



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ♦ March 2009

Upcoming Dates

Daylight Savings Time Ends
March 8

Playground Clean-up
March 14

APC Jazz Dinner
March 21

Palm Sunday
April 5

Maundy Thursday
April 9

Easter Sunday Joint Service
April 12

National's Game
May 2

TableTalk Dinners
May 9

Vacation Bible School
June 29 - July 3



Mind if I Join You? by Elder Jeremy Root

"Mind if I join you?" For CFG leader and visitor alike, this question can often be the toughest hurdle to overcome. For the First-Timer, you're walking up to a stranger's front door, knocking, and hoping to see a welcoming smile or a familiar face. For the leader, you open the door and may think, "Who is this person?" or, if you've been meeting together for a long time, "How will this new person affect our group dynamic?" The Visitor and the Leader face the same challenge: Uncertainty.

There are many ways to describe small groups in a church setting. Some churches call them "cell groups", "discipleship groups", "care groups", or simply "fellowship groups." These names often reflect that church's perceived function of the group. At APC, we call our groups "Covenant Fellowship Groups" or CFG's. The "Covenant" portion of the name draws primarily on our reformed tradition's emphasis on covenant theology; in a nutshell, that we are the promised spiritual children of Abraham due to the 'new covenant in Christ's blood.' The practical effect is that this new covenant transforms our ordinary human friendships into true fellowship grounded in a common Savior. Though unrelated by blood, we have become brothers and sisters in the same spiritual family.

Why is this important? It means that every CFG, regardless of the age, gender, or life-stage of its members, is grounded in the same Gospel story. We're all in the same family, whether a first-time visitor or veteran CFG leader. While some groups may have more singles than marrieds, or women than men, APC has intentionally tried to avoid segregating our congregation into life stages. All CFG's should be welcoming. There is simply too much that can be learned from the varied testimonies of our family members!

APC has always had a large percentage of people who have attended the church for less than two years, but even the "old-timers" have noticed a large influx of new faces. If you're new to APC, we urge you to join one of our fifteen CFG's. This is one of the best ways to meet other believers and grow with them in your knowledge of Christ. But to those of you who lead or attend a CFG, please be the first to meet these new family members and invite them into your CFG home.

Whether you are a visitor or a long-time CFG veteran, don't be afraid to knock on the door or to extend an invitation. You already share the most important thing in common.

*Note: If you are interested in joining a CFG, or if you're interested in leading or hosting, please contact Jeremy Root (703-644-3153; jeremy.root@verizon.net) for more details.



Softball Anyone? by Elder Gary McGee

APC will field three (3) co-ed teams in the Alexandria Church Softball League (12 teams representing 8 churches) this season. Each team will play 11 games, with a single elimination tournament at season's end. The game schedule is one game each week, either Monday or Thursday evening, with 3 game times--6:45, 8:00 and 9:15pm. A game goes 4 innings or 70 minutes, whichever comes first. There are some special rules that speed up play, like each team batting 10 players every inning rather than changing sides after 3 outs. The full set of special rules is posted on the APC website.

Anyone 12 years or older is eligible. Each team has to field at least 3 players that are either (a) women, (b) under age

16 or (c) over 64. Our team rosters typically total 16-18 players. All games are played at Four Mile Run Field, located at the end of Mt. Vernon Avenue next to Four Mile Run Creek (about a mile from APC).

The season begins April 13th and should complete by the end of June, depending on how many rain out reschedules are required. There should be one or two practices before the season kicks off. The cost is a \$20 player fee. Sign-ups will continue through March 8th in the Fellowship Hall. See Gary McGee with any questions.

This is a terrific time of fellowship and fun and a chance to meet other APCers, as well as folks from other churches in our city.



APC Team #3

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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.



Fake Snow ~ Fake Hollywood

By Adam LeRoy

As I drove the bus to the ski resort over the PROTAS winter retreat weekend, I heard this question over and over again, "Where is the snow?" Harrisonburg, VA is no Aspen, CO or Stowe, VT, so creating a winter wonderland requires thinking outside of the box.

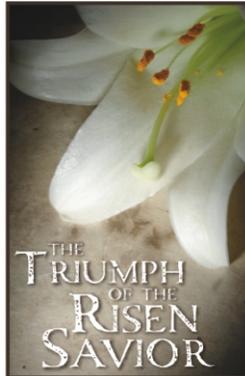
Hollywood takes a similar approach to fulfilling man's unquenched desire to be entertained while helping us escape our current "conditions". Most of us love to check out of reality and be drawn into unknown worlds of sci-fi adventures, dream of superhuman powers never before seen, and experience real life dramas that are free from the mundane tasks of life that get in the way of perfect Hollywood-style bliss... I mean, come on, when was the last time you saw a movie where your favorite character took the time to do their laundry or clean up their dishes after dinner?

So what does God think of the arts? Why did God commission the artist Bezalel to point the Israelites to Himself? Why did Jesus love teaching us through storytelling? We dove into those questions and tried to wrap our hands around the fact that humans are made in the image of the "Creator" and therefore it is in our nature to be drawn to and participate in "creating" awesome things. Christians should feel called to engage our culture through the lens of truth that has been revealed to us. Our dying world senses a need to be regenerated and Christians can be salt and light in telling great redemptive stories that give hope and share truth in ways that bring glory to our Creator and Savior. By applying Nancy Pearcey's 3-part worldview training (Creation/Fall/Redemption), we can analyze the culture God has placed us in and respond in such a way that others might see the power of Jesus' transformational work in our lives.

"That the arts can be corrupt does not mean that Christians should abandon them. On the contrary, the corruption of the arts means that Christians dare not abandon them any longer."
Gene Edward Veith

What is Maundy Thursday?

The Maundy Thursday and Christmas Candlelight services are APC's two special services each year. The term Maundy comes from the Latin word *mandatum* (from which we get our English word *mandate*), from a verb that means "to give," "to entrust," or "to order." The term is usually translated "commandment," from John's account of this Thursday night. According to the Fourth Gospel, as Jesus and the disciples were eating their final meal together before Jesus' arrest, he washed the disciples' feet to illustrate humility and the spirit of servanthood. After they had finished the meal, as they walked into the night toward Gethsemane, Jesus taught his disciples a "new" commandment that was not really new: "A new commandment I give to you, that you love one another..." (see *John 13:34-35*)



PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP
April 5–8:50 a.m.
MAUNDY THURSDAY SERVICE
April 9–7:30 p.m. (Prelude at 7:15 p.m.)
EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE
April 12–7:30 a.m. at Market Square, Old Town
EASTER BREAKFAST
April 12–8:30 a.m.
EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
April 12–10:00 a.m.
NURSERY IS PROVIDED FOR ALL EVENTS.



Children's Chatter by Leslie Bridge

It seems like it is never too early to talk about VBS. I have been talking about it and looking at curriculum for a couple of months now. Let's just say I think we all will be impressed and encouraged by how good it is this year. The theme 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 in 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.

Children love the interactive curriculum which involves moving around the church and engaging in some incredible learning. Each

day the children will rotate through 4 stations to learn the point of the day like **God does what He says He'll do**. There will also be daily challenges to do at home to help kids remember the key Bible Truth from that day, so the kids really remember these truths for a long time. This past Sunday night at Explorers, we were talking about how God helps us in times of trouble. A couple of times, the kids blurted out, "**Jesus gives us the power to be brave.**" That was one of the Bible points from last summer's VBS. We as leaders were so encouraged the kids were able to make an application of something they learned to a current situation.

Last summer close to 80 children attended VBS and over 25 came from outside our church. It was so great to see your neighbor children come with your kids last summer. It looks like we could have a full house this year with close to 100 kids. Would you prayerfully consider bringing a few of your neighborhood children when you bring yours to Vacation Bible School? Also, if God is leading you to be a volunteer in this fun, fantastic, and focused VBS, please contact me.

APC Giving at a Glance

YTD Giving (through February)	\$155,996
YTD Budget	\$155,808
Difference	\$ 188

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