



## Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ June/July 2011

### Upcoming Dates

#### Corporate Prayer

1st Sat mornings  
3rd Wed evenings

#### Monthly Newcomer Fellowship Time

4th Sunday mornings

#### Central Asia Mission Trip

June 27 - July 6

#### Vacation Bible School

June 27 - July 1

#### PROTAS Newark Mission Trip

July 9-16

#### Camping & Canoeing Trip

August 12-13

#### Japan Mission Trip

September 5-13

#### Choir Retreat

September 16-17

#### Worship Seminar with Skip Ryan

September 18

#### Progressive Dinner

September 24



### What Does It Take?

by Chris Joyce, Executive Director of Ministries

That was the title of a chart-buster 1969 hit (#1 on the US R&B list) by Junior Walker & the All-Stars. There was a sweet sax in the background accentuating the lyrics, along with a signature Motown chorus. The story line is as old as the hills: a man asking his sweetheart what it will take to win her love. Give thanks that we don't serve a God who has a punch-list of projects we need to complete to earn his love. Instead, we get a gift, and from that gift our hearts are turned to him.

One of the ways we acknowledge that gift is through worship. Within that category, corporate worship—where his sons and daughters join together to express thanks, awe, reverence, fealty—is one of the great opportunities we are given to return that love.

What does it take to worship him well? Pastor Tom has given us many illustrations and applications in this year of worship at APC, including our need to prepare our hearts, to enter the throne-room in expectation, to meditate on his beauty.

Good worship also requires a collaborative effort by many, so that 500 souls can cross the threshold at 2405 Russell Road on a typical Sunday into an environment that is conducive to engaging with our King. Said another way, while God does not have a checklist before he will engage

with us, we do. That checklist includes things like planning the service, developing the message, choosing and practicing the music, designing and printing the bulletin and slides, enrolling and scheduling greeters, recruiting and training coffee ministry workers, babysitters, teachers, ushers, drivers...the list goes on.

I recall hearing once that, for every soldier on the front line, you need ten in support. I don't know if that particular ratio is accurate in battle anymore, but I do know the truth of that dependency. It applies here at APC too, as we prepare each week for corporate worship.

Here's one way to think about it: For every person in the pew, there is 1/5 of a person in support. Said another way, for every five worshippers, you need one person playing the behind-the-scenes (and often quite visible) support role. For 500 worshippers, that works out to 100 'enablers.'

If it is always the same 100, then we'd have 20 percent of our flock never being fed. That's why we depend on a ready pool of volunteers to rotate through ministries like opening, nursery, teaching, coffee, children's ministries, communion prep, closing and a long list of other volunteer-dependent ministries. "Many hands (do indeed) make light work."

A visual often helps. This newsletter outlines several ways to "see" APC's dependency on volunteers.



### Children's Chatter

by Leslie Bridge, Director of Children's Ministries

Volunteerism is crucial to having 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 stereo-typical 20/80 rule that says 20% of the people do 80% of the work. Because we have so many volunteers, as I have seen particularly with the children's ministry, the work seems well distributed. This makes it fun and exciting for the workers and the children.

As many of you know, we have nearly 150 children involved in our children's programs from Sunday school, to Children's Church, Explorers and VBS. Each program takes a significant number of workers, especially since my desire is for adults to focus their time and talents into one ministry. It takes 14 adults to teach our seven Sunday school classes. 14 couples are best for Children's Church, so that each couple or sets of people only teach two Sundays each quarter. Explorers needs between 6-8 adults to really connect with the number of children we have attending on Sunday nights. And finally, close to 50

adults and teens make up the VBS team each summer.

It is amazing to see the dedication of each worker and the unique gifts he or she brings to the table to help connect our children to the Lord. What gaps do we need to fill? Currently, we have a need for 2-3 additional Sunday school teachers, another 1-2 couples to help us with leading Children's Church, and two men to help with Explorers. All you need will be provided if you sense the Lord calling you to volunteer.

I have worked with children in every church I have attended since I became a believer (in college). It has been so rewarding and fulfilling to get to know some of the wonderful families where I have attended church, including APC. And since many of us don't have family in the area, what a great opportunity we have to invest in the lives of children who can become like nieces and nephews (or grandchildren) to us. If you would like to know more about how you can be involved, please contact me at [leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org](mailto:leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org) or talk with me in the Fellowship Hall.

2405 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22301 ~ 703-683-3348 (office) ~ 703-683-2392 (fax) ~ [alexandriapres.org](http://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.*

# MORE WAYS TO SERVE!

## Choir Ministry

Since Doug and Gale Manor joined APC as Directors of Music Ministries in 2001, they have witnessed a decade of growth in the choir. The actual numbers of singers may vary each season, but the dedication, musical and spiritual growth of the choir increases every year. They are praying for new members to join them in leading worship on Sunday mornings, typically three Sundays per month, September through June. The choir rehearses mid-September through mid-May on Wednesday evenings from 7:30-9:15pm. *There is a need for all voice parts*, but particularly tenors this year. A highlight for the choir is singing in the Christmas Candlelight Service in December and the Maundy Thursday or Good Friday service during Holy Week. If you are a follower of Christ, have the gift of singing, are 14 years or older, and desire to be a servant leader in worship at APC, please prayerfully consider singing in the choir. If you would like more details concerning this ministry, please refer to the Adult Choir Brochure or contact [gale.manor@verizon.net](mailto:gale.manor@verizon.net). Please be in prayer for the APC choir ministry as they rehearse and minister, that they would be dependent on Him in all their efforts and sing only for His glory.

## Coffee Ministry

It's humbling to say the least... serving others so they can enjoy fellowship time. It is also gratifying when folks are always so appreciative. But never in my wildest dreams did I imagine that someone was praying every day for a year about coming to our church and having a cup of coffee. So was the case for Bob from Congo who held on to the promises of God when the Lord sent Chris Sicks and Guy Seshaka to visit Bob in prison. He was trusting in the Lord and looked forward to drinking a cup of coffee with his new church family. Please consider joining the team of workers that brews coffee and serves snacks so that we can all fellowship and be refreshed each Sunday. Then please contact [leonor.lee@alexandriapres.org](mailto:leonor.lee@alexandriapres.org) and let her know you are among *the 17 needed volunteers* that God is sending. Thank you.

## Communion Setup

Are you interested in preparing the elements for APC's monthly celebration of the Lord's Table? We need *at least three new volunteers* for this ministry. The time requirement is once a month—you would need to be at the church by 7:30am on communion Sundays (the second Sunday of each month). All the elements are on hand, and your role is to prepare them for service. If interested, contact [chris.joyce@alexandriapres.org](mailto:chris.joyce@alexandriapres.org).

## Sunday Morning Openers

Before we gather to worship each Sunday morning, 2405 Russell Road needs to be brought to life—unlocked, lights and air on, and prepared to receive 400-500 people. If you are an early riser (at least some of the time), then consider joining the APC Openers team. Your time commitment will be limited, and it will have a positive impact on our worshipping well each week. Interested? Contact [justin.m.morgan@gmail.com](mailto:justin.m.morgan@gmail.com).

## Greeters

Greeting at the doors of the church may not seem like an extremely important ministry, but try to remember what it was like for you when you were new. Visiting churches can be overwhelming and intimidating. Do you recall how you felt as you were walking toward a church where you didn't know anyone? Do you remember being greeted with a smile at the door, or did someone say hello to you after worship? Hopefully that happened here. Now, you have the opportunity to welcome people just as warmly. And it will help you keep up with all the new folks around here! Please give some consideration to joining the greeting team, and contact [carrie.ragan@alexandriapres.org](mailto:carrie.ragan@alexandriapres.org) if you have questions.

## Hospitality

The definition of hospitality is "the friendly reception and treatment of guests or strangers, and the quality or disposition of receiving and treating guests and strangers in a warm, friendly, generous way." Hopefully you have benefited from the hospitality of many here at APC. We believe that one way we glorify God is through hospitality. The hospitality ministry at APC plans numerous events throughout the year, such as the Easter breakfast, the choir retreat weekend, Thanksgiving dessert reception and the Christmas Candlelight Service reception. Obviously, this isn't all of the events at APC, but these are the ones that the hospitality ministry is in charge of covering. Many of the other events such as pancake brunches, extended fellowships and the APC picnic are run by the APC Social Committee. And of course, we all love the hospitality that the APC Coffee Ministry provides for us each and every week. All of these areas of hospitality need quite a few volunteers to help make everything a success. *We would like to establish a group of 10 people that we know we can call on and then we would supplement with additional sign-up volunteers for specific large events.* If you feel you would like to use your talents to help in the APC Hospitality ministry, please contact [vicki.wolfe@alexandriapres.org](mailto:vicki.wolfe@alexandriapres.org)

## Nursery

The APC Nursery is an integral part of Sunday mornings for all of us. Not only is it a much needed breath of air for the parents, but we all appreciate minimal disruption during worship. No matter your level of experience with children, your service in the nursery is a wonderful way to further plug in and get some additional fellowship time. Each quarter it is unavoidable that we will lose a few volunteers due to the natural churn of people at APC. We now have one permanent babysitter in each nursery room on Sunday mornings, partly because the number of volunteers does not meet the staffing needs of the nursery, and partly so that the children can recognize a familiar face. We currently have need for *23 additional volunteers*. If you would be willing to serve the APC family through childcare starting in the October-December 2011 quarter, please contact [susanne.leach@alexandriapres.org](mailto:susanne.leach@alexandriapres.org) for more information.

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*"We have different gifts, according to the grace given us. If a man's gift is prophesying, let him use it in proportion to his faith. If it is serving, let him serve; if it is teaching, let him teach; if it is encouraging, let him encourage; if it is contributing to the needs of others, let him give generously; if it is leadership, let him govern diligently; if it is showing mercy, let him do it cheerfully. Romans 12:6-8.*

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Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (5/31)	\$560,796
	YTD Budget	\$534,808
	Difference	\$ 25,988 (+5%)

## 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