



## Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ November 2013

### Christmas Candlelight Service—Saturday, December 14

Prelude 5:45pm — Service 6:00pm

By Manor Music Ministry Team

#### Upcoming Dates

#### Thanksgiving Praise Service

November 24

#### Christmas Candlelight Service

December 14

#### New Sunday School Quarter

December 1

#### All Church Pancake Brunch

December 1

#### Week of Prayer

January 4-8

#### Sonship Begins

January 12

#### Inquirers Class

Jan 31-Feb 1

#### PROTAS Winter Retreat

February 14-17

#### All-Church Retreat

May 16-18



The Advent season is a time when Christians reflect on the coming of the Savior to a dark world that is in desperate need of Him. It is our hope and prayer that this year's Christmas Candlelight Service (CCS), "Tidings of Comfort and Joy" will help each of us to meditate on why Jesus came, and to rejoice in the gift of salvation He brings. As in years past, the service will feature the APC adult and youth choirs, readers, hand chime choir, as well as brass quintet, organ and congregational carol-singing. At the culmination of the service, each participant's candle will light up the darkened sanctuary, as we sing "Silent Night, holy night; Son of God, love's pure light. Radiant beams from Thy holy face, with the dawn of redeeming

grace..."

The CCS is our church's biggest annual outreach event, and we're encouraged by the feedback we hear each year from our APC family and the visitors you've brought. Make sure to invite friends (please use the beautiful postcards) and note that this year's CCS will take place on a Saturday night (December 14, 6pm), which is a change from years past. We're excited about the time change and hope to see even more people at the service. The sanctuary fills up quickly, so arrive early for the prelude at 5:45pm. As the holiday season approaches in our bustling Washington area, we find ourselves once again in need of "tidings of comfort and joy." We look forward to worshipping with you!



#### Our All-Church Theme for 2014

by Elder Chris Joyce,  
Executive Director of Ministries

In his poem, "We are Second and You are First," Walter Brueggeman writes:

*"Before our well-being, there was your graciousness,  
before our delight, there was your generosity,  
before our joy, there was your goodwill.*

*We are second and you are first."*

At our fall officer retreat, your elders chose "corporate prayer" as APC's theme for 2014. It was eight years ago that APC had its first annual theme, which was, fittingly, prayer. We return to our beginning, which is what prayer is all about: returning to the font of all beginning, our gracious Lord and Savior.

I chose Brueggeman's opening words because of their emphasis on "before." Prayer is in many ways the great before of the Christian life. Throughout scripture, we are reminded to pray "before" we take up our tools, our tasks, our conversations, our daily series of unforeseen events. And what a powerful encouragement it is to us when we come together to pray—as husbands and wives, as friends, as families, as colleagues, as Covenant Fellowship Groups, as ministry teams, and as the body of Christ. In community, we remind ourselves both who God is and what He has done, and in that we receive His blessings of continued strength, of confidence in His promises, in repeating that He is indeed for us, of the joy of blessed assurance.

Your elders look forward to praying with you in many different settings in the upcoming year. As in past years, we will start 2014 by devoting our first week to coming together as God's people—in corporate prayer.



#### PROTAS Update by Bryson Lockett

On October 1, Adam Leroy, our Director of Youth Ministries, began his three month sabbatical from ministry to APC and the PROTAS youth group. He left the student leaders and a dedicated group of adult volunteers to run the group. As of yet, we have not crashed and burned and we have only the Lord to thank!

With the help of our awesome adult leaders, Tim, Evan, Femi, Kyle, and Malary, Sunday night PROTAS still happens as planned with biweekly talks by one of the student leaders. Other weeks include focus on prayer, fellowship, and worship. It has been amazing to watch the leadership team step up to the plate and coordinate everything from games to snacks to the praise band.

We've even got a few major events coming up in the near future. This weekend we went paintballing in Leesburg (big thanks to Tim Petrie and David Thomas for coordinating and driving the bus). In the weeks following Thanksgiving, we'll have a Christmas party and caroling around the neighborhood.

Sunday School is running smoothly too. Elder Rob Pittman has been leading the Junior High class through *One Story's Implementing God's Word* curriculum, studying the attributes of God. Justin Prather and I have been going through John Piper's *Don't Waste Your Life* with the Senior High students. Keep praying for us. (We're going to need it.)

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (10/31)	\$ 1,117,771
	YTD Budget	\$ 1,170,534
	Difference	\$ -52,763 (-5%)

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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.*



### Officer Spotlight: Elder Jim Horne

I grew up in South Carolina and graduated from the US Air Force Academy in 2000. I met and married Emilie while stationed in Boston in 2004. We have three wonderful kids, Noah (6), Elliana (4), and Asher (1). Prior to DC we've also been stationed in Los Angeles and Montana. I currently work at the Pentagon, handling the budget for military satellite launch vehicles. In past positions, I've worked in engineering and program management for communications and military space launch. I've also served as a nuclear missile operator.

Emilie and I have experienced an amazing time of gospel renewal here at APC. In the midst of this renewal I sensed a call to serve in the ministry of word and prayer, and stood for election this year as an elder. I'm very excited with what the Lord is doing at and through APC and look forward to working alongside you as we pursue all God has in store for us over the coming years.



### Officer Spotlight: Elder Steve Porter

Renee and I are grateful to God for bringing us to APC! We arrived from Austin, TX in 2008. God has blessed our time at APC with wonderful Christian friends, gospel renewal and an eagerness to serve the body of Christ. I really look forward to serving as an elder.

I was raised in Sioux Falls, SD and headed to Texas to take advantage of a basketball scholarship. There I met Renee and, to date, have kept my promise to steer clear of the South Dakota winters! Our two sons continue to live in Texas. I was a partner in an Austin, Texas law firm for over 25 years and now work in the General Counsel's Office of the U.S. Department of Energy.

We enjoy the numerous cultural and historical opportunities in this area. I also enjoy watching sports and going back to Texas to hunt with my boys. I appreciate your prayers and look forward to growing spiritually with you!

### Pancake Brunch Sunday, December 1 Following Sunday School

Kick off the new Sunday School quarter with fellowship and a plate of pancakes and sausage in the Fellowship Hall.



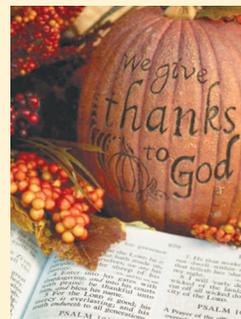
### Children's Chatter by Leslie Bridge, Director of Children's Ministries

All Children's Ministry programs are now in full swing at APC. At times I am prone to take for granted the impact our Children's Ministry has on each child. In most cases it is easy to see if a child enjoys Children's Church, Sunday School or Explorers or is having a difficult time. Other children are a little bit trickier to read. However, I would say children let their likes and dislikes be known.

For the past couple of years, we have honed in on curriculums for our children's programs that reflect gospel-centered teaching. In the first and second grade Sunday school class I teach, we are studying the Book of Judges. You may be surprised to read this. We are using a curriculum called *One Story* that takes children through every book of the Bible in seven years. This may sound ambitious, but the children enjoy the curriculum format.

Each week in our class, we review the cycle in Judges: the people rebel, God is angry, enemies oppress, the people cry out (repentance), salvation is given through chosen judge, peace, the judge dies. As we look at this cycle, it is easy to see traces of the gospel. After our review, we spend time on memory verses, and dig into the chapter we are studying. The lesson is designed like an inductive Bible study: the children answer observation questions, interpret what is going on and make some applications to their own lives.

There are three children's Sunday School classes using *One Story*. It is delightful to see how the children connect with the Word of God and are excited to be in class. Sara Eppright told me a couple of weeks ago that her daughter, Lydia, thought her class was "awesome." That is quite a compliment from a first grader! Her comment demonstrates to us that the time we spend investing in the children of APC does matter and is having a significant impact in their lives. Please thank our Sunday School teachers for all they do to teach our children. Take note of what God is doing in the lives of our children. Don't take it for granted!



THANKSGIVING  
PRAISE SERVICE  
and  
Reception

### Sunday, November 24, 5pm

All are invited to gather in the Sanctuary for a special service of thanksgiving and praise. You will have the opportunity to publicly give testimony to God's goodness throughout the year. We'll also spend time worshipping God in song. It's an annual tradition you won't want to miss! Nursery is provided.

Immediately following the service, we will gather in the Fellowship Hall for an appetizer/dessert reception.

Volunteers are needed for the reception, both to serve and to provide food. Sign up to help in the Fellowship Hall or contact Vicki Wolfe at [vicki.wolfe@alexandriapres.org](mailto:vicki.wolfe@alexandriapres.org)

The morning schedule on November 24 will remain unchanged, with worship at 8:50am and Sunday School at 11:00am; all other evening activities will be cancelled.

### Preview of Upcoming Adult Sunday School Quarter Begins December 1

#### Gospel of John

Led by Pastor Chris Sicks and Yaovi Kodjo

#### The Book of I John

Led by Eric Williams and Hsin-Fu Wu

#### The Power of Prayer

Led by Pastor Tom Holliday and Elder Jim Horne

#### Fourth class

To be determined

### 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