



## Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ May 2011

### Upcoming Dates

#### Corporate Prayer

1st Sat mornings  
3rd Wed evenings

#### Monthly Newcomer Fellowship Time

4th Sunday mornings

#### Newcomers' Dinner

May 7

#### 25th Anniversary Recognition

May 8

#### Ladies Spring Tea

May 15

#### Men's Retreat

May 20-22

#### Inquirer's Class

June 3-4

#### 25th Anniv. Dinner

June 5

#### Battlefield Tour

June 11

#### Nationals Baseball

June 18

#### Central Asia Mission Trip

June 26 - July 6

#### Vacation Bible School

June 27 - July 1



### Worship is a Process

by Chris Joyce, Executive Director of Ministries

In this year of worship, many of us have been reading Skip Ryan's *Worship, Beholding the Beauty of the Lord*. FYI, there are plenty of copies available at the APC Book Table, if this article sparks your interest. Skip titles his second appendix "Making the Most of Worship," and he lists 14 suggestions on how to accomplish that. While I'm not going to parrot all of them below, here's a sampling of some of Skip's ideas, liberally sprinkled with my own paraphrasing (and some added thoughts).

1. *Worship is a process, not just an event.* Skip says this a bit differently, but the point he makes is that we cannot expect to arrive in the parking lot at 8:45am Sunday morning ready to worship unless we have been worshipping our Lord at points throughout the week. "Corporate worship grows out of personal worship."

2. *We need to pay attention to what we are paying attention to.* We can all identify with the need to pay attention, but we also need to pay attention to what we are paying attention to. Is my attention drawn to the beauty of God? To his transcendence? To his presence? Or am I paying inordinate attention to the things that I personally find distracting, e.g., "That's not my favorite praise song," or "Why can't that child be quieter?" God has blessed us with creative minds, and our challenge is often to keep our

focus on the main event.

3. *Worship occurs throughout the service.* We are each prone to have favorite parts of the service and view some other elements as less critical, e.g. "The sermon's the main event...everything else is prep for that" or "We say worship starts at 8:50am, but the prelude is really a ten minute buffer of grace for me to get in and settled." This last point might sound legalistic, but view it more as being on time for an audience with the King.

4. *Anticipate the unexpected.* Satan loves to get in the way of good worship. Expect him to throw all sorts of obstacles in the way—traffic, tension, distraction—so when he does try to insert himself, recognize it and shove him out of the way.

5. *Expect an impact.* Good worship changes us, by changing our hearts. Recall APC's mission statement (see the front of the bulletin)—we anticipate our hearts changing, thereby changing our lives.

We're blessed to have Skip coming in September to share his teaching firsthand. Make sure you save the date—Sunday, September 18th. Skip will deliver the sermon, teach during the Sunday School hour, and also be with us Sunday night from 5:00-7:00pm.



### A Timely Pit Stop, or Why You Should Come on the Men's Retreat

by Elder Lee Beckham

A small celebration that accompanied my college graduation was going to the Indianapolis 500 two days later. And then having to go back a week later after the race was postponed for rain – but I digress. Our tickets were directly opposite the pits, and watching the coordinated, intricate actions that made up a pit stop was a fascinating part of seeing the race. As the race wore on, the pit stops became part of strategy among the leaders. No one in contention for the win wanted to take a chance on running out of fuel or having a blowout on the final lap. Getting into the pits at the right time could easily be the difference between taking the checkered flag or being an also-ran.

The Men's Retreat Committee is working to make our retreat a timely pit stop for APC men. Whether life for you is running smoothly like a well-tuned Formula 1 racer, or you find yourself struggling along and losing ground like a stock car with a blown engine, we hope our retreat will provide what you need to keep on track or get back in the race. Like previous retreats, we believe this time away

together will be refreshing and revitalizing.

The theme for the retreat is "Moving to Maturity: Seeing Ourselves, Seeing God." The components of our "pit stop": An extended time of fellowship designed to provide building blocks for genuine relationships; team-building and free-time activities designed to drain away stress; sound biblical teaching to help you apply the Gospel to your current life situation; and a beautiful setting in the foothills of the Blue Ridge mountains to remind you of God's presence.



APC MEN'S RETREAT  
*yes, you're going...*

We'll be getting away to Highland Retreat in Bergton, Virginia, for two nights over the weekend of May 20-22. A Saturday night only option is also being offered. The cost is \$95 (\$65 for the one-night option). Scholarships are available. Rides will be coordinated for anyone interested.

Come join us—you'll be glad you did. You can sign up at the Information Booth, or contact me directly at [lee.beckham@gmail.com](mailto:lee.beckham@gmail.com).

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*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.*



**All of Jesus in All of Me—My Life Filled with His Life**  
by Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

Why actually GO on a mission trip? I mean, we could raise a bunch of money and then just send a check to the church we want to bless, right? While some are called to send, some are called to go. Jesus spent himself completely to restore relationship between the Father and us, so we desire to spend ourselves in relationship with urban youth so that they might know unchanging truth.

My desire for each student is centered around one heart-transforming goal: “My responsibility is availability to Jesus Christ. To be who He is in terms of who I am, 24 hours a day, one day at a time.” -Major Ian Thomas

Through hard work and joyful spirits that are available, we desire to communicate the love of Jesus this summer as we tell the next generation in Newark, NJ about the wonders of God. We will experience the purposes of God in difficult situations, learn to share stories of His power through our lives to others, and place our trust in Him to meet our every need as we serve!

July 9-16th, will be our third time partnering with “Safe Haven Urban Redemption” which is part of Trinity Reformed Church (RCA) in Newark, New Jersey ([www.safenewark.com](http://www.safenewark.com)). Their vision is to make right what has been broken in Newark by educating, equipping, and empowering the next generation. We will be providing support for week #6 of their summer camp. Our days will consist of mercy/service projects in the morning, followed by relational ministry to children in the afternoon at their youth center, and fellowship with the team in the evening.

Pray for lives to be transformed during this week in Newark, but also that our teens would experience a daily dependence on Jesus that persists for a lifetime.



**Staff Spotlight: Carrie Ragan, Assistant to the Pastor**

I was raised in Tennessee and grew up surrounded by the beauty of the Appalachian Mountains. Although I was raised in TN, I am an Auburn fan to the core. I graduated from Auburn in 2004 with a degree in nursing. For most of my nursing career, I was a Neonatal ICU travel nurse. Children’s National in downtown Washington, D.C. is one of the many different places I have worked.

After getting married to Field in September of last year, I moved up to DC permanently. Having felt that God was leading me to join the staff at APC, I have put nursing on hold. It has been such a joy to work for APC, but most of all it is a joy to watch the Lord at work in the heart of APC. We serve a wonderful God and everyday I am learning more of His love and faithfulness to His people.



**Children’s Chatter**  
by Leslie Bridge, Director of Children’s Ministries

Vacation Bible School is just around the corner, which brings a smile to my face every time I think about it. The dates are June 27th – July 1st from 9:30am-12:10pm. **PandaMania, Where God is Wild About You!**, is the theme. Each day the children will learn one important Bible Point. PandaMania focuses on one key Biblical concept and is reinforced daily through Bible stories, Bible verses, songs and hands-on activities that help kids know more about God and His Word—the Bible. Kids will learn that God’s Word is true, comforting, surprising, and life-changing and for everyone.

Not every child learns the same way, which is why this VBS is so successful and fun. Kids learn the way they learn best. PandaMania offers seven daily stations to meet the needs of all kinds of learners. Leaders at each of the stations ask meaningful, thought-provoking questions to think about and apply the Bible point. Every child will come away from VBS remembering the Bible point because of the way they interact with God’s Word throughout the day. It is always a great joy for me when I hear stories of how the children have applied the truths they have learned in their life situations, often quoting a daily Bible point word for word.

This summer’s VBS has two other facets to it. We will be working with Casa Chirilagua again and hope to see at least 25 of their children involved in this great outreach. I have also been working with the Central Asia mission team to plan a modified PandaMania while they are in country. It is so fun to think about the global impact that VBS will have this year. Please pray for us and for those going to Central Asia that God would use His Word mightily to change the hearts of the children who attend. The gospel message is presented clearly and relevantly to the children during the program.

If you would like more information on what goes on at VBS or would like to find out how you might be a volunteer, please contact me at [leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org](mailto:leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org) or at 703-538-2594. Each volunteer does one job and loves what they do. It is an exciting adventure to witness.

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (4/30)	\$445,848
	YTD Budget	\$410,192
	Difference	\$ 35,656 (+9%)



**Suggestions for Your Summer Reading List**

As we head into the warm and relaxing days of summer, here are some suggestions for your summer reading list:

**Bonhoeffer: Pastor, Martyr, Prophet, Spy** by Eric Metaxas. A new biography just out. It’s a powerful story of faith in action.

**The Cost of Discipleship** by Dietrich Bonhoeffer. The classic by this German pastor, first released in 1937.

**Change Your Heart Change Your Life** by Dr. Gary Smalley. Smalley’s thesis is “your beliefs determine your level of happiness.” He provides many practical tools which, using God’s word as the catalyst, change our hearts (and minds) to be more Christ-like.

**Worship: Beholding the Beauty of the Lord** by Joseph “Skip” Ryan. A must read during our year of worship here at APC.

**APC 25TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION:**

Recognition and Cake — May 8  
Celebration Dinner — June 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