet soon with the **pastors** of the small rural church we're connected to in San Dionisio, to begin involving them more; and to set the stage for more members of the congregation to join the translation team. **Please be praying for us as we relate to the church, and that God will stir the right peoples' hearts to join the team.**

**On the family front, we're setting our sights on the upcoming birth of baby boy #3 – due in mid-March. We've had to change our plans for the birth a bit, due to new governmental policies, so we really covet your prayers for a peaceful, healthy birth** and for God to

provide for the increased costs associated with this

change. We are also working on finishing out a little bit more of our house, in preparation for the baby's arrival.

There is much to do before March, when we will take some time off to welcome baby boy, and to rest. **We're thankful for your prayers and partnership, which uphold us during this busy season!**

*Jesse, Erin, Samuel,  
and Amos*

**Pray with us!**

**Pray:** for a healthy baby and delivery here in Oaxaca at the new clinic where we plan to give birth.

**Praise:** We're really thankful for your prayers during our time in the US. It was a time of many challenges and much sadness, but we felt your prayers upholding us and the Lord really blessing and strengthening us.

**Praise:** While in the US, we made a brief support-raising trip down to Florida, where we attended seminary. It was a truly sweet time of reconnecting with our church there!

**Pray:** We currently need about \$550 a month to meet our Wycliffe ministry budget needs. Please pray that God continues to draw new partners to join our partnership team.

**Pray:** We rely on an artesian well at our house for water, which has begun to run dry. We recently learned that the existing well cannot be deepened. We have to dig a whole new well. We have a crew of three guys who have begun this process: they dig the well by hand! Please pray with us for safe digging and that they hit water soon.



Dali, Samuel's Zapotec babysitter, saved him some corn from harvest time to shell when we got back. He was ecstatic!



Samuel and Amos bought flowers for Momma at the weekly market day last week.



"We're digging a well!"



We have two enthusiastic helpers for our house projects.

# SPARTAN OPEN PANTRY

WORKING TOGETHER TO END HUNGER IN OUR SPARTAN COMMUNITY

## Focus on Food

In February, Alamance Presbyterian Church's Special Missions Offering is for UNCG's Spartan Open Pantry.

The Spartan Open Pantry is a food pantry for UNC Greensboro students, staff, and recent alumni struggling to afford to eat. Open Monday-Thursday each week, the pantry provides free, high-quality foods for needy Spartans.

Wesley-Luther, a Methodist and Lutheran non-profit at UNC Greensboro, founded the pantry — and now oversees its operations. From students who need a little help at the end of the month, to homeless students and families who depend on the pantry for complete support, the SOP assists its neighbors who need a hand.

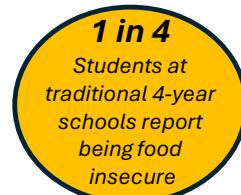
UNCG students often make substantial sacrifices to be part of the Spartan community, and to forge paths toward a better future for themselves. Nearly three in four students at UNCG work part-time or full-time jobs.

Though underlying social issues that drive hunger will take decades to overcome, the UNCG campus works together with partnerships across the university and the wider community. The SOP has become a national example of a model of effective collaboration between a university and a campus non-profit to provide support for hungry students and staff.

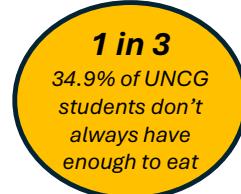
The SOP would not be possible without funding and donations supported by many organizations, churches, local groups, and individual donors in Greensboro.



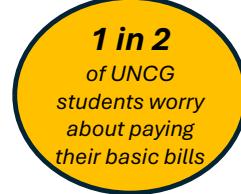
"Before I used the pantry, I had to choose between books and food. I don't think I could have stayed in school without help."  
~ UNCG Student



"I work, but my parents have not had a job for a while. I have to help support my brother and sister. It is hard to get by. I was sometimes not eating so that they could have a meal."  
~ UNCG Student



"I work a part-time job, but I can't afford rent and food by myself. Without the pantry, I would only have a few meals a week."  
~ UNCG Student





# MARDI GRAS!

## PANCAKE SUPPER

**FEBRUARY 17<sup>TH</sup> 6-7:30**

**ALL YOU CAN EAT!**

**Adults \$10 Kids \$5**

**Families 5+ \$25**

**Please Note:**

"All you can eat" is for the pancakes.  
This is a fundraiser to benefit the  
Children's and Youth Ministries of  
the church.

There is not enough sausage in the world for us to satisfy the sausage-lovers among you.  
You'll get what you get. No seconds. Except for all the pancakes you can eat. You can  
have seconds, thirds, and fourths on pancakes.

## Memorials and Honoraria

**To the Operating Fund:** In memory of John Gidley by Linda Gidley. In memory of Vernie Thomas by David & Cathy Wray. In memory of Bobby Curtis by Floyd Fogleman and family, Willie & Glenda Goncharow. In honor of John Garrett by Ricky Young.

**To the Children's Ministry:** In memory of Vernie Thomas by Willie & Glenda Goncharow.

**To Kids ROCK:** In memory of Vernie Thomas by Toby Jobe.

**To the Youth Fund:** In memory of Michael Roseman by Toby Jobe.

**To the Piano Restoration Fund:** In memory of Dorothy Strayhorn by Toby Jobe. In memory of John Gidley by Toby Jobe.

**To the Cemetery Care Fund:** In memory of Michael Roseman by David & Cathy Wray.

**To the Sanctuary Ramp Fund:** In honor of Tony Sizemore by the Sherlie Andrew Sunday school class. In honor of Bob Dagenhart by the Sherlie Andrew 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).

## National Society Daughters of the American Revolution

Our rich history at Alamance Presbyterian Church attracts varied organizations and groups to our campus. One such entity is the Colonel Arthur Forbis Chapter National Society Daughters of the American Revolution (NSDAR). These wonderful ladies have been a part of the life of our church for a multitude of years.

From special programs such as Wreaths Across America (WAA), to the installation of a memorial for Elizabeth "Bettie" Wiley Forbis in our cemetery, they have been faithful to their state goals of promoting historic preservation, education, and patriotism.

Just recently, they made a donation to help purchase 150 new US flags for our military veterans' graves. These flags are used twice yearly: on Memorial Day and for WAA. Every few years, the flags need replacing, due to normal wear and tear.



Arctic temperatures and layers and layers of sleet, snow, and ice deposited on southeastern Guilford County by winter storms Fern and Gianna forced APC to cancel Sunday worship on January 25 **and** on February 1.

In addition to the flags, a series of three books about the Revolutionary War in North Carolina, written by Rev. Eli Washington Caruthers (second pastor at APC, who served 40 years) were donated to the Historical Room.

These books hold the fascinating story of our state and our own community and church, from someone who queried his neighbors and friends about their experiences during this volatile time in the history of our country. What priceless treasures these are!

"Thank you" to the members of the Colonel Arthur Forbis Chapter NSDAR — which includes our own Melinda White! The Historical Room appreciates your kindnesses and generosity!

- Submitted by Linda Aydelette

## Thank-you Note

APC Friends!

Many thanks for the love, prayers, and support shown to me during my recent hip replacements and hospital stay.

Your cards, phone calls, food, and prayers over the last several months were greatly appreciated.

Love you all,

Treva Caveness

## 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: Class of 2027:

Lou Gonzalez	Beth Pulliam
Shannon Haynes	Steve Starr
Ty Kimbro	Tommy Lynn Sullivan
Terry Schubert	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](http://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.

### A Celtic Morning Prayer

Christ we rise today  
 knowing that you alone  
 know our hearts  
 You alone can change  
 our sadness into joy  
 Forgive us our shortcomings  
 Teach us kindness  
 Help us to forgive  
 those who have injured us  
 and keep us from injuring others  
 Keep our way lighted  
 with your steadfast love  
 Amen.

- Beth Maxwell Boyle

**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](http://www.alamancechurch.org).



### Newsletter Deadline

Deadline for the **March, 2026** issue of ***The Relay*** is **Friday, February 20**. 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](mailto: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.

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.

