



Branches

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

"I am the vine, you are the branches."

December 2015

141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
Milford, New Jersey 08848
908-996-4333

Web: www.alexpres.org

Facebook: Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant

Dear Friends,

One of the great things about Christmas and the Christmas season is all of the traditions. Many families have wonderful traditions that involve gatherings, decorating, gift giving, and of course food! I know one of my favorite Christmas traditions is a certain Christmas cut-out cookie that my Mom made each year (and us kids decorated), and now my wife continues that tradition with the same recipe and my kids doing the decorating! It is not really Christmas until I get at least one of these special cookies!



A Note from Nick

And I would imagine that many of us also have Christmas traditions that involve the church! Maybe it is the annual Christmas concert? Or maybe it is the Service of Lessons and Carols? Or maybe it is one of our Christmas Eve worship services . . . watching the kids perform the Christmas story, or singing silent night in the glow of candlelight?

With all of the special services at Christmas, can you imagine not being a part of a church family? What significance would Christmas have? How would you remember God's role in our Christmas celebration? And can you imagine not having these special traditions at church? Sadly, many people celebrate Christmas each year without the tradition of a church family.

Maybe a new tradition we could each start this year, is inviting someone to worship with us for Christmas? Maybe you could invite a friend, or a neighbor, or a family member, or a co-worker to one of our Christmas services?

What a joy it would be to share our Christmas traditions with others who are in need of remembering God's place in their lives – what a gift that could be!

I invite everyone to think of at least one person you can invite to celebrate Christmas with us this year. Please look at the details of all of our special services and events this Christmas in the following pages of the newsletter—and then invite someone to share the *Joy* of Christmas with you at church!

In Christ,

Pastor Nick

Tending the Flock

Baptism

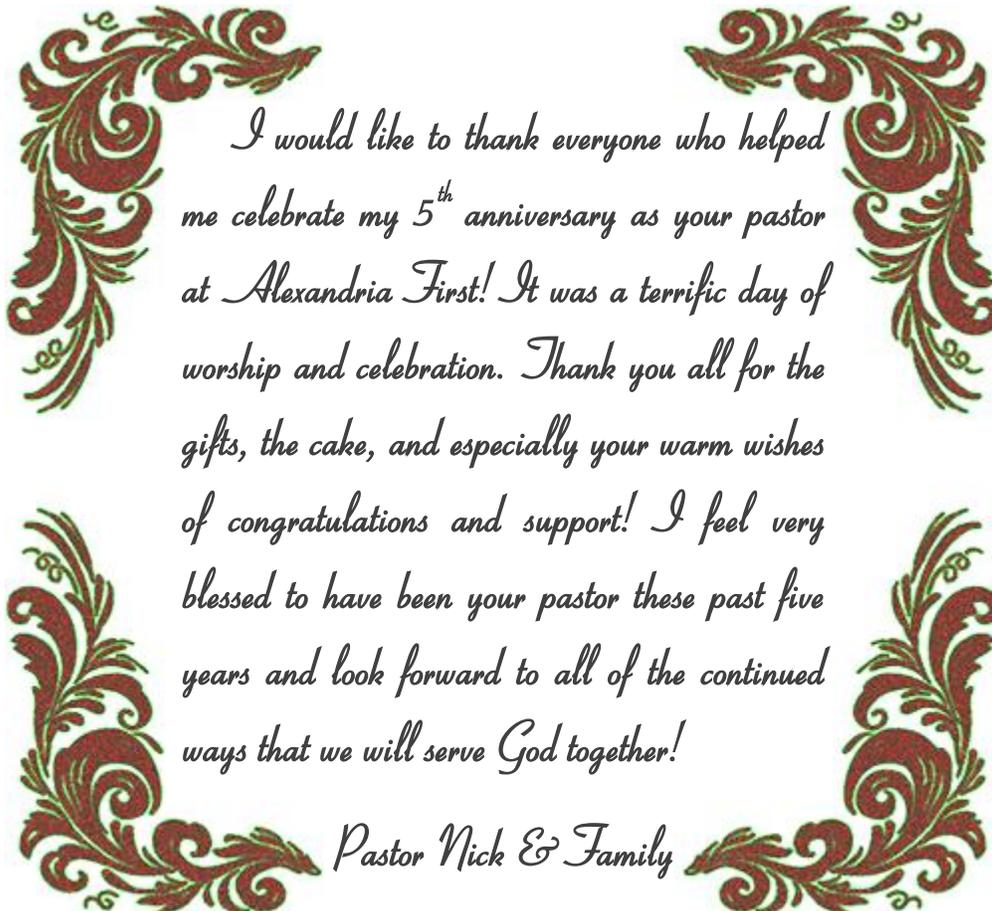
We rejoice with those who are celebrating their baptism anniversary. It was in December that Kyle Adam Ferdinando, Katelyn Grace Heilig, and Kyle Braeden Kunich became children of God through the sacrament of baptism. Congratulations and blessings to you all!

Thank You

With appreciation from the heart we wish to thank everyone who had a part in preparing for and hosting the November meeting of Presbytery. Boy Scout Troop 112 helped with parking, the kitchen crew served up a memorable meal, the youth waited and bussed tables, the choir presented 2 magnificent anthems, and Pastor Nick offered a moving meditation. Prior to the big event, our Building and Property Team along with the help of the Boy Scouts, spread gravel in the parking lot, painted the front stairwell, and prepared the grounds so our church could put its best foot forward. Thank you to all who helped on every level.

What's Going On?

As we enter the Season of Advent we're busier than ever! Please check the churchwide calendar on the website when planning to use the facility and to find out where groups meet in the building. This will help avoid conflicts in using the building and simplify getting to your meeting location. As always, please contact the church office prior to scheduling use of the facility for your group or ministry team.



Advent and Christmas at Alexandria Church

Worship Events



- December 6** Christmas concert at 3 and 6 p.m.
Share the flyer on page 10 with family and friends!
- December 20** Service of Lessons and Carols at 10 a.m.
- December 24** Christmas Eve children's pageant at 6 p.m.
Christmas Eve candlelight service and communion at 9 p.m.
- December 27** First Sunday after Christmas at 10 a.m.



Poinsettias

Orders are currently being taken for poinsettias. Your flowers will decorate the sanctuary during Advent which you may take home following the 9:00 p.m. Christmas Eve service. Fill out an order form from the bulletin board in Fellowship Hall or print one from the church's website ("Forms & Downloads" tab). Place your completed form in an envelope marked "Poinsettia Sale" along with your payment and leave them in the large envelope on the bulletin board, in the offering plate, or mail them to the church office. Checks should be made out to Alexandria First Presbyterian Church with "Poinsettias" in the memo section. The last day to place your order is Sunday, December 6, 2015.

Advent Devotionals

An Advent devotional is available to our church family and friends titled *Lift up your Heads*. It is a lovely way to deepen the meaning of your Advent journey. Feel free to pick up a copy from the narthex to enjoy this Advent season.

Let Heaven and Nature Sing is a devotional for children that incorporates the use of the booklet along with stickers to help children mark the days until Christmas. Look for it, too, in the narthex and enjoy the experience with your family.

Christmas Joy Offering

Gifts to the Christmas Joy Offering support the unmet needs of families who have given their lives to the mission of the Presbyterian Church USA; some of them after retirement, others while they continue to serve. They also help students at racial ethnic schools and colleges to develop their gifts and find their calling. As we celebrate Jesus' love flowing into, through, and beyond our lives this Christmas, our gifts bear joyful witness to the power of that uncontainable love to change lives. Look for giving envelopes in the pew racks. The offering will be received on Christmas Eve.

Service of Lessons and Carols

December 20 | 10 a.m.

This beloved tradition continues as the holy story that celebrates the birth of Jesus is told through scripture, music, and prayer. Stories from Genesis through the Gospels are interspersed with the singing of Christmas carols, hymns, and choir music.

Pageant Presented by the Alexandria Church Youth

Christmas Eve | 6:00 p.m.

Have you ever wondered what the animals at the manger were thinking on the blessed night that Jesus Christ was born? Wonder no more! The Christian Education and Youth Ministry Team will host *Sleepover at the Stable*, a Christian play performed by the youth of our church telling the complete Nativity story from those who were there – a grouchy Goat who's trying to sleep, a weary Donkey who carried Mary to Bethlehem, a kind Cow, a chatty Sheep, a wisecracking Mule, and many more. Please join us with them in the stable. You'll be glad you did!

First Sunday after Christmas

December 27 | 10 a.m.

Join our very special guest preacher Reverend Jim Morris as we celebrate our new born King as a family of faith.

The Children's Holiday Fund

The Children's Holiday Fund provides Christmas gifts for children of local needy families. In a joint effort between our deacons and the Frenchtown American Legion Post 113, collection boxes for this mission have been placed in Fellowship Hall and in the narthex. Gifts for all children up to age 18 are needed. If you wish to participate, please place unwrapped gifts in the box before December 16th.

Goodies for the Concert

Many of you signed up on this autumn's Gifts for Ministry that you would like to bake for church events. If you are one of those beloved volunteers, please contact Carol Moran about preparing hand-held goodies for our annual Christmas concert. We are looking for 3 dozen sweets of any kind to enjoy after the concert on Sunday, December 6th. Thank you!

An Angelic View of Christmas

In his book *The Jesus I Never Knew*, Phillip Yancey talks about trying to escape his earthbound viewpoint of Christmas. He gives three different examples: one is found in Revelation 12, another in John Milton's *Paradise Lost and Paradise Regained*, and the final one—and to me the most memorable one—in a fantasy by modern day Bible translator J.B. Phillips. It is an angelic viewpoint of Christmas. I hope you enjoy it as much as I do.

In Phillips's version, a senior angel is showing a very young angel around the splendors of the universe. They view whirling galaxies and blazing suns, and then flit across the infinite distances of space until at last they enter one particular galaxy of 500 billion stars.

As the two of them drew near to the star which we call our sun and to its circling planets, the senior angel pointed to a small and rather insignificant sphere turning very slowly on its axis. It looked as dull as a dirty tennis ball to the little angel, whose mind was filled with the size and glory of what he had seen.

"I want you to watch that one particularly," said the senior angel, pointing with his finger.

"Well, it looks very small and rather dirty to me," said the little angel. "What's special about that one?"

To the little angel, the earth did not seem so impressive. He listened in stunned disbelief as the senior angel told him that this planet, small and insignificant and not overly clean, was the renowned Visited Planet.

"Do you mean that our great and glorious Prince went down in Person to this fifth-rated little ball? Why should He do a thing like that?"

The little angel's face wrinkled in disgust. "Do you mean to tell me," he said, "that He stooped so low as to become one of those 'creeping, crawling creatures' of that floating ball?"

"I do, and I don't think He would like you to call them 'creeping, crawling creatures' in that tone of voice. For, strange as it may seem to us, He loves them. He went down to visit them to lift them up to become like Him."

The little angel looked blank. Such a thought was almost beyond his comprehension.

It is almost beyond my comprehension too, and yet I accept that this notion is the key to understanding Christmas and is, in fact, the touchstone of my faith. As a Christian I believe that we live in parallel worlds.



continued next page

An Angelic View of Christmas *cont'd*

One world consists of hills and lakes and barns and politicians and shepherds watching their flocks by night. The other consists of angels and sinister forces and somewhere out there places called heaven and hell. One night in the cold, in the dark, among the wrinkled hills of Bethlehem, those two worlds came together at a dramatic point of intersection. God, who knows no before or after, entered time and space. God, who knows no boundaries, took on the shocking confines of a baby's skin, the ominous restraints of mortality.

"He is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation," an apostle would later write; "He is before all things, and in him all things hold together." But the few eyewitnesses on Christmas night saw none of that. They saw an infant struggling to work never-before-used lungs.

Could it be true, this Bethlehem story of a Creator descending to be born on one small planet? If so, it is a story like no other. Never again need we wonder whether what happens on this dirty little tennis ball of a planet matters to the rest of the universe. Little wonder a choir of angels broke out in spontaneous song, disturbing not only a few shepherds, but the entire universe.

For God so love the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whosoever believeth in Him should not perish, but have everlasting life. John 3:16

O Sing Noel,
Howard Jones

Presbytery News

Monday in Ministry

www.presnb.com

Did you know our presbytery puts out a weekly e-letter every Monday? To keep up with all the events, ministries, schedules, and happenings in and around Presbytery of New Brunswick's neighborhood, read *Monday in Ministry* on their website by clicking the "News/Monday in Ministry" tab.



Presbyterian Signs and Symbols

The Advent Wreath

The Advent wreath visually marks the time leading up to Christmas and symbolizes the increasing light as Christ draws near to us. The use of such wreaths began as a family devotional practice in German homes in the 1600s. Widespread liturgical use only dates back to the middle of the 20th century.

Each of the 4 purple candles around the periphery of the wreath marks one of the Sundays in Advent; the white Christ candle in the center is lit on Christmas Eve. *The Book of Common Worship* provides scripture readings to accompany the lighting of each candle. Some Advent wreaths include a pink candle. This custom can be traced to the medieval practice that set aside the 3rd Sunday in Lent (and later, Advent) as an occasion of joy and a respite from the rigors of the penitential season.

Over the years, some have attached particular interpretations to individual candles such as shepherds, angels, wise men, and Mary; or hope, faith, love, and joy.



Online Giving Made Easy

We have launched a program where you may pledge or donate monies to the church online by using a credit card, debit card, or electronic check linked to a checking account. Look for the link on the church’s website where you can set up a one time or a recurring donation to the church. If you donate online, there are cards in the pew racks that you can place in the collection plate. The cards state that you give to the church through online giving, eliminating the feeling that you aren’t donating when the plate is passed.

November Flowers

Dedicate Flowers by Signing up in Fellowship Hall!

- November 1** given by the Goldman family in celebration of Conor’s 7th birthday
- November 8** given by the Gondyke family in celebration of Jenny’s 25th birthday
- November 15** given in celebration of the MacWilliam’s 25th wedding anniversary
- November 22** given to the glory of God by Alicia and Ariana Scurti
- November 29** given to the glory of God in celebration of the First Sunday of Advent



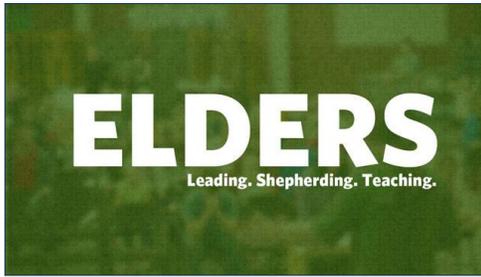
The Gift that Keeps on Giving

Give yourself the gift that keeps on giving. Join a Bible study and reap the goodness and benefits that they offer throughout the year. There’s bound to be a group that’s right for you.

* Please note the short-term *Purpose Driven Life* study has concluded.

Date	Location	Time	Leader	Subject
Mondays	Skibinski home	7:30 p.m.	Renee Skibinski	<i>The Book of Acts: Be Dynamic series by Warren Wiersbe</i>
Tuesdays	Classroom #7	9:30 a.m.	Nancy Smith	The Book of Psalms
Wednesdays	Fellowship Hall	6:00 a.m.	Charlie Tiedeman	<i>The Books of 2 Kings and 2 Chronicles: Be Distinct series by Warren Wiersbe</i>
Wednesdays	Classroom #5	9:30 a.m.	Nancy Schumann	New study begins January 6: <i>The Story</i> (see page 9)





Session Highlights

Joint Session/Deacons Meeting | October 14, 2015

- Elder Denis Goldman read passages from scripture with comments and then said a prayer
- Deacon Pat Keefe reported the deacons had prepared gift boxes for our freshmen college students. He also reported on members and friends of the church with health issues and visitations by deacons to them
- Elder Karl Nielsen reported on the financial status of the church as of September 30, 2015. The current deficit as of that date was \$10,487.76 with a projected year-end deficit of \$23,216.27. Letters have been sent to all pledging members of the congregation advising them as to the status of their pledges with the expectation of bringing all current
- Clerk of Session Lee Smith reported that the annual review of session minutes and the church register will take place on October 31, 2015 and the results will be reported at the November meeting of the session
- A period of study was held with the reading of Numbers 11:4-18 and elder training. An affirmation of faith was said
- Approved the following recommendations:
 - Jr High Inning at the church on October 25 and bowling on November 15
 - Sr High Outings with hayrides at Schaeffer Farms on October 25 and go-karting on November 15
 - Dissolution of the Visioning Team with thanksgiving as its duties have now been fulfilled
 - Members of the Capital Campaign Team to date: Karl Nielsen, Jim Hansen, Craig Bender, Renee Skibinski, and Nick Hatch, ex officio. Three additional members will be added
 - The Charge to the Capital Campaign Team as follows
 - Review recommendations of Visioning Team and assess their feasibility and cost
 - Consider other needs of church (differed maintenance, diminishing savings)
 - Formulate a plan for capital changes, renovations, and maintenance (along with estimated cost and goal) and present to session for approval
 - Lead a capital campaign to raise funds via pledges and donations. (Solicit volunteers to help collect pledges and possible consideration of a consultant to help lead the process)
- The Building and Property Team reported a deposit has been made for the replacement windows in the annex with an expected completion date before winter
- The Stewardship and Finance Team reported that planning is now under way for the Fall stewardship campaign
- Alexandria Church will host the presbytery meeting on November 10 and a sign-up sheet was distributed seeking volunteers for various activities in connection with same

Deacons Highlights

October 14, 2015

- The deacons met after a combined dinner and devotions with session. New deacons and elders were welcomed and encouraged to get to know one another better
- Then the deacons met in the library where the cares and concerns of the congregation were shared
- Building liaisons need to continue to follow up and check on the various groups that use our church to ensure protocols are being followed



continued next page

Deacons Highlights *cont'd*

- Steve Cameron will be the representative to the Nominating Committee
- Julie Lyons mentioned items are needed for the Frenchtown Food Pantry
- Helen reported on the Personnel Team: they are going to celebrate Pastor Nick's 5 year anniversary in November
- Julie reported on the Christian Ed Team: they are holding a turkey dinner on October 18. Karen Pardonner is starting a few activities for fellowship and service with our young adult members. A kids' box will be available in Fellowship Hall soon for parents to help entertain the youngsters
- Cathy reported on the Evangelism and Membership Team: they are planning to act on the suggestions from the Visioning Team and form social and service groups within the church
- Evelyn reported on the Music and Worship Team: they are preparing for the annual Christmas Concert and welcoming some returning and new members to the choir
- Alice Hansen closed the meeting with prayer

December Birthdays

May God's awesome blessings be upon you
this day and on the future years ahead

1 Jason Czerna	9 Debbie Heinbach	18 Oscar Philkill	22 Tammy Unkert
3 Jack Bender	John McDowall	20 Kristina Brophy	24 Christine Wenzel
4 Brad Bondor	11 Denis Goldman	Cyndi McDowall	26 Audriana Stagg
Marie Knapp	Avery Schaefer	21 Patti Bender	27 Ellie Lyons
Eric Strangfeld	14 Tracy Folmar	Dorothy Erwin	28 Bill Grundmann
5 Matthew Tiedeman	Alicia Scurti	Roger Wiehl	29 Luke Schostkewitz
6 Jackie Rollins	15 Tim McGuire	22 Ron Unkert	30 Tim Sassaman
			31 Olivia Pulsinelle

Christmas Caroling

December 20, 2015 | 4 p.m.

What better way for all ages to enjoy the Christmas Season? Singing of course (well, maybe eating cookies)! Put them both together and you have the perfect social gathering. Add to that, bringing some extra Christmas joy to folks in our community.....and you have.....Alexandria First Presbyterian Church Intergenerational Christmas Caroling Event:

- ▲ Sunday December 20, 2015
- ▲ 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- ▲ Meet at the church at 4:00 p.m.
- ▲ Carpool to various homes
- ▲ Sing!
- ▲ Meet back at the church for hot cocoa, cookies, and fellowship
- ▲ Share the flyer on page 12 with your friends. The more the merrier!



Equipping the Saints – Open to All

Save the date | Saturday, January 23, 2016

The annual *Equipping the Saints* gathering builds the ministries of congregations by strengthening congregational leaders through networking, education, training, and collaboration. The event is sponsored by the educational ministries of Elizabeth, Monmouth, and New Brunswick presbyteries, in partnership with Princeton Theological Seminary. Look for the list of courses on their website soon. Please call the church office and ask about car pooling.

Youth Group Reunion

December 24 | 7 - 8:30 p.m.

All previous and current youth group members and mission trip chaperones are invited to catch up with old friends and share mission trip memories on Christmas Eve in Fellowship Hall. Refreshments will be served. If you have any photos to share or any questions, please contact Karen Pardonner.



Keeping up Appearances

What's New with our Buildings and Property

Have you noticed the fresh coat of paint on the front stairwell walls? We owe a big thank you to the Boy Scouts of Troop 112 for giving it a fresh clean look. It's no small task to paint an area with a 19' high ceiling, but just as they did with Fellowship Hall a few years ago, the job is perfect. Thank you to the Scouts and their leaders!

Women's Wednesday Bible Study

Coming Next Month

On Wednesday, January 6, 2016 the Wednesday women's Bible study group will embark on a new session. The source to be used is *The Story: The Bible as One Continuing Story of God and His People*. The nature and format of *The Story* differs significantly from sources used in the past. Here is an excerpt from the introduction as well as the features of this source.

"This book tells the grandest, most compelling story of all times: the story of a true God who loves his children, who established for them a way of salvation and provided a route to eternity. Each story in [the] 31 chapters reveals the God of grace—the God who speaks, the God who acts; the God who listens; the God whose love for his people culminated in his sacrifice of Jesus, his only son, to atone for the sins of humanity." Features:

- *The story of the Bible in its own words. Selections from the NIV Bible with short transitions to connect the reader to the continuing story*
- *Events, characters, and teachings of the Bible arranged chronologically*
- *Time lines of Bible events*

Since *The Story* has been designed for use over the course of an entire year, the group's study will begin in January and extend into (and possibly beyond) the fall 2016 session.

All are welcome. Should you be interested in joining the group, please contact Nancy Schumann by December 18.

“O
Sing
Noel”

A Christmas Celebration Concert at
Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

Sunday ~ December 6, 2015

At 3:00 & 6:00 pm

Doors open at 2:30 pm.

Refreshments will be served following each concert.

Childcare will be available at 3:00 only.

A free will offering will be taken.

Visit www.alexpres.org for information

or call 908.996.4333

Guest Performances by...

Devasha Lloyd-Knight

Brandie Pulton

Charles Carter

Jaiwan Norris

with the Alexandria Chancel Choir

Nerva Altino, Director of Music

Robenson Altino, Conductor

Reverend Nicholas Hatch

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

141 Little York-Mt. Pleasant Road – Milford, NJ



It's a Record!

Dear Friend of the Rescue Mission,

WE DID IT! Thanks to your efforts, the Rescue Mission of Trenton was able to SMASH the **GUINNESS WORLD RECORDS** title for the largest collection of clothing for recycle/donation—a record that has never been broken in the United States! With the aid of all of our amazing champions, such as you, the Mission broke the record bringing in **179,550** items of clothing; that's almost 90,000 pounds of clothes! This is an extraordinary feat and we truly so grateful for your support.

Not only have you aided the Mission in breaking a Guinness World Records title, you subsequently have aided us in helping our community that is in need. Coordinating this monumental effort was a lot of hard work by all that were involved, but it was extremely heartwarming and enlightening to see communities from all over the state—and across state lines—join together for a common cause.

Because of your efforts, the Mission will be able to provide necessary clothing items to those in need in our community and continue to provide comfort to each and every individual that comes through our doors. YOU had a hand in breaking a world record and selflessly helping your neighbors in need. We are incredibly proud of your efforts and applaud each participant for collaborating, donating, and spreading the word!

The Guinness World Records effort has come to an end, but the work of the Mission is never over! As the winter months approach, the Mission is in dire need of hygiene kits for the men and women of our emergency shelter. The Rescue Mission aims to provide essentials such as toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo and conditioner to the less fortunate members of our community. If you are interested in further aiding those in need by collecting any of these items, please contact me via email or directly at 609-964-0414 x 300. Any little bit helps!

Thank you for helping the Rescue Mission to rebuild lives, make miracles happen, and BREAK RECORDS!

Want to see what 179,550 items of clothing looks like? Check out these sites!

<http://6abc.com/news/rescue-mission-of-trenton-breaks-world-record-with-largest-clothing-drive-/1086083/>

<http://www.trentonian.com/general-news/20151115/rescue-mission-of-trenton-breaks-guinness-world-record>

Thank you,
Chandler Mumolie

The Rescue Mission of Trenton (TRM) garnered state-wide support in their attempt to shatter the current Guinness World Record for units of clothing collected. The existing record is 153,240 and with over 125 collection sites in various locations, the Mission has high hopes of amassing over 154,000 units of clothing to win the title. This very special 100th TRM anniversary celebration event is being co-chaired by Governor Chris Christie. The challenge occurred during the period of October 15 through November 15, 2015. The final count will be made at the New Jersey National Guard Armory, Eggerts Crossing Road in Lawrenceville.

New Jersey Business Magazine
September 14, 2015





December 20, 2015 | 4 p.m.

What better way for all ages to enjoy the Christmas Season? Singing of course (well, maybe eating cookies)! Put them both together and you have the perfect social gathering. Add to that, bringing some extra Christmas joy to folks in our community.....and you have.....

Alexandria Church's Intergenerational Christmas Caroling Event

- 🎄 4:00 - 5:30 p.m.
- 🎄 Meet at the church at 4:00 p.m.
- 🎄 Carpool to various homes
- 🎄 Sing!
- 🎄 Meet back at the church for hot cocoa, cookies, and fellowship

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church
141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
Milford, New Jersey
www.alexpres.org

Worship Assistants

- December 6** Laura Navarro
December 13 Joan Lentine
December 20 Peter Christ
December 24 Karl Nielsen (9 p.m.)
December 27 Glynn Skibinski

Ushers

- December 6** Flora Nielsen and Charlie Tiedeman
December 13 Sue and Marty Gunderman
December 20 Joan and Rick Carroll
December 24 Nancy and Lee Smith (9 p.m.)
December 27 Meredith Oliver and Jim Bush

Communion Servers

- December 6** Craig Bender, Jim Bush,
Steve Cameron, Denis Goldman
December 24 Jim Bush, Alice Hansen,
Nick Hatch, Karl Nielsen (9 p.m.)

Special Dates

Also see the main calendar on page 14

- December 6** Christmas concert
December 20 Lessons and Carols
December 24 Christmas Eve services

Coming Up

- January 3** Epiphany Sunday, communion,
Bible presentation
January 10 Baptism of the Lord
January 23 Equipping the Saints training
January 31 Congregation lunch and meeting



Our Ministry Team Officers

Building and Property Craig Bender (E), Marty Gunderman (E),
Jim Hansen (E), Doug Bondor (D), Eric Strangfeld

Christian Education/Youth Ministry Julie Lyons (D), Shari
Norgard (E), Karen Pardonner (E), Barbara Pederson (E)

Evangelism/Membership Lois Bondor (E), Debbie Cortelyou (D),
Carol Moran (E), Cathy Torrey (D), Carol Van Norman (D)

Mission Interpretation Brad Bondor (E), Jim Bush (E),
Steve Cameron (D)

Nominating Jim Hansen (D), Karl Nielsen (E)

Personnel Helen Jones (D), Laura Navarro (E)

Stewardship and Finance Denis Goldman (E), Alice Hansen (D),
Pat Keefe (D), Karl Nielsen (E)

Worship and Music Evelyn Cameron (D), Howard Jones (E),
Meredith Oliver (D), Ken Wieder (E) *(E: Elder, D: Deacon)*



The vision of Alexandria First Presbyterian Church is to gather in God's grace and to be led by the Holy Spirit. We joyfully worship, prayerfully seek, and gratefully share as a loving family growing in Jesus Christ.

**THE DEADLINE FOR THE NEXT ISSUE
OF BRANCHES IS THE 3rd THURSDAY
OF THE MONTH**

Branches is a publication of Alexandria First Presbyterian Church (USA), 141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road, Milford, NJ 08848. The newsletter is published monthly—except during August—to inform members and friends of church programs, news, and events. *Branches* is online in the “News/Our Newsletter” tab at

www.alexpres.org.

Editor: alexpres@embarqmail.com



Alexandria First Presbyterian
Church of Mount Pleasant

**ALEXANDRIA FIRST
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**
141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
Milford, NJ 08848
Web: www.alexpres.org
Office: 908-996-4333

THE STAFF of ALEXANDRIA CHURCH
Reverend Nicholas C. Hatch
Pastor

Nerva Altino
Director of Music Ministry

Pati Tiedeman
Administrative Assistant



How to Reach the Pastor

Rev. Nick Hatch

- Through the church office Monday through Thursday from 9 a.m. to 3 p.m. **908-996-4333**
- By the church's website on the “contact us” link: www.alexpres.org
- Via his email: pastornickhatch@gmail.com

Alexandria Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Bible study 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Deacons	2 6:00 Bible study 9:00 Session materials due 9:30 Bible study 6:30 Junior choir 7:30 Chancel Choir 7:00 Boy Scouts	3 2:30 Staff 6:30 Youth Choir 7:00 Chancel Choir 7:30 Boy Scouts	4	5
6 Second Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship, communion 11:00 Refreshments 3:00 Christmas concert 6:00 Christmas concert	7	9 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Bible study 6:00 Boy Scouts	9 6:00 Bible study 5:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Session	10 7:00 Chancel Choir	11	12
13 Third Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Fellowship, refreshments	14	15 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Bible study 6:00 Boy Scouts	16 6:00 Bible study 2:30 Staff 7:00 Boy Scouts	17 7:00 Chancel Choir	18 6:30 Boy Scouts	19
20 Fourth Sunday of Advent 10:00 Worship, Lessons & Carols 4:00 Christmas caroling	21	22 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Bible study 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Building and Property	23 6:00 Bible study 7:00 Boy Scouts	24 Christmas Eve 6:00 Pageant 7:00 Youth group reunion 9:00 Candlelight service, communion	25 Christmas	26
27 Sunday after Christmas 10:00 Worship 11:00 Fellowship, refreshments	28	29 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Bible study 6:00 Boy Scouts	30 6:00 Bible study 7:00 Boy Scouts	31 New Year's Eve	<div style="border: 2px solid #000; padding: 10px; background-color: #002060; color: white;"> <p style="text-align: center;"><u>Deacon of the Week</u></p> <p>Dec 6 Helen Jones</p> <p>Dec 13 Debbie Cortelyou</p> <p>Dec 20 Alice Hansen</p> <p>Dec 27 Julie Lyons</p> </div>	

