



## Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ June 2013

### Upcoming Dates

**PROTAS Mission Trip Fundraiser Dinner**  
June 15

**KOINONIA**  
June 18

**Officer Interest Meetings**  
June 18, July 15

**Vacation Bible School**  
June 24-28

**Baptism**  
July 21

**PROTAS Summer Mission Trip**  
July 27-August 3

**Inquirers Class**  
October 4-5

**All-Church Retreat**  
May 16-18, 2014



### Looking for Summer reading? by Aaron Renenger

The joys of summertime: swimming pools, backyard barbecues, beaches, ice cream, and... books. That's right, as you choose which swim suits to pack for your summer vacation, you also may need to choose what to read during leisure or travel time. Here are a few recommendations:

1. *Discovering God's Will* by Sinclair Ferguson. In this year at APC of "Discerning God's Will," this classic has much to say on the subject. If you are like me, understanding God's will for your life is sometimes an exercise in frustration. I yearn to seek His guidance for life decisions, but my impatience, uncertainty or pride often seem to get in the way of hearing Him. Ferguson opens by reminding us of the *Westminster Shorter Catechism's* first two tenets: that man's chief end is to glorify God and that His Word is the only rule to direct us in that endeavor. Through an exploration of Paul's letters, the author then poses a series of questions Christians should consider in unfolding God's guidance. Ferguson also tackles specific subjects such as career and marriage, before exhorting the reader to be patient and trust in God's perfect timing—a lesson I found particularly helpful in dealing with my own challenges in discerning his will.

2. *The Meaning of Marriage* by Tim Keller. Centered around Ephesians 5 and based on his sermon series, Keller explores with characteristic depth and insight core concepts of Christian marriage: submission, commitment, fellowship, love, forgiveness and sex.

In the process, he demonstrates that the biblical notion of marriage is profoundly at odds with cultural views and norms: "In sharp contrast with our culture," Keller writes, "the Bible teaches that the essence of marriage is a sacrificial commitment to the good of the other." While I found this book to have tremendous insight and application to my own marriage, it should be noted that this book is not just for those who are married. It contains wonderful insights for those who are dating and specifically addresses those God has called to singleness.

3. *Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky. No summer reading list could be complete without a great novel. J.I. Packer has described Dostoyevsky as "both the greatest novelist, as such, and the greatest Christian storyteller, in particular, of all time." *Crime and Punishment* is the story of Raskolnikov, an intellectual who has decided to reject God, and who carries out a calculated murder as an expression of his freedom. The story follows him through mental anguish and his attempt to escape his conscience and eventual acceptance of the Gospel. It is a story of rebellion and of grace. If you have read this book in your youth, consider revisiting it with fresh eyes. It is a moving, deeply insightful, exploration of the human condition and our need for Christ!

4. *Valley of Vision* from Banner of Truth Publishing. This collection of Puritan Prayers is an excellent source of inspiration for your devotional time. Though written hundreds of years ago, the sentiment in the poems is as fresh today as the day they were written. These poems have both enhanced my understanding of the Gospel and softened my heart.

### Save the Date!

### All-Church Retreat—May 16-18, 2014

Mark your calendars for a weekend of connecting and having fun with the APC community.



### Sing Joyfully to the Lord by Trevor Manor, Music Assistant

*Shout for joy in the LORD, O you righteous... Sing to him a new song; play skillfully on the strings, with loud shouts. For the word of the LORD is upright, and all his work is done in faithfulness.—Psalm 33:1-4*

I remember playing the piano at a church when I was young, where each of the music stands on the stage had this verse from the Psalms taped to them, with two words underlined: "play skillfully"! Since the Old Testament days of worship in the Temple, God has required high standards for music-making during worship, as this Psalm attests to. But lest we get too caught up in musical performance, he follows with the instruction that applies to the average congregant, "shout for joy," revealing an emphasis on enthusiasm over immaculate precision or training. While never demanding His people be singers of professional caliber, God does require everyone to "shout for joy," or as the NIV translates it, to "sing joyfully."

So, while "skillful" music-making reveals that the quality of external praise in our worship is important, "joyful" singing reveals we must not forget the internal music of the heart. The occasional pedagogical instructions like "play skillfully" are not nearly as common in the Bible as the exhortation to give our musical all to God, regardless of the quality of sound we produce: "I will praise You, O Lord, with my whole heart; I will tell of all Your marvelous works" (Psalm 9:1). We should seek to honor His ears rather than our own or the ears of others. May APC be a place of exuberant joy as we sing and make music to the King of Kings.

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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.*



## Staff Spotlight: Meggie Triggs, Communications Manager

Born and raised in Zeeland, Michigan, I am a Dutch Michigander through and through, complete with wooden shoes. After graduating from Taylor University in Indiana, I left the “mitten” behind and came to Washington, DC to work as a Congressional aide in the House of Representatives. I became a member at APC soon after moving to the area. Although I grew up in a Christian family and community, I’ve learned the most about my adoption and Christ’s love at APC. My husband, Andrew, and I met at APC in 2009 at the Inquirers’ Class and were married last year. We enjoy making meals for friends and are a part of the hospitality team at church.

Almost a year ago, I came to work at APC as Communications Manager. If you don’t find me working in the office or singing on Sunday mornings, I’m likely riding my bike or running in the neighborhood.



## God’s Partnership Provision by Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

When our previous domestic mission site in Newark closed its doors, I didn’t know where God would lead us. The teens expressed two desires in our next partnership: disaster relief and urban children’s ministry. A small group visited Atlantic City in March and we knew God had met both our desires!

Thirteen teenagers and four adults—our largest domestic trip ever—are preparing to pour themselves out on behalf of the city this summer, July 27-August 3. This will be our first time partnering with New City Atlantic City Church (PCA, [www.newcityac.org](http://www.newcityac.org)) via their summer urban ministry team program run by Hope For Atlantic City ([www.hope4ac.org](http://www.hope4ac.org)). Our daily schedule will consist of mercy/service projects related to Hurricane Sandy recovery in the morning, children’s Bible clubs within neighborhoods in the evenings, and fellowship/debriefing before we crash each night.

Would you consider financially supporting our team? Our current need is a little over \$4,000. We’d love to serve you a great meal and share our team’s vision at our fundraising dinner on Saturday, June 15 in the Fellowship Hall at APC from 6:00-8:00pm. Many of you will also receive a support letter from a teen or many teens that value your presence in their life. Feel free to respond once and list all of their names on one yellow response slip.

Please pray for lives to be transformed during this week in Atlantic City, but also that our teens would experience a daily dependence on Jesus that persists for a lifetime. Pray that the Lord will equip our youth with a vision for racial reconciliation, ministry amongst the poor and joy in worship as we mature in every way in Christ. We desire to learn to love and serve Atlantic City, please pray that our words and deeds would reflect the perfect love we have received in Jesus!

### **PROTAS Summer Mission Trip Fundraising Dinner**

Saturday, June 15, 6-8pm

Come hear more about the teens’ summer trip to Atlantic City, New Jersey and enjoy a delicious meal.

To sign up, contact Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries at [adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org](mailto:adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org).



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

*ATHENS:* Paul’s *Dangerous Journey to Share the Truth* is the theme for Vacation Bible School this summer. Each day the children will learn one important “Bible Point” from the stories of Paul’s second missionary journey. The children will experience much of what Paul’s journey was like through stories, Bible verses, songs and hands-on activities. They will learn that God’s Word is true, comforting, surprising, life-changing and for everyone.

Not every child learns the same way, which is why this VBS is so successful and fun. Children have a chance to use their own learning style. *ATHENS* offers a variety of learning stations for all kinds of learners. Leaders at each of the stations ask meaningful, thought-provoking questions to think about and apply a “Bible Point.” Every child will come away from VBS remembering the “Bible Point” because of the way they interact with God’s Word each day.

Each volunteer does just one job the entire week, whether as a station leader or a crew group leader. Our volunteers make VBS a success. The number of volunteers we have each year is astonishing and such a blessing. After VBS is over and things are packed up, I wonder, “how much of what these kids learn will stay with them?” But I continually see evidence of lessons learned, relationships deepened and the applications of God’s Word shared with others.

VBS this year is June 24-28, 9:30am-12:10pm, for ages 4 through 4th grade. Fifth graders have an opportunity to be a leader in training. For more information about how to volunteer, please contact me at [leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org](mailto:leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org), 703-307-4526.

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (05/31)	\$ 550,568
	YTD Budget	\$ 533,888
	Difference	\$ 16,680 (+3%)



## Officer Training at APC by Elder Chris Joyce

Interested in knowing more about the office of deacon or elder? Wondering if God may be calling you to this office? If you answered “yes” to either of these questions, then join Pastor Tom on the evenings of Tuesday, June 18 and Tuesday, July 15, to learn more about both of these offices. These two sessions will provide you with an overview of the offices, the officer training and election process at APC, and also give you materials for study over the summer. Attendance is recommended to participate in the seven-week officer training that begins in September.

If you are interested in attending, please e-mail Carrie Ragan at [carrie.ragan@alexandriapres.org](mailto:carrie.ragan@alexandriapres.org). If you have questions, please contact Pastor Tom or any of the other officers of APC.

### 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