



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ♦ May 2009

Upcoming Dates

TableTalk Dinners
May 9

Newcomers Dinner
May 16

Scripture Readers Workshop
May 30

Inquirer's Class
June 5-6

Vacation Bible School
June 29 - July 3

Choir Retreat
September 18-19

Choir Rehearsals Resume
September 22

Women's Retreat
September 25-26



APC's New Mercy Committee by Chris Sicks, Director of Mercy Ministries

As you may know, the deacons of APC are involved in a variety of mercy ministry work—serving seniors and orphans, encouraging the unemployed and sick, counseling ex-offenders and folks struggling with substance abuse and other challenges. Through deeds of mercy, prayer and encouragement, the deacons serve as Christ's hands in our congregation and our city.

But the deacons cannot do it alone! The PCA Book of Church Order says: "It is often expedient that the Session of a church should select and appoint godly men and women of the congregation to assist the deacons in caring for the sick, the widows, the orphans, the prisoners, and others who may be in any distress or need."

Are you interested in serving your brothers and sisters? Join Tom Holliday and Chris Sicks for a four-week series of Sunday School classes in June. We will discuss the philosophy and practical work of mercy ministry.

At the end of June, those who feel called to work on the Mercy Committee and are supported by the deacons will be

interviewed by Session. Those who God has prepared for this ministry will be appointed to the Committee.

Mercy ministry is about more than physical or financial help. Merciful men and women will work together to address the emotional pain and spiritual turmoil that often accompany financial and medical challenges.

The members of the Mercy Committee will work with the deacons in small teams to provide counseling, encouragement and deeds of mercy to individuals. Working together in this way will provide continuity to the relationships we form—particularly important in a church with the kind of turnover we deal with. The Mercy Committee and deacons will meet together every other month for mutual support, coordination of ministry and prayer.

If you have questions about the new Mercy Committee, please attend the Sunday School series in June, or contact Chris Sicks at the church office or via email at chris.sicks@alexandriapres.org.



Biblical Financial Study Groups at APC by Pam Nilsen, Crown Ministries Leader

You may be familiar with Crown Ministries' study. The study has been enhanced and is now called The Biblical Financial Study for Life Groups. This biblical study is a 10 week, in-depth course that addresses what Scripture teaches about stewardship of money and possessions. Life Group Members have confirmed that marriages are being strengthened and individuals are finding their way out of debt. They are also becoming consistent savers, generous givers, and prudent consumers. Most importantly, people are entering into a closer relationship with Jesus Christ, as they learn to apply His Word.

This last sentence is very meaningful to me. It was during a Crown small group I attended in the Spring of 1999 that, for the first time, I studied and memorized scripture and prayed daily for my co-members. I believe that it was through this discipline which I learned from the Crown study, as well as conviction and repentance of sin in my life, that brought me into a personal relationship with Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior.

I encourage you to consider taking this study if you have not yet, or if it has been awhile. Some of the latest features that enhance this study include:

- *More Practical Application Content*—more content is provided on the topics of insurance, investing, and more.
- *All-New Practical Application Videos*—new videos create

a better life group experience, and additional supporting video content is featured each week.

- *Member Packaging*—a new canvas carrying case conveniently helps move and store life group materials.
- *Life Group Website*—a new support site for life group members and leaders gives instant access to online study tools.
- *Crown Money Map Journey*—the popular Crown Money Map™ has been integrated into each week of the study. These principles can be applied during the 10-week experience, and long after the life group study is over.

Groups meet for two hours every week. Meetings include Scripture memorization and interactive discussions. There are four requirements for life group members:

- Daily prayer for each member of your group.
- Memorize one assigned Scripture verse each week.
- Complete weekly homework assignments, both Bible study and practical application. (approximately two hours of homework per week).
- Attend a minimum of 8 of the 10 classes.

Life Study Groups at APC are now forming for the Summer and Fall sessions. Groups typically are held Sunday evenings from 5-7pm, or a week night from 7-9pm. Please contact Pam Nilsen at crown.nva@cox.net or 703-660-6759 or 703-298-5510 if you are interested in taking the study, or are interested in becoming a co-leader of a group.

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.



STAFF SPOTLIGHT: Leonor Lee, Office Assistant

Leonor Lee grew up in Meadville, Mississippi, the fourth of six children. She earned a Bachelor of Music Degree with an Emphasis in Church Music from the University of Southern Mississippi, which enabled her to serve APC for twelve years as founding Choir Director.

She and her husband, Daniel, have been married for 29 years and they have four children: Susanne Leach, Katherine, Stephen, and Christopher. Susanne and Adam Leach have been gracious to provide the Lees two adorable grandsons: Isaac and Ezra, who call Leonor "Nonna."

Daniel and Leonor joined APC in 1988 when they moved here from New Haven, CT. Bob Schoof was Pastor and the church was meeting in the Campagna Center on South Washington Street in Old Town. At the time, membership was about 25 strong, their girls were 3 years old and 4 months old, and there were only two other children in the church. Dorothy Taft played violin, and Rosemary Morrison served homemade pastries :-~) Leonor was doing her Sonship homework the morning of September 11,

2001 when she heard and felt the impact at the Pentagon from 6 miles away.

Leonor recently joined the APC staff part time as Office Assistant. She enjoys teaching our First Grade Sunday School Class along with Geary Fowler, where they attempt to make scripture vivid and nurture a growing love for God. She also works part time as bookkeeper for her husband's architectural firm.

Leonor enjoys babysitting Isaac and Ezra, back-yard birding, growing orchids and other plants, having an aquarium, taking road trips, camping, singing soprano in APC's Choir, listening to music, and most of all being with family and friends. With an Italian background (her mother was born and raised in Naples, Italy), Leonor likes to cook homemade pizza and speaks Italian. She has experience in floral work and enjoys making an occasional arrangement for our Sanctuary.

She loves her APC family and is saddened when anyone moves away. The Lord has taught her a lot recently, and she is happiest when contributing to the lives of others.



Unchanging Truth...Changing Urban Youth By Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

"Send me I'll go, send me I'll go, send me I'll go, lemme go lemme go!"

These lyrics from Christian rapper Lecrae express the cry of a child pleading with the father to send him into the world to fulfill the great commission. This process of seeking God's favor, or permission, gives Him the glory in drawing us to serve. We do not cause anything to happen by our own efforts; it is the will of the Father that is carried out when we abide in His provision.

Eleven of us have expressed such a petition to our Lord, that we would love to serve again in Newark, NJ from June 20-27th alongside a ministry called "Safe Haven Urban Redemption," which is part of Trinity Reformed Church (RCA). This ministry is committed to breaking the generational curses that are forming the urban youth of today. There are an estimated 2000 at-risk youth within a ten-block radius of the church and they desperately want to reach them with the life changing power of the gospel.

We will be providing pre-summer camp support. Our week will consist of mercy/service projects in the morning, followed by relational ministry to children in the afternoon at their youth center, and fellowship within the team in the evening.

To learn more about the ministry in Newark, please check out their website at www.newarksafehaven.com and please consider supporting one of our upcoming fundraisers—like the car wash on May 23rd.

Most importantly, we covet your prayers for the team God is raising up and for the work He will accomplish in both our own lives and the lives of others.

YTD Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (through April)	\$349,655
	YTD Budget	\$335,660
	Difference	\$ 13,995 (+4%)



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

Volunteerism is crucial to effective ministries in any church. I have been overwhelmed and amazed at how individuals have been involved in ministries here at APC. We break the stereotypical 20/80 rule which says 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Because we have so many volunteers, as I have seen personally with the children's ministry, the work seems distributed well. This makes it fun and exciting for the workers and the children.

The VBS program takes lots of volunteers to pull off successfully. The program design has volunteers responsible for only one job, which is why it takes lots of workers. During the information meeting held in March and over the course of the last four weeks, I have had 44 people volunteer to work VBS this summer. You may be saying to yourself, "WOW! That is a lot of volunteers." Yet, if we have 100 or more children join us, we will need that many people to run a great program.

What impresses me is the number of older elementary children and teens who have volunteered—18 to be exact. The impact these young men and women have on the younger children is amazing. This really demonstrates that we are creating a culture of volunteerism within our church, even with the young ones. I believe children and youth really do see the variety of adults who volunteer in our church, so hats off to all you volunteers for that great example.

The theme for this summer's VBS is **Crocodile Dock! Where Fearless Kids Shine God's Light**. This curriculum is designed to help kids see what God is doing around them. Kids will keep an eye out for "God is action" in their everyday lives—they'll notice the daily demonstrations of His love that are often overlooked. You'll have to wait until the week of VBS week to find out what they are. The dates are June 29th-July 3rd from 9:30am-12:10pm. Registrations will begin on May 3rd. Please pray for the impact that for years to come the VBS experience will have on the children who attend.



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