



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ September 2012

Upcoming Dates

Corporate Prayer
1st Sat mornings
3rd Wed evenings

Monthly Newcomer Fellowship Time
4th Sunday mornings

Koinonia Fall Kick-off
September 18

All Church Picnic
September 22

Adult Finance Class Begins
September 23

Inquirers Class
September 28-29

Father-Child Camping Trip
October 7-8

Gettysburg Movie Night
October 12

Gettysburg Battlefield Tour
October 20

Congregational Meeting
October 28



Moving Toward Community by Pastor Tom Holliday

According to M. Buchanan, "Americans want community, but on strictly individual terms. They want human closeness without feeling cramped or obligated. They want a personal God who doesn't ask much personally.... They want a faith that's fulfilling...and they want it not to cost too much or to take up a lot of time."

Dietrich Bonhoeffer put it more succinctly: "there are people who love the idea of community but not necessarily the more costly experience of community."

Yet, genuine community makes demands on all who pursue it. How could it be otherwise? Whether it's the nuclear family or any civic organization, commitments are required. Without such, there's not much glue to hold things together.

This fall I will be preaching on the topic of community, exploring how the Bible defines it. We will also offer a Sunday school class to probe deeper into this important subject. Buchanan scratched an itch that many of us have: the desire for human closeness and a closer relationship with God. But we want it without too much cost or too much time invested.

I suppose this explains why so many people are not experiencing the community that they claim to desire.

At APC, we think community truly matters. A great way to move into community is the Inquirer's Class, held at the church September 28 and 29. In our time together Friday evening and Saturday, you will get a snapshot of Alexandria Presbyterian Church unlike any other. This interactive time will give you the opportunity to ask questions about the church and to hear in more depth the vision of our church, and the heartbeat of this ministry. Attending this class will

prepare you for church membership.

Perhaps you are thinking about trying out a home Bible study this fall, which we call Covenant Fellowship Groups. This is the time of the year when many of our groups start up after summer break, so it is a good time to dive in. Perhaps you will experience community in one of our Ladies Bible studies, the Adult Choir or one of many other doors into community.

All of these opportunities have one thing in common: we have to be proactive. It requires time and commitment, which I believe many of us are willing to risk, if it could move us deeper into community. Fall is a very busy time in the Washington DC area. I hope that you find time (make time) to move toward community.

Inquirers Class—September 28-29

Interested in membership or hearing more about the heartbeat of APC? Attend this Friday-Saturday class with our pastor for an in depth look at Christianity, the Presbyterian Church in America and APC. Contact the church office for more information.

Covenant Fellowship Groups

Now is a great time to join a "Community of a Few." This is one of the best ways to meet other believers and grow with them in your knowledge of Christ. Whether you are a visitor or a long-time CFG veteran, don't be afraid to knock on the door or extend an invitation. Talk to Josh Diack, Director of Congregational Life, for more information.



Children and Youth Safety at APC by Elder Chris Joyce

It's unfortunate, but in a fallen world, we have to address the sin of sexual misconduct. You might ask, "Even within the church?" Especially within the church. In too many cases, churches represent soft targets for those who struggle with this sin. Churches are typically trusting environments, and are dependent upon willing volunteers to conduct ministry. Those who are at most risk of being sexually abused—children, youth and seniors—are also the most prone to place their trust and confidence in those whose care they are in.

We are not helped by a number of misconceptions in our efforts to protect "the least of these," either. Most instances of misconduct and abuse occur with those we know, not someone walking in off the street. We should not be surprised, given our theology, that this sin of sexual misconduct afflicts all types of people.

We also do not want to cause our brother or sister to stumble, which a loose approach in this area fosters. The church is made up of sinners, and just as we do not exclude any particular sinner, nor do we want to create an environment that plays into another's weakness. One way of hating the sin but still loving the sinner is to have an educated and engaged membership with a strong set of policies about how ministry is (and is not) conducted.

This is why your church will offer a class this quarter on Children and Youth Safety at APC. It's a one-hour class, and we will offer it on nine separate Sundays this quarter. It's a mandatory class for anyone now working with (or hoping to work with) infants, children or youth at APC. We also encourage others to attend.

2405 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22301 ~ 703-683-3348 (office) ~ 703-683-2392 (fax) ~ alexandriapres.org

Alexandria Presbyterian Church is a welcoming community of believers, rejoicing in the gospel, transformed by its power, and responding with grateful hearts in service to our God and world. We long to taste the glory of God in such an astonishing way that the city of Alexandria will be drawn to the majesty and mercy of our great God. It is our desire that our worship will serve as an authentic model to our city of the possibilities for transformation of individuals, families, and a city encountering the glory and grace of God.



It Begins with Jesus
by Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

Apart from Christ we can truly do nothing. In July, a team of 18 departed for a two-week mission trip to Costa Rica. The Lord was exceedingly gracious in establishing and providing such a successful teen mission trip. The team was amazing, the difficult work had eternal purpose, and we experienced such great joy in the process. Maegan Espinoza, wife of the Pastor of the church we served, sent a letter of encouragement after we returned, and I have pulled out a few quotes, "...Their flexibility and thirst to serve Him was key to the success of their servanthood here in our community. Their positive attitude and God-serving approach to everything was so apparent and contagious... Thank you to all who made this mission a true success. We give all the honor and glory to the Lord for making APC part of us and our walk in His Kingdom." We experienced unity in the body of Christ as we came alongside the local church in Costa Rica and it was evident that the teens served out of the strength He provided. Was a joy to see these teens being transformed more and more into the sons and daughters He desires them to be.

Unfortunately, the summer is over (the saddest time of year for this guy who grew up in Arizona) and the students are back in school, but we have great things to look forward to. Our teaching theme this fall will be "No Reason To Hide." We all hide from each other and God in different ways, and as we mature in Christ and grow into our new identity as a new creation, we are enabled more and more to die unto sin and live unto righteousness. We will look with fresh eyes at the freedom found in the Lord, a freedom that lasts and does not fade. Bryan Chapell, chancellor of Covenant Theological Seminary said, "For only when the grace of the gospel fills our hearts will we have the desire and power to live for Him." Pray for the teens to be renewed daily this fall as the finished work of God's free grace in Jesus takes root in deeper soil!

Lastly, PROTAS Large Group Ministry is MOVING BACK TO SUNDAY NIGHTS at APC. The past year we have really enjoyed access to the whole property on Saturday nights and meeting on a non-school night, but there are many reasons it makes sense to be aligned with the rest of the church at the Sunday night ministry time frame. Please pray that God would bless this transition and know that I would love to hear from you with any questions or concerns. To learn more about youth ministries here at APC, please pick up a copy of the brochure outside my office in the Fellowship Hall.

Our ministry vision: PROTAS is a dynamic teen-led adult-mentored relationship-based youth community with the goal of teens becoming strong disciples of Christ as they reach out to their lost friends through exciting outreach events, relevant and challenging instruction from a biblically reformed perspective, and loving Christ-like service to those in need.



Managing Our Finances God's Way—new adult evening study
by Anthony Stacy

Yours, Lord, is the greatness and the power and the glory and the majesty and the splendor, for everything in heaven and earth is yours. Yours, Lord, is the kingdom; you are exalted as head over all. Wealth and honor come from you; you are the ruler of all things. — 1 Chronicles 29:11-12a.

Did you know that there are over 2,350 verses in the Bible about money? Did you know that nearly half of Jesus' parables are about possessions? Through scripture, God has provided us with the ultimate guide to managing money. The Biblical truths about money apply to all of us, whether you are a recent high school graduate, in the prime of your career, or in retirement. It applies to those that have a little and those that have a lot.

God reminds us that everything we have is a gift from Him. This includes our health, wealth, time, family, home and even ability to generate wealth. God's primary purpose for these gifts is not for our own benefit, but so we can partner with him in accomplishing his purposes here on earth.

Beginning September 23rd, a new seven-week, video-based small group study will explore these biblical truths to help us learn more deeply that financial freedom is not determined by how much money we make, but by how we use the resources God has entrusted to us. The study will also provide practical guidance, tools and resources on the topics of dedicating all that we have to God, budgeting, saving, investing, God's solution to debt, and enjoying what God has given. The class will be held at the same time as Explorers, so child care will be provided. I hope you can join us!



Children's Chatter
by Leslie Bridge, Director. of Children's Ministries

Here we are at another beginning season. This is one of my favorite times of the year. It is the beginning of a new school year, sometimes a re-start of existing programs and lots of new faces that have moved in over the summer. Some of us hate to see the summer days slipping by, yet it is an exciting time.

This is the time of year children move up to a new grade in Sunday school. Those turning five begin attending Children's Church and Explorers, kicking off September 16th. It will be fun to reconnect and see what God has done and is doing in our midst. Often new families join in the last few months with changing assignments and we greet them with excitement and anticipation of new relationships. September is filled with a sense of expectation of newness.

As we prepare to launch into Fall children's programs, I am excited to see returning Sunday school teachers after a summer sabbatical. Children are starting to ask when Explorers is going to start again and new volunteers are being recruited all the time. Our Sunday school curriculum will use an inductive method of teaching, exposing children to whole books of the Bible. Explorers will use a "Walk Through the Bible" curriculum with hand motions to help kids grasp the overall themes of Scripture.

In the midst of all this transition time, I am still brought to my knees as I think about teaching and training our children about the Christian Faith and about a relationship with Jesus. Growing as a covenant child of God is still the central theme of all we are and all we do.

If you would like to know more about our children's activities or how to be involved, please contact me at leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org or at 703-538-2594.

Don't Let This Happen to You!!!
by Carrie Ragan, Assistant to the Pastor



Have you ever had someone post a picture of you that you were utterly embarrassed by? No? Well, don't let the online (password protected) APC picture directory be your first. I would love for you and/or your family to have a picture in the directory you are proud of. (Not one hand picked by me.) So, either have your picture taken in the Fellowship Hall or chose your favorite picture and upload it onto the APC website. While you are online, please update your personal information too. Thanks!

APC CHURCH PICNIC
Saturday, September 22—Fort Hunt Park, Area A
1-5pm (food served at 1pm, hymn sing at 3pm)
Join us for bocce ball, soccer, frisbee and great fellowship.
APC will provide meat and drinks; please bring a dish to share.

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (8/31)	\$849,567
	YTD Budget	\$920,922
	Difference	\$ 71,355 (-8%)

SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Holy Worship ~ 8:50am | Time of Fellowship & Coffee ~ 10:30am | Sunday School for All Ages ~ 11:00am
Communion Celebrated the Second Sunday of Each Month