



Branches

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

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

March 2015

141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road
Milford, New Jersey 08848
908-996-4333
www.alexpres.org

Dear Friends,

We are now in the season of Lent. A season of preparation and thoughtfulness in which we prepare ourselves both for the pain of Good Friday and the joy of Easter.

As a part of our preparation many of us are making choices to help embrace this season and prepare our hearts and minds for Christ's death and resurrection. Some of those choices may include giving something up for Lent; adding a spiritual discipline; participating in a Lenten Bible Study; reading a Lenten devotional. But no matter what or how you decide to observe Lent, each choice that you make is an opportunity to grow in your faith. Some choices are much smaller than others . . . and may seem insignificant, but it is often the little, every day choices that define who we are as a person and as a Christian.

Thinking about small choices this Lent I want to lift up the palms we will be using on Palm Sunday. This Lent our Worship and Music Team has once again chosen to purchase Eco-Palms for our Palm Sunday worship service. Many of us may not pay much attention to the kind of palms that we wave on Palm Sunday, but in choosing Eco-Palms we are making a small choice that helps make a difference in our world. Why is choosing Eco-Palms a good choice?



Eco-Palms come from communities in Mexico and Guatemala where workers are paid fairly and engage in sustainable harvesting in order to protect the local ecosystem. Meaning that rather than sending the harvested palms off to a distant warehouse for sorting and packaging, the community members complete those tasks themselves and sell their palms directly rather than relying on middlemen — ensuring that more of the money paid for the palms actually goes to those who worked the hardest to provide them. And because Eco-Palms are sustainably harvested, it decreases the carbon footprint created by palm consumption on Palm Sunday, while also helping to preserve forests.

Overall, choosing Eco-Palms for Palm Sunday is a small choice that has a big impact! It is a win-win, plus I think they look pretty cool when we wave them together!

I pray and hope that all of us will make faithful choices this Lent and that together we will look forward to the glory of Easter and the grace of our risen Lord!

In Christ,

Pastor Nick



A Note from Nick



Tending the Flock

Baptism

This month we rejoice with those who are celebrating their baptism anniversary. It was in March that William Russell Mitlitsky became a child of God through the sacrament of baptism. Congratulations.

Thank you

Thanks to my AFPC family for all the cards, visits, and wonderful meals that came my way during my time in the hospital, rehab, and my recovery at home. Most of all, thank you for all your prayers.

Thanks so much, Dottie Erwin

Death

Christian sympathy and prayers are extended to the Cameron family upon the death of Steve's mother Shirley Cameron. Shirley passed away on February 8, 2015. May God embrace them in their hour of sadness.

Heartfelt sympathy is also extended to Robin Pulsinelle and her family upon the sudden death of her mother Etta Giardelli on February 19, 2015. We hold Robin, John, Olivia, and Corinne close in thought and prayer.

The Season of Lent

The Season of Lent is February 18 to April 5

Palm Sunday is March 29th this year. On Palm Sunday Christians celebrate the triumphal entry of Jesus Christ into Jerusalem, the week before his death and resurrection. For many Christian churches, Palm Sunday (often referred to as Passion Sunday), marks the beginning of Holy Week, which concludes on Easter Sunday. The Bible reveals that when Jesus entered Jerusalem, the crowds greeted him by waving palm branches and covering his path with them as well. Immediately following this great time of celebration in the ministry of Jesus, he begins his journey to the cross. The biblical account of Palm Sunday can be found in Matthew 21:1-11; Mark 11:1-11; Luke 19:28-44; and John 12:12-19.



Worship during Holy Week

Palm Sunday, March 29

Worship at 10 a.m., Sunday school's Care-to-Share activities at 10:15 a.m.,
Cross raising at 11:00 a.m.

Maundy Thursday, April 2

Communion at 7:00 p.m., Assembly of Care-to-Share meals at 7:15 p.m.

Good Friday, April 3

Tenebrae service of worship at 7:30 p.m.

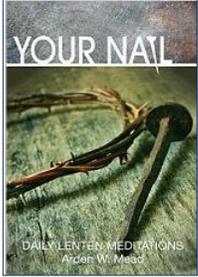
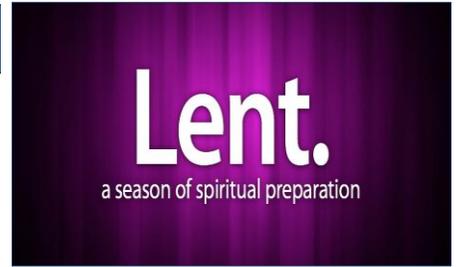
Easter, April 5

Worship & The Lord's Supper at 9:00 and 11:00 a.m., egg hunt at 10:00 a.m.

Small Groups for Lenten Study

Sundays at 9:00 a.m.
Mondays at 7:00 p.m.
Tuesdays at 9:30 a.m.
Wednesdays at 6:00 a.m.
Wednesdays at 9:30 a.m.

Our annual Lenten Bible study began a few weeks ago but you can still be a part of it! Please jump in and join any of the groups shown on the left. Each group meets for about an hour and if your schedule is irregular, you can drop in on any group on any day. Please see Shari Norgard for the Lenten study material.



Lenten Devotionals

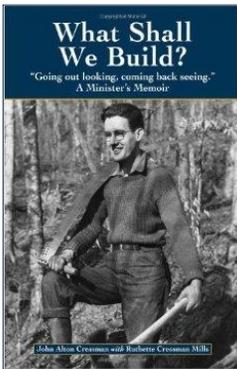
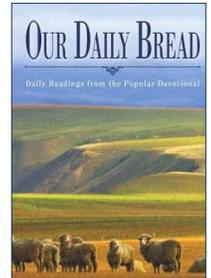
Lenten devotionals are available to you and your family in the narthex. These devotions are intended to revive the Christian practice of meditation—to help you think, ponder, reflect, and consider on the meaning of the suffering and death of Jesus Christ for you.

Please help yourself to a copy. If you cannot get to the church, please call us and we'll make a copy available for you.

Our Daily Bread

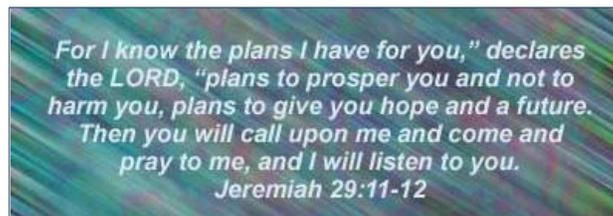
The new quarterly issue of *Our Daily Bread*, a daily personal devotional guide, is available in the narthex for each family. Please stop by the table or check the brochure rack and take a copy home with you to study.

The daily devotional can also be found on line at www.odb.org. Both versions are available at no cost to you.



"What Shall We Build?"

Reverend John Cressman was at Alexandria Church for only a short time: from 1944 to 1947. Before he came to our church he labored for years in the mountains of rural, impoverished Kentucky preaching the Gospel in homes and in schools. Later, upon transferring to Princeton Seminary, he served as our student supply. Eventually he wound his way west and settled in Port Huron, Michigan. Sadly, Rev. Cressman died at age 86 in 1999, leaving his autobiography unfinished. But his daughter Ruthette Cressman Mills gathered up his notes and completed his work for him. Her book *What Shall We Build?* is a tender tale of a life lived in service to others through Christ. It's available through Amazon.com.

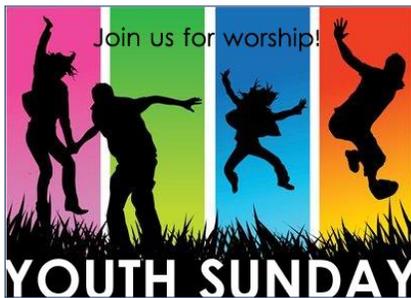


Easter Egg Hunt and Easter Activities

Rain or Shine

Sunday, April 5 at 10 a.m.

Spring is really just a few short weeks away. Really! Time to brush off that Easter bonnet, dig out that Easter dress, and shine those shoes. Easter is a time of celebration to be enjoyed by every one of all ages. Children especially enjoy good old fashion Easter egg hunts. This year Alexandria Church will host an Easter egg hunt for our youngest members on Easter morning, April 5, 2015 at 10:00 a.m. Remember, on Easter we have two worship services, one at 9 and one at 11. The egg hunt will happen between those two services. If you have any questions, please contact Carol Moran or Renee Skibinski.



Youth Sunday

March 1 at 10 a.m.

Join us on Sunday, March 1 for a spirit-filled hour of worship as the children and youth of our church lead us in this annual and much anticipated service. The students will usher and collect offering, lead prayers and host the children's sermon. It's a meaningful time in both the lives of our youth and the life of our congregation. Come on out and support the youth in the Spirit of Christ!

Items for the Church Newsletter

Items for our monthly newsletter, *Branches*, are due on the third Thursday of each month. The deadline for the April issue of *Branches* is March 19. Thank you for your contributions.

Prayer Ministry

For immediate prayer and pastoral care, please call the church office. All other times, please email our prayer coordinators at afpcprayerchain@gmail.com or contact Fran Wieder or Nancy Schumann.



Correction

Our apologies! Last month we showed pictures of the 2 Boy Scouts who earned the prestigious rank of Eagle and Nick Pizzuti was incorrectly shown. We're making amends and showing Nick's picture here. Congratulations again to our newest Eagle Scouts! May God be with you in all your future endeavors.



Scout Sunday

Sunday, February 1 was a big day for many at Alexandria Church. Scout Sunday gives our church community the chance to recognize Scouting and gives Scouts the opportunity to show their appreciation for the support they receive from us. Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and Scout leaders helped with the service from greeting and reading to ushering and serving snacks during fellowship. Scout Sunday reminds us all that Scouting is a ministry of our congregation, not just an outside group that meets in the building.

front: Ryan Strangfeld, David McKinnon, Will Fritsche, Emma Strangfeld, Tyler Unkert

middle: John McDowall, Kyle Kunich, Emily Norgard, Isabella Stagg, Jack Bender

back: Ryan Unkert, Audriana Stagg, Troy Stagg, Jake Norgard, Jack Skibinski

February Flowers

- February 1** given by Carol Van Norman
in celebration of the 10th birthday of her grandson Brayden Schneider
- February 8** given by Eric and Laura Strangfeld
in loving memory of Laura's brother Christopher Warner
- February 15** given to the glory of God's perfect love
in celebration of Valentine's Day
- February 22** given to the glory of God
in thanksgiving for answered prayers



As you can see, we have been blessed by having flowers in the sanctuary last month. Thank you to all who donated. There are many opportunities ahead to dedicate sanctuary flowers to a loved one or for a special event, so remember to visit the flower chart in Fellowship Hall. Sign up to dedicate flowers on a Sunday soon!

Silver Anniversary

Care-to-Share

It was back in April of 1990 that the very first Care-to-Share collection was taken at Alexandria Church. What began as a simple service project for the Sunday school children has since grown to be a multi-generational church tradition. It has been faithfully observed and celebrated for 25 consecutive years!



Under the leadership of Dottie Stirrup and Pati Tiedeman, on the evening of Maundy Thursday Sunday school families gathered in the church basement to dye eggs, make sandwiches, and fill lunch bags for the clients of the Trenton Soup Kitchen. The Kitchen's doors were closed from the evening of Good Friday to the Monday after Easter. The plan was to provide a bag lunch to the clients as they left the Kitchen following their Good Friday meal. This was to see them through the long weekend until the doors reopened. Sunday school families were asked to contribute either hard cooked eggs or donate money to purchase meat and bread. Our church newsletter requested "snack size packages of nuts, raisins, cheese & crackers, or whatever may brighten their meal" from the congregation. And if apples were a good price, it was hoped one could be included in each bag as well.

Little has changed over the years. Of course now we are more sensitive to medical and religious dietary needs and the program has seen loving additions like adding decorated lunch bags, a Bible verse, candy, and baskets for the children. And we've switched from the Trenton Soup Kitchen to NORWESCAP, but the message is the same now as it was then . . . *We care to share the blessings of the Lord* with those who hunger and thirst. Thank you to our church family for your continued warm embrace of this Alexandria tradition.



Lenten Service Program

Care-to-Share

Thursday, April 2, 2015 at 7 p.m.

Together with a donation from Colalillo ShopRite, our congregation generously donated 360 bagged lunches to last year's Care-to-Share project! On Maundy Thursday, April 2 we will meet to continue our tradition and assemble bag lunches for NORWESCAP Food Bank in Phillipsburg. They provide food to pantries, shelters, soup kitchens, and needy feeding organizations serving Hunterdon, Sussex, and Warren counties. If you wish to participate in our Lenten project look for the cross in Fellowship Hall with the needed items on a tag. Please take as many tags as you wish. You may drop off your donations in Fellowship Hall by Sunday, March 29.

The children will meet in Fellowship Hall on Sunday, March 29 after the Children's Sermon to decorate the bags and color prayer cards.



Mission Suggestions

Mission Interpretation Committee's Suggestion Box

We want to hear from you! Leave your suggestions in our new suggestion box for what type of mission outreach you'd like to see us embrace. It's in the corridor near the choir room and with it you'll find suggestion cards. Fill out as many cards as you like and as often as you like. Suggestions can be anonymous or not. We're looking for your outreach ideas, people or organizations that might need our help, and volunteers to be God's hands and feet on this earth.



Mission in Haiti

Fond Pierre, Haiti

Our February trip to Haiti was unexpectedly delayed due to ground transportation schedules in Haiti. We're now looking forward to seeing all our friends in the village of Fond Pierre on April 17, 18, and 19.

As part of our on-going commitment to the water installation project in Fond Pierre, Haiti Karl Nielsen, Nancy Smith, and Charlie Tiedeman will be return to assess the viability and sustainability of the project. We would love to bring some much needed gifts of bar soap and toothpaste that we will carry with us. Donations may be placed on the Fellowship Hall table. See Nancy Smith or Charlie Tiedeman with questions and thank you for your support.

Books for Ghana

Collection Ends March 18

Our collection continues! While gently used books of all types and genres in good condition are needed for our sister church in Ghana . . .

We would especially like to see more
CHILDREN'S BOOKS in the donation pile

Please donate what you can as we assist our brothers and sisters in Christian love. Look for the collection basket in the corridor near Fellowship Hall. In order to defray some of the shipping costs, we ask that you **include \$1 with each book you donate**. Karl Nielsen is coordinating this effort; please contact him with questions.



*Students from Presbyterian Church of Ghana,
Ebenezer Congregation, our sister church*



Recently Installed

Katja Gruening

Many of you might remember Katja Gruening as our seminary intern from Princeton Theological Seminary. She was with us from 2007 through 2009. We are pleased to report that she was installed this winter as the shared pastor for Sandusky Presbyterian Church and First Presbyterian Church of Yale in Michigan. Katja is an experienced pianist and has a background in hospital chaplaincy and music ministry. She will be a blessing to those she ministers to. May God's fullest blessings fill her days as she settles into her new role in Michigan.

Presbyterian Signs and Symbols

Palm Fronds

The palm frond was a symbol of triumph in Roman times, bestowed on the winners of military or athletic contests. When the people of Jerusalem greeted Jesus with palm branches (Matthew 21), they were not just grabbing what was on hand to show their jubilation; the palms were a fitting tribute for the return of a triumphant king.

For the early Christians who suffered under Roman persecution, the symbol of the palm branch took on new meaning as a sign of faithfulness and perseverance under the threat of death. In Revelation 7:9, those who were redeemed from every tribe and nation were clothed in white-ropes and they waved their palm branches around the throne of God.

In the first few centuries of the church, palms were connected with martyrdom to the extent that it was once believed that an engraving of a palm branch on a tomb was proof that the one buried was a martyr.

According to a recent inquiry, around 3 million palm fronds are used in the United States at this time each year. The Eco-Palms Project promotes sustainable agricultural practices and provides fair compensation to the Mexican and Guatemalan farmers who harvest palm branches.

Learn more about eco palms: <http://www.presbyterianmission.org/ministries/enough/eco-palms>

Presbytery News

www.presnb.com

Our historic presbytery was organized in 1738 and has been a vibrant member of the Presbyterian family for more than two centuries. The oldest organized church under our care was founded in 1688. The forty-one churches that make up our presbytery are located in urban, suburban, and rural areas. Each congregation is involved in mission and ministry throughout their communities, our state, and world. The Presbytery of New Brunswick is a part of the Presbyterian Church (USA) and the Synod of the Northeast.



A Reminder about Communion

Our communion plate holds both regular bread and gluten-free bread for those with sensitivities. Please look for the **gluten-free bread in the center of the plate**. Water is available along with the grape juice for those who prefer it.



Brilliant Ideas

Recycling and Trash

A gentle reminder about the dark blue recycling cans that are located throughout the building . . . Please remember they are for recyclable items and *not* for trash. Also, remember to empty any beverage cups and bottles in the sink before putting them in the trash. This will help us to be good stewards of our resources and reduce the number of trash can liners used each week. It will also help keep the floor clean and free from drips. Thank you for your assistance.

Memorial Gifts

A meaningful way to remember/honor loved ones and friends is to make a contribution to the Memorial Fund of Alexandria Church. Gifts may be mailed to the church to the attention of the Memorial Committee.

"Uplifting" Experiences

Handicap Lift

The Worship and Music Team is compiling a list of people who either already know how to operate the outside handicap lift or would like to learn how. Names will be posted in the narthex for the ushers to contact if use of the lift is needed.

Sound System

We are also looking for a few people interested in learning how to adjust the sound system as back-up for our sound technician, Ken Wieder. No experience is necessary but having a good ear would be helpful.

Volunteer List

The list of those volunteering as ushers, worship assistants, and communion servers for each quarter is posted in the narthex for your convenience.

Please see Ken Wieder if you are interested in helping with these opportunities or for more information.



March Birthdays

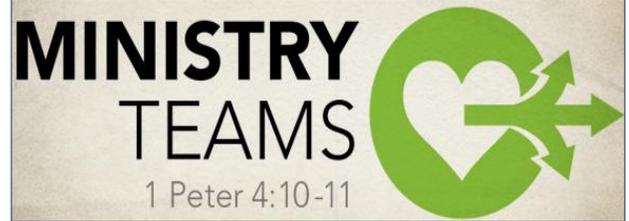
May God's awesome blessings be upon you
this day and on the future years ahead.

- | | | | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 Rachel Groogan | 8 John Pulsinelle | 13 Sue Lawson | 23 Cheryl Iannacone |
| 4 Lee Smith | 9 Robert Fennell | 14 Maeghan Serrone | 24 Rylan Koeller |
| 5 Christina Heilig | 10 Kenny Kramer | 15 Helen Grundmann | 25 Alexander Wardach |
| Marion Pursell | Donna Neighbour | 17 Kevin Scheier | 29 Daniel Matuska |
| 6 Gianna Cascio | 11 Luke Bercaw | Sharon Solomon | 30 Jeanne Cole |
| Lauren Koeller | Jenna Schostkewitz | 18 William Armstrong | 31 Richard Brunkus |
| 7 Debbie Cortelyou | Keira Vogel | 20 Danica Doyle | Lisa Carlson |
| 8 Marty Gunderman | 12 Jenn Schaefer | Jake Norgard | |

Getting to Know our Teams

This month:
The Building and
Property Team

**“If anyone serves, they should do
so with the strength God provides.”**



This ministry team manages the acquisition, disposition, maintenance, and housekeeping of the church buildings, equipment, manse, property, and supplies. It oversees the legal business of the church, insurance, and the use of rooms and facilities. They maintain a list of major projects that will be completed in the future, depending on the church's budget. This committee also works with Boy Scout Eagle candidates who are undertaking Eagle projects around the church.

Like any home, the house of God requires diligent upkeep and repair. Recent projects include the transformation of the old library into a comfortable conference room and the painting of Fellowship Hall and the adjoining corridor.

If you notice anything that needs attention in and around the church, please notify the church office. If you would like to use your gifts and skills to help us, please contact the church or co-chairs Marty Gunderman or Craig Bender. This committee meets on the 4th Tuesday of every month—you are welcome to join us!

Building and Property Volunteer Opportunities

- Serve at one of our clean-up days scheduled throughout the year
- Volunteer your skills and gifts around the church as you are called
- Serve as a building-use liaison to one of our community groups or during special events
- Help weed the courtyard garden
- Remove snow from the sidewalks in the winter
- Keep up with minor repairs and fixes

Giving in Gratitude

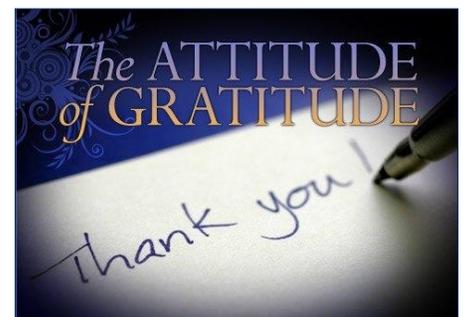
Third Update

Much has happened since our last Stewardship and Finance Team update. Here is a snapshot of where we now stand: 72 families have pledged this year and through everyone's generosity we have a balanced budget for 2015!

As mentioned during the Minute for Mission in November, we are also investigating ways to continue to reduce costs while not impacting any mission programs of the church. Here are some items we are pursuing:

- The Building and Property Team is replacing three thermostats with Smart thermostats that can be set up on a schedule each day. As an example, the downstairs offices can be controlled to come on each day 1 hour before someone is in the office and turn off an hour before they leave the building. No more coming into a cold office or have the heat run when no one is there. This will include the upper and lower areas between the offices and the Youth Room as well. Not only will this make the rooms more comfortable, but will save at least 15% of our heating costs.
- Our heating oil supplier gives the church a 10¢ discount on each gallon of oil they provide since we are a non-profit organization.
- A tidbit of information for you. Did you know that for each degree lower the thermostat is set, your heating costs are reduced by 2.5% to 3%?

Blessings to all from the Stewardship and Finance Ministry Team



Deacons Highlights

February 3, 2015

- Opening devotions and prayer were led by Deacon Nancy Smith
- Several cares and concerns of congregational members were discussed
- Pastor Nick led the group in a review of Robert's Rules of Order
- Each ministry team gave a brief report on the works of their committee:
 - Confirmation is about to begin
 - Lenten Bible Study is gearing up
 - Fellowship Sunday on February 22 will include bagels and muffins after the service
 - A permit is pending before repairs to the roof can begin
 - Possible Eagle Scout projects and general upgrades/replacements/repairs to the facility were discussed
 - A "mission suggestion box" will help encourage members to recommend projects for other congregational members in need of assistance
 - Collecting per capita for Presbytery was discussed
 - Unclaimed giving envelopes will be dropped off at members' homes
 - Gluten free bread that is offered during communion was discussed
- A thank you note was received from Milford Presbyterian Church for the donations they received for the Thanksgiving baskets
- The deacon flower sale is scheduled for Saturday, May 9th and will be hosted by Carol Van Norman



Session Highlights

February 11, 2015

- Elder Renee Skibinski led devotions from the Book of Jonah and shared comments about forgiveness
- Deacon Fran Wieder reported on the good works of the deacons and advised that they will soon be sending gift boxes to our service men and women
- Elder Karl Nielsen presented the financial report
- The annual statistical report for 2014 was approved on motion and will be submitted by the Clerk to meet the February 18, 2015 deadline
- Chapters 5 and 6 of Paul's Letter to the Ephesians was discussed in a period of study
- A suggestion box will be placed in the corridor by the Mission Interpretation Team. They are collecting suggestions from the congregation of local projects to assist either members or people in the local area
- Elders Karl Nielsen and Renee Skibinski will explore ways to encourage attendance and participation at the annual Spring Meeting of the Congregation
- Discussed hosting a stated meeting of Presbytery with a tentative date of November 10, 2015. Volunteers to be solicited for the various functions required (parking, food preparation, ushering, etc.)
- Discussed what constitutes an "active member" of the church. "Inactive member" is no longer a recognized category of membership, so a more formal definition of "active member" is needed
- Confirmation class will begin this month with 9 participants
- The Nominating Team is making good process in filling the slate of open positions
- An Ash Wednesday service will be held at Milford Presbyterian Church with Pastor Nick preaching
- Rev. Hatch offered prayers of joy and concern for various members of the congregation and also friends of the church



Knots of Love

We are currently forming a Knots of Love group at AFPC! Knots of Love is a non-profit group of knitters and crocheters who make handmade caps specifically designed (covers the entire head with no holes in the material) for people who have experienced hair loss due to chemo treatments. The hats are donated to anyone who would like one.

Check out our work on the mission bulletin board on the wall outside the choir room. Patterns for caps, yarn requirements, and our handmade chemo caps will be available for anyone who needs them. For questions or more information, please contact Brad Bondor, Jim Bush, or Alice Hansen. www.knotsoflove.org has on-line patterns, the group's history, and ideas for hat decorations.

Join us by picking out a Knots of Love cap pattern, buying yarn from the approved yarn list, and knitting or crocheting a cap. When you are finished place the cap on the mission bulletin board to share with anyone who could use a soft, warm cap and our loving prayers.

To obtain a chemo cap, visit our bulletin board and choose your favorite, or contact Nick or Pati who will arrange for a choice of hats to be delivered to you from which you may pick. If you have questions, please contact Brad Bondor, Jim Bush, Alice Hansen, or Nancy Smith.

Camp Johnsonburg 2015

One-week sessions for ages 6-17 begin June 29

www.campjburg.org | 852-2349

What's so great about this summer at Camp J'Burg?

- Hammock Hangout (yes, you live in a hammock for the week!)
- Renovated bathhouse for middle and high school campers
- Animals in Farm and Garden Camp
- Trips on the Delaware River and Appalachian Trail
- Leadership training track for ages 15 and older
- New menu options from our new culinary director
- Exciting new inflatable toy on the lake



Please join us after the service
every Sunday in Fellowship Hall
for coffee, tea, and conversation!

Worship Assistants

- March 1** The youth
March 8 Brad Bondor
March 15 Jim Hansen
March 22 Nancy Schumann
March 29 Joan Lentine

Ushers

- March 1** The youth
March 8 Chris and Karen Stagg
March 15 Lainey Johns, Meredith Oliver
March 22 Pat Keefe, Karl Nielsen
March 29 Jim Bush, Carol Moran

Communion Servers

- March 1** Sue Kunich
 Julie Lyons
 Flora Nielsen
 Karl Nielsen

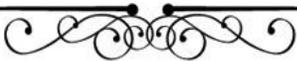
Special Dates

Also see the main calendar on page 14

- March 1** Youth Sunday
March 29 Palm Sunday, cross raising

Coming Up

- April 2** Maundy Thursday
April 3 Good Friday
April 5 Easter
April 17 Women's retreat, Camp Johnsonburg



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 Shari Norgard (E),
 Nancy Serrone (E), Sue Kunich (D), Julie Lyons (D)

Evangelism/Membership Carol Moran (E), Renee Skibinski (E),
 Cathy Torrey (D), Carol Van Norman (D)

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

Nominating Shari Norgard (E), Jim Hansen (D), Nancy Smith (D)

Personnel Rick Carroll (E), Laura Navarro (E), Nancy Smith (D)

Stewardship and Finance Karl Nielsen (E), Denis Goldman (E),
 Alice Hansen (D), Fran Wieder (D)

Worship and Music Ken Wieder (E), Howard Jones (E),
 Evelyn Cameron (D), Meredith Oliver (D) (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
 Fax 908-996-6014

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**
- Via his email: pastornickhatch@gmail.com
- By the church's website on the "contact us" link:
www.alexpres.org

Alexandria Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
1 Youth Sunday 9:00 Lenten Bible study 10:00 Worship, communion, 11:00 Refreshments and fellowship 4:30 Confirmation	2 10:00 Personnel team 7:00 Lenten Bible study	3 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Lenten Bible study 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Deacons	4 6:00 Lenten Bible study 9:00 Session materials due 9:30 Lenten Bible study	5 2:30 Staff 4:15 Worship and Music team 6:30 Youth Choir 7:00 Men's Choir 7:30 Boy Scouts 8:00 Women's Choir 9:00 Chancel Choir	6 World Day of Prayer	7 5:30 Boy Scouts
8 Daylight Saving Begins 9:00 Lenten Bible study 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Refreshments and fellowship 4:30 Confirmation	9 7:00 Lenten Bible study	10 9:00 Bulletin Deadline 9:30 Lenten Bible study 5:45 Presbytery, Nassau Church 7:00 Boy Scouts	11 6:00 Lenten Bible study 9:30 Lenten Bible study 7:00 Session	12 6:30 Youth Choir 7:00 Men's Choir 8:00 Women's Choir 9:00 Chancel Choir	13	14
15 9:00 Lenten Bible study 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Fellowship 11:15 Chancel Choir 3:00 Cub Scouts 3:30 Girl Scouts 4:30 Confirmation	16 7:00 Lenten Bible study	17 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Lenten Bible study 7:00 Boy Scouts	18 6:00 Lenten Bible study 9:30 Lenten Bible study	19 9:00 April Branches deadline 2:30 Staff 7:00 Men's Choir 8:15 Women's Choir 9:00 Chancel Choir	20	21
22 9:00 Lenten Bible study 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Refreshments and fellowship 11:15 Chancel Choir 4:30 Confirmation	23 7:00 Lenten Bible study	24 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Lenten Bible study 7:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Building and Property team 7:00 Mission Interpretation team	25 6:00 Lenten Bible study 9:30 Lenten Bible study 6:30 Stewardship and Finance team	26 6:30 Youth Choir 7:30 Chancel Choir	27	28
29 Palm Sunday 9:00 Lenten Bible study 10:00 Worship 10:15 Sunday school 11:00 Cross raising 11:00 Refreshments and fellowship 11:15 Chancel Choir 4:30 Confirmation	30 7:00 Lenten Bible study	31 9:00 Bulletin deadline 9:30 Lenten Bible study 7:00 Boy Scouts	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="background-color: #006633; color: white; padding: 10px; border: 1px solid white;"> <p style="margin: 0;">Deacon of the Week</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mar 1 Meredith Oliver</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mar 8 Nancy Smith</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mar 15 Cathy Torrey</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mar 22 Carol Van Norman</p> <p style="margin: 0;">Mar 29 Fran Wieder</p> </div> </div>			