



# Branches

Alexandria First Presbyterian Church

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

July/August 2015

141 Little York-Mount Pleasant Road  
Milford, New Jersey 08848  
908-996-4333  
[www.alexpres.org](http://www.alexpres.org)

Dear Friends,

These past few weeks I have been preaching on the story of Jonah. As I pointed out in my sermons, we often tend to think of the story of Jonah and immediately think of Jonah and whale. It is, after all, the part of the story that we know best. Last week however, we looked more at the role of the people of Nineveh in this story. God judges Nineveh to be a wicked city. So wicked in fact that Jonah wants nothing to do with them. But when Jonah finally reaches Nineveh to do the work that God commanded, we get a miraculous surprise . . . the people of Nineveh immediately repent and change their ways! The Ninevites hear of God's displeasure and they respond immediately. And what happens? God is gracious and merciful. Friends we know that God has already poured out God's grace upon us through the gift of our Savior Jesus Christ. Our response to God's grace is thus not a condition to the salvation we have received but is instead a crucial part of our faithfulness. I wonder how we might respond more fully? How can we follow the example that the people of Nineveh set? What is God calling us to do? How is God calling us to respond? I hope each of you will take the time this summer to think about this and then respond in turn. Could your response include one of the following?



## A Note from Nick

- Take part in a bible study?
- Join a ministry team?
- Be a Sunday school teacher?
- Sing in the choir?
- Help with a mission project?
- Attend a church clean up day?
- Be a worship assistant, or an usher?
- Work for peace and reconciliation in places of brokenness?
- Invite a friend or neighbor to church?

There are many opportunities to respond in faith, which will you choose? Maybe you want to start a new ministry or have new ideas for involving others in the work of God. I'm reminded of Alice Hansen coming to the Mission and Interpretation Team with the idea of knitting hats for "Knots of Love." Just a few short months later that idea has become a thriving ministry! I'm also reminded of the 20 youth and 4 adults who set out this week for the youth mission trip to Millersville, MD. Their faithfulness in dedicating a week of their summer to the work of God should be an inspiration to all of us. They are responding not only with their time but with their energy, sweat, and hearts! Please take the time this summer to pray about your response. For I pray that our lives together will be a living response to the grace of our loving God, and all that we do in faith will give glory to our Savior!

In Christ,

*Pastor Nick*

# Tending the Flock

## Baptism

We rejoice with those who are celebrating their baptism anniversary. It was in July that Wyatt Goldman, Tammy Belle Hampton Sassaman, Jessica Lynn Lawson, Alyssa Mary Schuetz, and Brandon Scott Schuetz became children of God through the sacrament of baptism. Then in August, Danica Lee Doyle, Matthew Anthony Folmar, and Tyler Ian McGuire celebrated the sacrament of baptism as well. Congratulations and blessings to you all!

## You Can Do It

You can do it at the beach, on a plane, at the pool, or in the car—if you’re not the driver! Knitting and crocheting caps for cancer patients is a portable and meaningful thing to do with your summer “down time.” Look for patterns and ideas on the bulletin board near the choir room or contact Alice Hansen for ideas, suggestions, or assistance.

If you think the Knots of Love caps are meaningless, listen to this testimonial: “Dear Knots of Love, Our patients adore your hats. It definitely brightens their days & puts smiles on their faces when they go home with a new hat. Thanks for the wonderful work you all do.” -Susan Diaz RN, OCN, Clinical Supervisor

Since its start in 2007, Knots of Love has shipped over 250,000 free caps to cancer treatment centers and veteran’s hospitals all over our country. Our church will be sending its first donation of handmade caps to Knots of Love on July 20. The caps, with our caring support, will be distributed to patients who need them and the comfort they bring. Thank you for your continued help and prayers.

## Share Your Talent

# SPECIAL SUMMER MUSIC

If you have a musical talent that you would like to share during worship this summer, please complete this form and place it in the offering plate or in the Worship and Music mailbox downstairs near the offices. All musical selections will be approved by Nerva before presentation in the worship service. You will be contacted to schedule a rehearsal and arrange the date to present your musical talent. Thank you for sharing your gifts!

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
*please print*

Talent: \_\_\_\_\_  
*vocal, piano, guitar, etc.*

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
*home and cell*

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Selection title and composer: \_\_\_\_\_



## On a Mission

Please keep our mission participants in your prayers as they journey to Millersville, Maryland the first week in July. The group will find that a Christian life is dedicated not only to God but also to service of others. It is our hope and prayer that during this trip as they hammer nails, fix roofs, replace siding, and complete other jobs and tasks that they will do them in a spirit of worship and praise to God. Please pray for Jenn Bercaw, Gabrielle Cascio, Josh Christ, Abby Ferdinando, Alexis Gunderman, Kaylee Gunderman, Kelsey Kunich, Emily Gunia, Athena McDowall, John McDowall, Kevin Moran, Jesse Neighbour, Jake Norgard, Matt Pardonner, Jenna Schostkewitz, Jack Skibinski, Alyssa Schuetz, Audriana Stagg, Ryan Unkert, and Timothy Unkert. The students will be accompanied by their advisors Marty Gunderman, Jim Hansen, Joan Lentine, and Renee Skibinski.



## Presbyterian Signs and Symbols

### IHS

IHS is a Christogram, a monogram or combination of letters that identifies the name of Jesus Christ. We see it everywhere. Just look at the bottom of our offering plates and there it is. But what does IHS stand for? There are many creative interpretations of this sign—"In His Service," "I Have Suffered," "Jesus Hominum Salvator" (Jesus, Savior of Humanity), or "In Hoc Signo" (In This Sign). Yet these are all backronyms—phrases made by creating a new phrase to fit an already existing acronym. The symbol is actually an ancient monogram for Christ, derived from the first three letters of "Jesus" in Greek: iota - eta- sigma: **ΙΗΣ**

## Presbytery News

[www.presnb.com](http://www.presnb.com)

Our Leadership Transition Team has offered the Rev. Dr. Nancy Muth the position of Executive Director of the Presbytery of New Brunswick.

Nancy recently retired after more than 30 years in ordained ministry. She's served in a number of churches, holding positions as assistant minister, associate minister, interim minister, and most recently minister in a multi-staff congregation. She has been a partner in a funds development business helping churches, presbyteries, and camps in raising money. Nancy has been an active presbyter, serving twice on Committee on Ministry, council chair of the Personnel Committee, and vice moderator of the Trustees. She has also been active on the General Assembly level, serving 4 times as an assistant to the Stated Clerk at General Assembly, a General Assembly commissioner, a board member of the Presbyterian Investment and Loan Program, and a member of two General Assembly review committees.



## Rocking Chairs and Hugs

Parents of young children need time to reflect and worship. We are ready and waiting with rocking chairs, hugs, and volunteers who enjoy caring for the little ones in the nursery age 3 and under during the summer months!

## If You're Happy & You Know It ...

### Happiness Lends a Hand

The Declaration of Independence asserts everyone's right to the pursuit of happiness—but are people actually happy?

For Presbyterians, the answer is an overwhelming “yes!”

Based on a number of measures, Presbyterians report that they are happy with their current situation in life and are optimistic about their future.

While these numbers could (and likely do) reflect systemic privilege—from economic affluence to a relatively high rate of education—they also reveal a commitment to service. Presbyterians believe it's important to give their time and money to support and improve their community, congregation, and world.

As we recognize the gifts we have received (whether the unearned grace of God or the opportunities afforded us by our families or even the color of our skin), we share these gifts with a world that is in desperate need of this grace and opportunity. We testify to God's love, deepen faith, and correct systems of injustice.

The result is true happiness, based not on worldly standards but on living in accordance with God's good character.

Do you want to grow in gratitude by sharing God's grace with those around you but don't know where to start? Consider using the Engage resources ([pcusa.org/engage](http://pcusa.org/engage)), which have been developed by the Presbyterian Mission Agency's Office of Evangelism to assist Presbyterians in sharing their faith and hope with their friends and neighbors.

And may happiness abound!

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## June Flowers

Visit the flower chart in Fellowship Hall and sign up to dedicate flowers on a Sunday soon!

**June 7** given in celebration of the works of our ministry teams

**June 14** given in celebration of Danny Johns' birthday

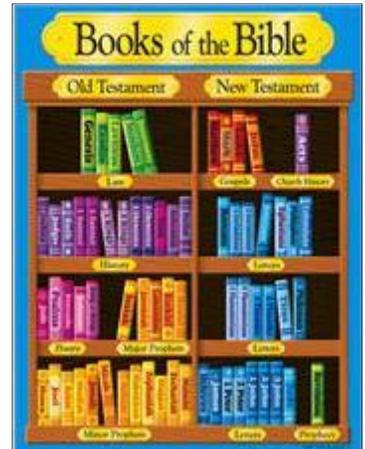
**June 21** given by the Strangfeld family

**June 28** given by Jim and Alice Hansen in celebration of the birth of their grandson Owen

## Bible Brain Teaser

Can you find the 21 hidden books of the Bible in the narrative below? The answers are on page 12, but for now see how many you can find. Good luck!

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts. For others it was a real revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books are not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. It should be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes there are some books that will be a hard job to find, but those are the most fun. Can a human being really find all twenty-one of them? At the worst, you should find fifteen. No defect in the genes is required, although I will admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. What will keep you from answering this challenge? A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. How long you keep working on it only you can judge, so long as you try to compete. Remember, we've had fun seeking out twenty-one books of the Bible, but it is by far more important to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." It's always true, God loves you.



## July Birthdays

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

- |                           |                                |                         |                         |
|---------------------------|--------------------------------|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| <b>2</b> Doug Bondor      | <b>13</b> Don Bone             | <b>16</b> Ashley Kunich | <b>24</b> Lyla Fritsche |
| <b>3</b> Al Navarro       | Larry Cascio                   | Matthew Pardonner       | Charlotte Hatch         |
| <b>4</b> Ashley Folmar    | Amanda Lessig                  | <b>17</b> Margo Abelman | Carol Van Norman        |
| <b>8</b> Travis McGuire   | Taylor McGuire                 | <b>19</b> Lois Bondor   | <b>25</b> John Solomon  |
| Rebecca McKinnon          | <b>14</b> Dave Schostkewitz    | <b>21</b> Sandy Davi    | <b>31</b> Shari Norgard |
| <b>12</b> Victoria Kramer | <b>15</b> Edward Gendek-Sutton | <b>22</b> Kathy Krov    |                         |

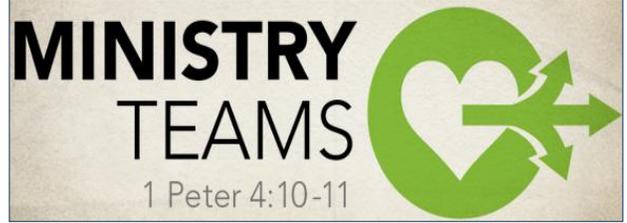
## August Birthdays

- |                           |                            |                            |                            |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|----------------------------|
| <b>1</b> Leslie Golomb    | <b>8</b> Julie Wiehl       | <b>17</b> Kristina Hawley  | <b>24</b> Tomasina McGuire |
| <b>2</b> Melissa Kramer   | <b>9</b> Gayle Hatch       | Matthew Torrey             | <b>25</b> Eleanor Fleck    |
| Abby Schaefer             | Ava Navarro                | <b>18</b> Pati Tiedeman    | <b>26</b> Arlene Gondyke   |
| <b>7</b> George Erlandson | Robin Vogel                | <b>20</b> Keith Ferdinando | <b>27</b> Josie Hawley     |
| Angela Maglio             | <b>10</b> Joan Carroll     | Cole Fritsche              | Gary Knapp                 |
| Robin Pulsinelle          | <b>11</b> Ken Wieder       | <b>23</b> Peter Christ     | Steve Pardonner            |
| Amelia Schaefer           | <b>12</b> Linda Andreychak | Nancy Smith                | <b>28</b> Luke Abelman     |
| <b>8</b> Troy Tiedeman    | <b>15</b> John Sutton      | <b>24</b> Josh Christ      | Glynn Skibinski            |
|                           |                            |                            | <b>29</b> Craig Norgard    |

## Getting to Know our Teams

This month:  
Nominating Team

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



This committee prayerfully discerns who God may be calling to serve in ministry as elders, deacons, financial officers, and Nominating Committee members.

The Nominating Committee recently completed its discernment process for this year and identified candidates to fill the slate. During that time we held them in prayer as they sought God’s wisdom and guidance while they considered leaders for our congregation. The final slate of candidates was presented at our June congregational meeting and terms began in June.



### Which Is It?

Some people have a **JOB** in the church;  
Others involve themselves in a **MINISTRY**.  
What’s the difference?

If you are doing it just because no one else will, it’s a **JOB**.  
If you are doing it to serve the Lord, it’s a **MINISTRY**.

If you’ll do it only so long as it does not interfere with your other activities, it’s a **JOB**.

If you are committed to staying with it even when it means letting go of other things, it’s a **MINISTRY**.

If you quit because no one praised you or thanked you, it’s a **JOB**.

If you stay with it even though nobody recognizes your efforts, it’s a **MINISTRY**.

It’s hard to get excited about a **JOB**.

It’s almost impossible not to be excited about a **MINISTRY**.

If our concern is success, it’s a **JOB**.

If our concern is faithfulness, it’s a **MINISTRY**.

An average church is filled with people doing **JOBS**.

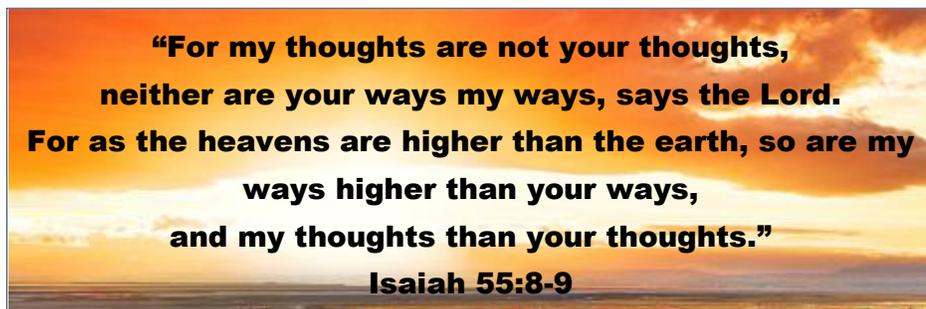
A great and growing church is filled with people involved in **MINISTRY**.

Where do we fit in? What about us?

If God calls you to a **MINISTRY**, don’t treat it like a **JOB**.

If you have a **JOB**, give it up and find a **MINISTRY**.

God does not want us felling stuck with a **JOB**, but excited and faithful to Him in **MINISTRY**.





## Session Highlights

### Regular Meeting | May 20, 2015

- Elder Craig Bender led devotions with readings from scripture, comments on discerning God's will, and prayer.
- Deacon Carol Van Norman commented on the continued good works of the deacons and in particular visits to our shut-ins.

- Amelia Ann Schaefer was baptized on May 17, 2015.
- On motion Erika Sealings (nee Jones) was restored to active membership. A letter of transfer will be sent to her new church home at the Ark and Dove Presbyterian Church in Odenton, Maryland.
- A period of study continued on an affirmation of faith, The Apostles Creed.
- A sample motion was brought before session with discussion and an ensuing vote as a demonstration to the confirmands of the workings of the session.
- Approved with thanksgiving and joy to receive the following into membership pending their affirmation of faith in worship on May 24, 2015: John McDowall, Angela Maglio, Jack Bender, Andrea Pederson, Gianna Cascio, Brianna Schneider, Jake Norgard, and Jack Skibinski.
- As of April 30, 2015 if the trend continues by year end the projected deficit would be \$18,042.31. Letters have been sent to members updating them on the church's financial status and where they each stand as to their pledges. The expectation is that by keeping the congregation informed giving will remain current and tied to individual pledged amounts.
- An overview of our property/liability insurance was presented by the treasurer for session's information and comments.
- Elder Nancy Serrone has resigned due to various other demands on her time, effective June 1, 2015. It was with regret that her resignation was accepted.
- Discussion concerning the Visioning Team's report continued regarding capital improvements versus maintenance requirements and the importance of each. A capital campaign will be initiated in order to secure the required funds once these issues have been clarified. A desire to create and maintain an endowment fund for our future needs was also expressed.
- Approved holding a clothing drive the week of June 7 with the benefits to be shared between Trenton Rescue Mission and the youth mission trip participants.
- Summer Sunday school will be held from June through August 30, 2015 and will utilize our presently approved teachers.
- Presbytery meeting at Alexandria (we will host) is scheduled for November 10, 2015. The choir is being asked to sing at the accompanying service of worship.

## Deacons Highlights

### Regular Meeting | June 2, 2015

- The cares and concerns of the congregation were discussed
- An idea for a new Valentine's Day project was discussed
- Outgoing deacons were thanked for their service: Sue Kunich, Nancy Smith, and Fran Wieder
- Special thanks to Cathy Torrey who completed a 3 year term as deacon and will be reinstated for another 3 consecutive years as a deacon
- Please feel free to contact the deacons with any cares or concerns, needs or prayer requests. We are here to help all members of the church with any needs and are happy to visit, provide food, company and comfort!



## Session Highlights (continued)

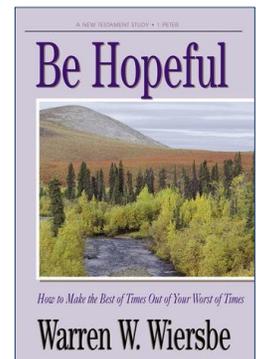
### Regular Meeting | June 10, 2015

- Reverend Hatch opened with prayer.
- The deacons have sent congratulatory cards to all our new confirmands which were very much appreciated.
- The Clerk of Session was re-elected to a one year term to expire at the June 2016 meeting.
- A period of study was on “Grace and Gratitude: A Presbyterian Vision for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century” which was augmented by readings from Matthew 6:7-13 (The Lord’s Prayer), Mark 6:30-44 (The feeding of the 5,000), and Luke 22:14-20 (The Last Supper).
- Approved the following: moving June communion from June 7 to June 14, 2015; holding a church picnic on July 26 immediately following morning worship; selling tickets to the congregation for the Altino Brothers’ upcoming concert at Carnegie Hall on October 4, 2015 (If there is sufficient interest and if it is self-funding there is the possibility of bus transportation to and from the concert); and accepting the proposed church calendar for the 2015-2016 year (September through August) including the scheduling of communion.
- The Nominating Ministry Team reported on their review of the church rolls and after much follow up and prayerful consideration recommended 25 persons to be removed from the active rolls.
- Reviewed the ordination/installation vows for elders and deacons which will be administered at worship on June 14, 2015. Rev. Hatch then welcomed our new elders and thanked them for accepting the responsibilities and duties of the office.
- Ministry team assignments will be sent via e-mail by Rev. Hatch within the next several days.
- Elder training will take place in September 2015.
- The joint Session/Deacon meeting will take place in October and will be coordinated by the Clerk.
- The Capital Campaign Team to be formed this summer.
- The youth mission team reported that the \$3,000 previously approved and budgeted for the mission trip will not be needed as funding has been secured from other sources.

## Women’s Bible Study for the Fall

Warren W. Wiersbe is a well known international Bible conference teacher and a former pastor of Moody Church in Chicago. He served 10 years as General Director and Bible Teacher for Back to the Bible. He has authored more than 80 books, including the best-selling “BE” series. His speaking, writing, and radio ministries have brought new understanding of the truths of God’s Word to people around the world.

The women’s Bible study will be resuming sessions on Wednesday, September 9 at 9:30 a.m. We will study the book of 1 Peter, using Warren W. Wiersbe’s “*BE Hopeful, How to Make the Best of Times Out of Your Worst of Times*.” Anyone who would like to join the group for the first time is welcome to contact Nancy Schumann by Sunday, August 30. We look forward to seeing you there!



## Highlights from the Spring Congregational Meeting

### Annual Meeting | June 7, 2015

- The annual spring meeting of the congregation was held in the sanctuary following morning service. This was Ministry Appreciation Sunday and during the service the contributions and efforts of all those responsible for the many and varied activities of our church were recognized and thanked. Various ministry teams and the deacons reported on their activities during the past year.
- It was determined a quorum was present with the attendance of fifty-nine members.
- Speaking for the Nominating Committee, Elder Shari Norgard presented the following slate of officers to be elected for the following positions: Elders for three-year terms included Brad Bondor, Lois Bondor, Laura Navarro, and Karen Pardonner. Elder for one-year term included Shari Norgard. Deacons for three-year terms included Debbie Cortelyou, Helen Jones, Pat Keefe, and Cathy Torrey.
- The slate for Members at Large for the Nominating Team was presented and included Joan Carroll, Keith Erwin, Barbara Pederson, and Nancy Smith.
- Rev. Hatch then thanked the members of the committee for their dedication and tireless efforts in fulfilling their duties.
- Speaking on behalf of the Auditing Committee Craig Norgard reported that the committee had met with the treasurer and had reviewed the church's financial records and books and found them to be in good order with no deficiencies. There were three recommendations from the committee to amend the testing parameters:
  - Church credit card charges - currently there is no procedure for approving expenses charged to the credit card by the respective committees/team chairs.
  - Committee/team chairs - a list of the committee/team chairs along with the respective dates they held their positions should be made available to validate authorized individuals who approved the payment of expenses.
  - Email authorization - consideration should be made to allow email to replace hard copy vouchers. If approved, email addresses should be provided with the list of committee/team chairs.

## Church Picnic

### July 26, 2015 | 11:00 a.m.

Ah, the sounds of summer: the ring of horseshoes, the laughter of children, the tug-of-war cheers, the clink of ice in the lemonade, and the sizzle of the grill. You are warmly invited to this and more at our annual church picnic. Pulled pork, hot dogs, beverages, and paper products will be provided. All you need to do is bring a side dish or dessert to share. Look for signup sheets in the narthex so we can make plans. If you have any outdoor games like badminton, horseshoes, bats and balls, and so on, you are welcome to bring them. Also, we are in need of one or two grills. Please see Carol Moran with any questions and we look forward to your being there on the 26<sup>th</sup>. This is a rain or shine event!



## Tickets Now Available

### October 4, 2015 | 7:30 p.m.

The Altino Brothers will present "Beyond Boundaries" at the world-famous Carnegie Hall this fall. The concert will feature concertos by Tchaikovsky and Liszt, popular and Broadway favorites, and the world premiere of a double piano concerto based on the *Battle Hymn of the Republic* for two pianos, orchestra, and chorus, composed by Nerva Altino.

## Joint Vacation Bible School

hosted by Frenchtown Presbyterian Church

with assistance from

Alexandria & Milford Presbyterian Churches

**July 20 through 24**

At this year's VBS treasure seekers will play island games, create colorful crafts, and enjoy tropical snacks. But more importantly, they will discover the rich treasure of God's love through the life of Jesus!

**9 - 11:30 a.m.**

*Registration on next page  
and on our website*

Discover God's Love at

**SonTreasure  
Island**

Frenchtown Presbyterian Church  
 PO Box 114  
 Frenchtown, NJ 08825  
 www.frenchtownpres.org ~ 908-996-2227



**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY:**  
 Paid \$ \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check # \_\_\_\_\_

**July 20 thru July 24, 2015 VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL 9:00 a.m. - 11:30 a.m.**

Hosted by the Alexandria, Frenchtown & Milford Presbyterian Churches  
 Register by 7/1/15: \$10 per child, \$30 maximum per family. After 7/1/15: \$15 per child.

**REGISTRATION**

**PART I: PARENT/GUARDIAN INFORMATION**

Parents' Name:	Email Address:
Phone (home): (cell):	Street Address:
Member of _____ Church	City, State, Zip Code:

**PART II: EMERGENCY CONTACT INFORMATION**

Name:	Relation:	Phone:
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**PART III: STUDENT(S) classes offered for children entering Preschool through 5<sup>th</sup> grade in September 2015**

Name	Date of Birth	Grade (Sept 2015)	Allergies or other medical conditions

**PART IV: PHOTO RELEASE**

I grant permission to Frenchtown Presbyterian Church and its Vacation Bible School staff or local media personnel to take photographs or videos of my child(ren) the week of July 20, 2015. I acknowledge that these photos and videos may appear in, but are not limited to, the church's newsletter, church website, church publications, and/or the local newspaper(s) and media.

**PART V: DISCLAIMER AND LIABILITY**

I hereby release, waive, and discharge Frenchtown Presbyterian Church and its officers, employees, agents, and volunteers from all liability, loss, claims, demands, and other expenses arising from any lawsuit that may otherwise accrue from any loss, damage, or injury to me, my child(ren), or my child(ren)'s property connected with my child(ren)'s attendance at VBS.

**PART VI: CONSENT TO MEDICAL TREATMENT**

In the event my child(ren) become ill or injured, I give my permission for a representative of Frenchtown Presbyterian Church to take whatever steps are reasonably necessary to render emergency first aid.

\_\_\_\_\_  
 (Parent) Signature

\_\_\_\_\_  
 Date

*I AFFIRM THAT I AM AT LEAST 18 YEARS OF AGE,  
 I AM LEGALLY AUTHORIZED TO SIGN ON BEHALF OF THE STUDENT(S),  
 AND CONSENT TO PARTS 1-VI OF THIS REGISTRATION.*

**RETURN THIS FORM WITH PAYMENT OF \$10 PER CHILD TO THE ADDRESS LISTED ABOVE**

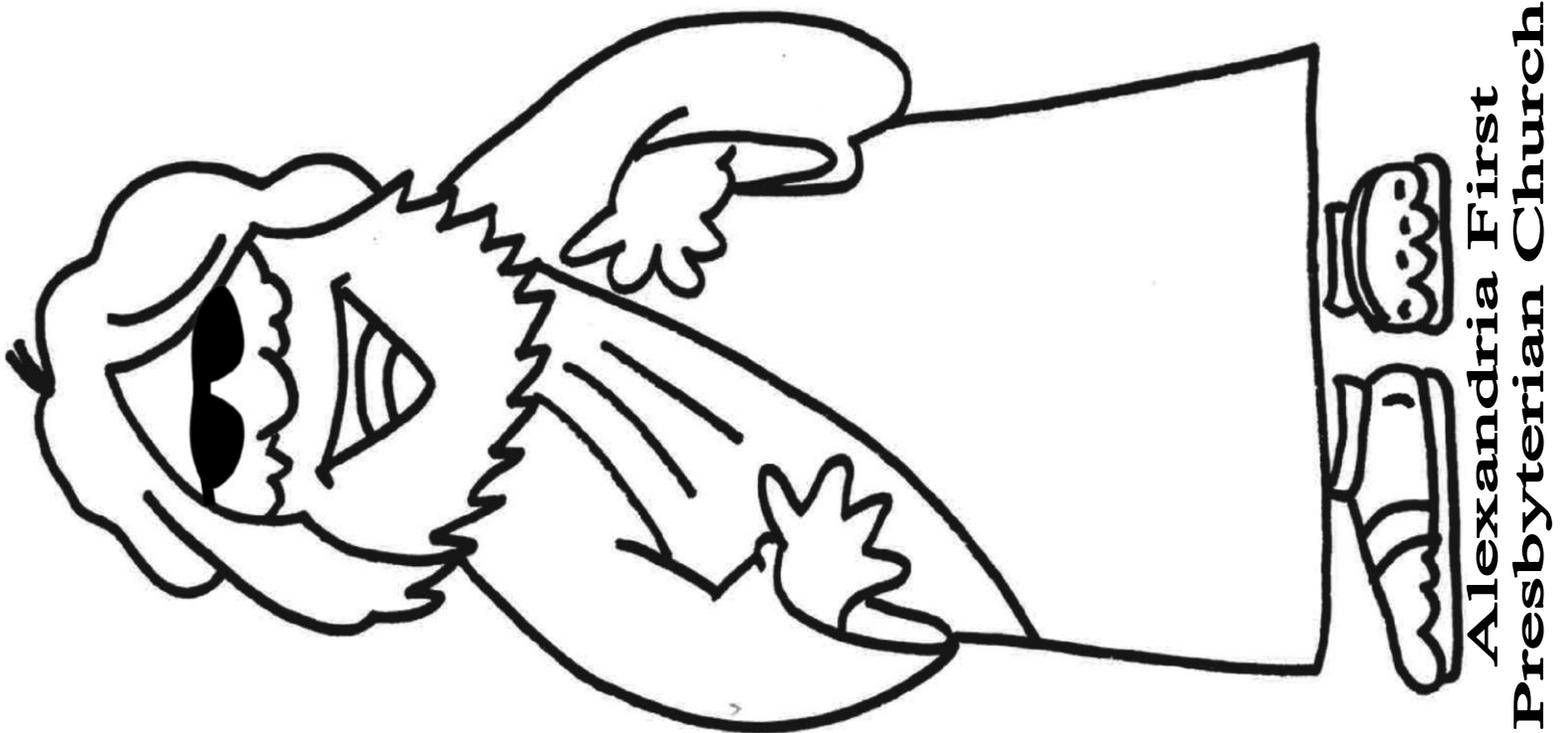
## Flat Jesus Returns!

**“And remember, I am with you always.” Matthew 28:20**

We had so much fun with the adventures of Flat Jesus last summer, we decided that more is better! Flat Jesus returns for the Summer of 2015 and we can't wait to see where his travels lead us this year!

Summer is here, and we find ourselves in and out of church, so help us to stay connected during the summer months and share your adventures with us and with Jesus. Join in the fun and take Flat Jesus with you wherever you go! Simply take photos of Flat Jesus throughout the whole summer while you are playing, adventuring, on vacation, or just hanging out at home. Going on a vacation? Take Jesus with you. Going to summer camp? Take Jesus with you.

Email your photos to Pastor Nick at ([pastornickhatch@gmail.com](mailto:pastornickhatch@gmail.com)), post them to the church's Facebook, and/or bring your pictures to be posted and shared in and around church. We'll put them up on the corridor bulletin board for all to see, so if you're not connected by email or Facebook, you can still be part of the adventure!



## Brain Teaser Revealed *(from page 5)*

I once made a remark about the hidden books of the Bible. It was a lulu, kept people looking so hard for facts. For others it was a real revelation. Some were in a jam, especially since the names of the books are not capitalized. But the truth finally struck home to numbers of readers. It should be a most fascinating few moments for you. Yes there are some books that will be a hard job to find, but those are the most fun. Can a human being really find all twenty-one of them? At the worst, you should find fifteen. No defect in the genes is required, although I will admit it usually takes a minister to find one of them and there will be loud lamentations when it is found. What will keep you from answering this challenge? A little lady says she brews a cup of tea so she can concentrate better. How long you keep working on it only you can judge, so long as you try to compete. Remember, we've had fun seeking out twenty-one books of the Bible, but it is by far more important to "seek first his kingdom and his righteousness." It's always true, God loves you.

## Worship Assistants

<b>July 5</b>	Steve Cameron	<b>Aug 2</b>	Nancy Schumann
<b>July 12</b>	Joan Lentine	<b>Aug 9</b>	Keith Erwin
<b>July 19</b>	Nancy Smith	<b>Aug 16</b>	Karl Nielsen
<b>July 26</b>	The Youth	<b>Aug 23</b>	Peter Christ
		<b>Aug 30</b>	Howard Jones

## Ushers

<b>July 5</b>	Benders	<b>Aug 2</b>	Skibinskys
<b>July 12</b>	Strangfelds	<b>Aug 9</b>	McKinnons
<b>July 19</b>	Cole, Cortelyou	<b>Aug 16</b>	Schuetzes
<b>July 26</b>	Maglios	<b>Aug 23</b>	Harrison, Wieder
		<b>Aug 30</b>	Wieders

## Communion Servers

<b>July 5</b>	LuAnn and Pat Keefe, Al and Laura Navarro
<b>Aug 2</b>	Helen and Howard Jones, Karen and Steve Pardonner

## Special Dates

*Also see the main calendars on pages 14 and 15*

<b>July 4</b>	Youth mission trip
<b>July 5</b>	Communion
<b>July 6</b>	Church office closed
<b>July 20</b>	VBS begins, Frenchtown Pres.
<b>August 2</b>	Communion



## Our Ministry Team Officers

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

**Christian Education/Youth Ministry** Julie Lyons (D), Shari Norgard (E), Karen Pardonner (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 (E), Karl Nielsen (E), tba (D)

**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 3<sup>rd</sup> THURSDAY OF THE MONTH**

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[www.alexpres.org](http://www.alexpres.org).

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 Alexandria First Presbyterian Church of Mount Pleasant

**ALEXANDRIA FIRST PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH (USA)**  
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**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](http://www.alexpres.org)
- Via his email: [pastornickhatch@gmail.com](mailto:pastornickhatch@gmail.com)

## Alexandria Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
			<p>1</p> <p>6:00 Bible study 6:45 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>2</p>	<p>3</p>	<p>4</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Independence Day</b></p>
			<b>Youth Mission</b>			
<p>5</p> <p>10:00 Worship, communion 10:15 Summer Sunday school 11:00 Refreshment and fellowship in courtyard</p>	<p>6</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Office closed</p>	<p>7</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>8</p> <p>6:00 Bible study</p>	<p>9</p>	<p>10</p>	<p>11</p>
<b>Youth Mission</b>	<b>Youth Mission</b>	<b>Youth Mission</b>	<b>Youth Mission</b>	<b>Youth Mission</b>	<b>Youth Mission</b>	<b>Youth Mission</b>
<p>12</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Sunday school</p>	<p>13</p>	<p>14</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>15</p> <p>6:00 Bible study</p>	<p>16</p>	<p>17</p>	<p>18</p>
<p>19</p> <p>10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Sunday school</p>	<p>20</p>	<p>21</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:00 Boy Scouts</p>	<p>22</p> <p>6:00 Bible study</p>	<p>23</p>	<p>24</p>	<p>25</p>
		<b>VBS, Frenchtown</b>	<b>VBS, Frenchtown</b>	<b>VBS, Frenchtown</b>	<b>VBS, Frenchtown</b>	<b>VBS, Frenchtown</b>
<p>26</p> <p>10:00 Worship 11:00 Church picnic</p>	<p>27</p>	<p>28</p> <p>9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Building and Property</p>	<p>29</p>	<p>30</p>	<p>31</p> <div style="border: 1px solid black; background-color: #002060; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-top: 10px;"> <p style="text-align: center; margin: 0;"><u>Deacon of the Week</u></p> <p>July 5 Alice Hansen</p> <p>July 12 Julie Lyons</p> <p>July 19 Meredith Oliver</p> <p>July 26 Cathy Torrey</p> </div>	

# Alexandria Presbyterian Church

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
						1
2 10:00 Worship, communion 10:15 Summer Sunday school 11:00 Refreshment and fellowship in courtyard	3	4 9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:00 Boy Scouts	5 6:00 Bible study	6	7	8
9 10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Sunday school	10	11 9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:00 Boy Scouts	12 6:00 Bible study	13	14	15
16 10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Sunday school	17	18 9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:00 Boy Scouts	19 6:00 Bible study	20 9:00 September <i>Branches</i> deadline	21	22
23 10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Sunday school	24	25 9:00 Bulletin deadline 6:00 Boy Scouts 7:00 Building and Property	26 6:00 Bible study	27 2:30 Staff	28	29
30 10:00 Worship 10:15 Summer Sunday school	31	<div data-bbox="618 1549 987 1766" data-label="Text"> <p><b>Deacon of the Week</b>                  August 2 Carol Van Norman                  August 9 Evelyn Cameron                  August 16 Steve Cameron                  August 23 Pat Keefe                  August 30 Eric Strangfeld</p> </div> 				