



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ February 2013

Upcoming Dates

**PROTAS
Winter Retreat**
February 15-18

Mens' Breakfast
February 23

**Extended
Fellowship**
February 24

Game Night
March 2

Womens' Retreat
March 8-10

**Maundy Thursday
Service**
March 28

**Second Annual
Easter Egg Hunt**
March 30

Easter
March 31

Inquirers Class
May 31-June 1



Never Was Love Like Thine by Gale Manor

During Holy Week, APC will gather to worship on Palm Sunday, Maundy Thursday and Easter. We hope you will attend all of these special services to absorb the complete story of Christ's walk to Calvary and His glorious resurrection. Many have found they miss the full impact and profound beauty of Easter unless they first worship the King of Kings on Palm Sunday, then meditate on our Savior's death on Maundy Thursday.

Our Maundy Thursday service, called "Never Was Love Like Thine," begins with the Last Supper and continues through Christ's suffering and arrest in the garden, ending with Christ's death on the cross. This year's scripture readings come from the book of John. These readings follow the beloved disciple's focus on Christ's sacrificial love for us. Dwight Gustafson (my father) wrote a new setting of the hymn, "My Song Is Love Unknown" specifically for the APC adult choir. This musical offering will be presented for the first time that evening. At our unique service, the adult choir will set a worshipful, contemplative tone, leading us to discover the deep love and sacrifice of our Lord in new and fresh ways. The youth choir, hand chimes and other instruments will also lead us in worship. Pastor Tom will direct our hearts and minds with his meditation on the cross. We'll sing hymns, songs and read scripture together, praising God for His amazing, free gift given at such a great cost.

When Easter morning arrives, we'll be ready to rejoice in Market Square in Old Town, Alexandria at our annual sunrise service at 7am to proclaim to a needy city and world that Jesus lives. At 8:50am we'll join together at APC with the choirs, hand chimes and praise team to worship as a family. We hope you can join us as we sing praises to our "Glorious, Risen Christ."



Connect Cancer Support Group by Sara Sicks

Word of mouth is an incredible vehicle for growth in business and also in ministry. With that in mind, I invite you to tell others about APC's cancer support group, *Connect*.

Our desire is to foster an encouraging community for those who are either currently battling cancer or are survivors, and to follow and know Jesus in all phases of that journey.

We were so excited when one of our current members, Tammy, came to us after hearing about the ministry from a mutual friend. We pray others will come through word of mouth. If the Lord brings it to your heart to share about our group with a friend, we desire to welcome anyone in the DC area who has cancer in their story. *Connect* meets monthly during the Sunday school hour. Those interested in attending are welcome to call me anytime at 703-625-0457 or e-mail at sarasicks@gmail.com.



A Generation Rising Up... by Adam LeRoy

One of the treasures of youth ministry is working with students in preparation for mission work. It starts slow in December with an interest meeting and culminates in the trip in July with potential for lasting impact on their lives forever. This year we are preparing for a domestic trip in partnership with New City Fellowship of Atlantic City PCA Church.

In this year of discerning God's will, I thought the body of Christ would be encouraged to catch a glimpse of the ways God is revealing His will to these students. Below are three teens' responses on their mission trip application when asked to give testimony to the power of Christ in their life recently:

One student reflected, "I realized that I was acting as if God had no control over my life and that I did not trust or care about His will. After that, I prayed for God to give me a peace and a heart to trust Him more, in spite of the unknown... As it says in John 14:27, 'God has given me a peace and that my heart does not need to be troubled or afraid.' No matter what happens, I am blessedly assured that God's will is perfect..."

Another referred to lessons learned after going through hard and good times the past year, "Through all of this, I have managed to keep a positive attitude. I could not have done this without Christ. Specifically 1 Thessalonians 5:16-19 has helped me know that through everything, it is His will that is done."

Lastly, a student reflected on their growing faith in God since our mission trip to Costa Rica last summer, "I saw the verse 1 Timothy 4:12, 'Do not let anyone look down on you because you are young, but set an example for the believers in speech, in life, in love, in faith and in purity.' My new favorite passage taught me a lot about what I did with PROTAS, and how I should act while on a mission, a service project, or in everyday life."

What a joy to see these teens walk by faith and lean into His sufficiency. I am spurred on by their testimonies and I trust that the Lord will use their trials and adversity to communicate His gospel of grace and mercy to others as we engage in cross cultural urban ministry this summer. Please pray for us as we prepare to love and serve Atlantic City in a way that reflects the perfect love we have received in Christ Jesus!

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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.



Say That Again? by Elder Chris Joyce

Imagine yourself in the Fellowship Hall next Sunday, immediately following worship, enjoying a cup of coffee and cookie while conversing with a friend who knows you well. One who has earned the right to speak into your life. You hear the following:

"You're short on ears and long on mouth."

What? Did I hear that right?

"Excuse me," you stutter, crumbs falling from your lips, your hand squeezing that cookie like a vise.

"John Wayne," your friend responds.

"Huh?"

"John Wayne—it's a quote from the Duke," he smiles.

Now you're fully tuned into that conversation, 100 percent engaged, hanging on every word, watching for any non-verbal signal...willing yourself to listen closely.

"Just what are you trying to tell me?" Your feet are planted now, every nerve ending alive and buzzing. *Have we ever had a fist-fight in the Fellowship Hall?* your inner voice wonders.

"There's a lot of difference between listening and hearing."

Okay...keep going, you're thinking... what's the point?

"G.K. Chesterton," your so-called friend adds, responding to your blank stare.

"What's he got to do with it?" You feel the flush in your face. Embarrassed, you look around to see if anyone else has noticed.

"It's one of his quotes. You know, how we can hear a whole conversation—it's one of the five senses, after all—but not really be listening? I read somewhere that we spend 50 percent more time hearing than speaking, but I bet I'm only really listening for a fraction of that."

Your friend stops, looking intently into your eyes.

"Are you saying I'm not listening to you? Is that your point?"

"What?" Their surprise seems genuine.

"I thought maybe you were trying to tell me something...you know... that I'm not listening to you," you answer, sheepishly.

"No...I was really thinking about me. Truth be told, I realize there's a lot of our conversation on Sundays that goes right past me. I'm distracted. I hear you, but I don't listen. I want to apologize. I guess it just took me a while to get it out."

You swallow that big knot in your throat. "That's okay. No worries."

As you excuse yourself to refill your coffee, you're convicted.

The Holy Spirit leans in close and whispers in your ear: "Let the one who has ears, listen..."



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

There is an illusion of more and more children in our church these days. I have a feeling it is more than an illusion. We continue to see new families come into the church, along with new babies arriving regularly. As a result, I am more and more challenged to meet the needs of a growing church.

Teaching our children about the Christian faith and about a relationship with Jesus is challenging to say the least. It is easy to believe that if they are enrolled in Sunday School, go to church and attend other programs like Explorers, they will surely get all they need. But it is only part of their development. There is so much more they learn by being around believers, having teens and adults interact with them. I consider it a wonderful privilege to be involved in teaching the APC children about our faith and our Savior.

Teaching requires intentionality. It is important to have a vision for children's growth, to have a plan and to be sensitive to how the Spirit is working in a child's life. These are not things that come automatically to any of us, they are skills we work at and pray for. I am grateful for the resources that are available that help me give our volunteers what they need to do an excellent job in providing Biblical instruction to our children. God has given these volunteers many of the skills needed to teach and a sensitivity that connects the message with each child's heart.

I am so grateful for those who invest in the lives of these little ones. Please pray for the volunteers who serve the children of APC. The support of the congregation is key as they minister to the children. Please take the time to thank those who teach our children. It means so much.



Staff Spotlight: Elder Tim Petrie, Pastoral Intern

I am a native upstate New Yorker. I guess I can still say I've lived there most of my life—though I won't be able to say that much longer. I enjoy most things outdoors, especially if it includes a frisbee or a pack or a canoe and my camera.

In college I felt the Lord moving me toward ministry. After graduation, I spent 4½ years with Youth for Christ before attending Covenant Seminary. In 2001 I graduated with an M.Div. and worked with youth at a church in Georgia before coming to serve in a similar capacity at APC from 2002-2004.

After working through a tough period of my life, with the help of the community I experienced at APC, I stood for election as a deacon and served three years in that capacity. This last fall, I began a term as an elder. I'm also excited to be starting a pastoral internship at APC. This stemmed from a conversation with Pastor Tom a few months ago about my desire to explore returning to full time ministry.

Even with all this going on I still have some time left to fix your broken plumbing, patch some drywall, or finish that basement...

UPCOMING MEN'S & WOMEN'S EVENTS

Men's Breakfast—February 23, 8:15am by Josh Diack, Director of Congregational Life

T.S. Eliot once said, "For last year's words belong to last year's language, and next year's words await another voice." This New Year, 2013, brings with it new words and new voices. Last year's theme at APC focused on what it looks like to be a community that is Christian. This year, our theme will center around discerning God's will for our lives. Our prayer is that God would open our eyes to see Him in new ways, so that as followers of Christ, we might grow in our ability to understand His will. A word that is commonly used in this subject of discernment is "calling." The word primarily asks the question, "What are we as Christians called to do?" It's an important question—one that needs our serious focus and attention. In response to this, we are glad to welcome Dr. Vernon Grose to speak at our upcoming men's breakfast, Saturday, February 23rd at 8:15am. Dr. Grose will speak on the subject of integrating faith and vocation, through the lens of his 50 years experience as a world-renowned expert in science. Men, I encourage you to participate in this time of fellowship and encouragement! Please sign up in the Fellowship today.

Women's Retreat—March 8-10, Osprey Point Retreat Center by Meggie Triggs, Communications Manager

Discerning God's Will, Connecting with Each Other. That's the vision and desire for the Women's retreat coming up next month. We're planning a restful weekend of worship and fellowship on the serene shores of the Chesapeake Bay. During our worship times throughout the weekend, seven APC women will share how God has worked his "good, pleasing and perfect will" in their lives. Interwoven with our times of worship will be sweet time for fellowship, rest and fun. Osprey Point is the perfect getaway with beautiful views of the Chesapeake Bay. Under one roof, the center feels like a Bed & Breakfast and offers hotel-style rooms, a comfortable dining room, cozy seating areas and a large meeting space. The entire building will be for us! In addition, our meals on Saturday and Sunday will be prepared by Osprey Point's own executive chef. Please visit the sign-up table or contact me at meggie.triggs@alexandriapres.org for more information or to sign up.

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (01/31)	\$ 87,874
	YTD Budget	\$ 98,291
	Difference	\$ 10,417 (-11%)

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