



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ April 2014

Taste the Father's Love: Holy Week and Easter at APC

by Trevor Manor, Music Assistant



When Jesus invites His people to share the Lord's Supper with Him, they are not merely partaking in physical bread and wine. They are experiencing a spiritual taste of God's sacrificial love. The following comes from a song that the Youth Choir is preparing to sing on Maundy Thursday.

*One day we heard the Master say, "I am the Living Bread;"
And we believed, for we had seen five thousand people fed.
But later, in the Upper Room, new words our Savior spoke;
We wondered at their meaning as the bread He blessed and broke:*

*"My body I now bid you take,
A sacrifice made for your sake,
That you may taste the Father's love
And one day join the Feast above."*

This Maundy Thursday, Christ bids us once again to come "taste and see that the Lord is good" (Ps. 34:8) by sharing in a wondrous meal with Him, by witnessing His washing the disciples' feet, and by ultimately viewing His betrayal and crucifixion. We hope that you can join us to revisit the Passion account from Mark, highlighted both musically and visually: the choir—with cello—will respond to the scripture readings from the distant balcony. When the service begins, the sun will be almost set, and as our Savior breathes His last, the final candles to be extinguished will shroud the sanctuary in darkness.

It is our prayer that through this service you will taste the Father's love in an even deeper way. Through the singing of hymns, praying scripture aloud, hearing Pastor Tom's meditation, and sharing in Communion, we honor the One who was willing to "taste death for everyone" (Heb. 2:9).

It is only in commemorating Jesus' death that we can truly rejoice in His resurrection. And we wait with eager expectation to celebrate with you on Easter Sunday (April 20). Come to the historic Market Square in Old Town, Alexandria for our annual Sunrise Service, where bagpipes and Praise Team will usher us into the presence of God. Afterwards we will have the opportunity to invite visitors to our service at APC, where the handchimes, instrumentalists, Praise Team, and APC choirs will all lead us in worshipping our risen Christ!

Ministry at Market Square

by Pastor Tom Holliday



One of the things that stands out about Jesus' death and resurrection is the public witness to it. Particularly his death, a death that was witnessed by many in a very public place: Golgotha, just outside the city gate of Jerusalem. I have sometimes wondered why the greatest humiliation of all time—the degrading and shaming of the only perfect man by crucifixion—had to take place in such a public way. If Jesus had to suffer such a horrible and agonizing death, why could he not have the benefit of suffering in private? Don't we all prefer to suffer in private—not that our suffering can be compared to his.

Yet it does make sense, doesn't it? Since the Son of God died for the sins of the world, it was only fitting that in bearing our punishment, it was viewed by the world. Not only was his death a public matter, but his resurrection was as well. He was seen alive by over 500 people at one time in one place after his resurrection.

Jesus' death and resurrection were very much a public matter. Therefore, it is with great joy that Alexandria Presbyterian Church is privileged to celebrate Christ's resurrection in the most public place in our city. Once again this year we will celebrate his resurrection in Market Square in Old Town Alexandria, literally right next to City Hall. For over 20 years, God has given our church this amazing opportunity to preach and sing the good news of the gospel smack dab in the middle of our city.

I'm asking you to join us at our Sunrise Service, 7am Easter morning, to lift up your voice and share from your heart, the good news that Jesus Christ is alive! Your presence and proclamation of the gospel will be heard and seen and felt by the many visitors who attend this service every year. Make no mistake about it: this is an extraordinary opportunity for God's people to share the good news in the presence of many people who have not yet received Jesus as Savior and Lord of their lives.

So, I'm asking you to participate in this worship service as much for others as yourself. This evangelistic service is a gift to our city. After the brief time of worship—45 minutes—we pray that there will be many conversations with visitors for those of us who can remain afterward. Let's start praying about this God-given opportunity, asking God to give many of us an open door to welcome and begin a relationship with some of our Alexandria neighbors over a cup of coffee and a pastry. The coffee will be waiting for you, the Praise Team will be warmed up, the bagpipes will be playing and most importantly, the risen Christ will be there! We hope that you will consider joining him, us and our neighbors there.

Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (03/31)	\$ 311,438
	YTD Budget	\$ 324,500
	Difference	\$ -13,062 (-4%)

Upcoming Dates

Koinonia Cherry Blossom Social

April 12

Palm Sunday

April 13

Maundy Thursday

April 17

Easter

April 20

Koinonia

April 22

Costa Rica Mission Trip Fundraiser

May 3

Mother's Day

May 11

Inquirers Class

May 30-31

All-Church Pancake Brunch

June 1

Music Ministry Brunch

June 8

Vacation Bible School

June 23-27



2405 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22301 ~ 703-683-3348 (office) ~ 703-683-2392 (fax) ~ alexandriapres.org

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.



Connect—APC’s Cancer Support Group

by Sara Sicks

Isn't it refreshing when you meet someone whose story in some way resembles yours? It's refreshing because you feel you share a common bond. Something that doesn't have to be explained in detail. That person understands things about your story because they too have been there. Often times, this bond makes you feel less alone and more understood.

This is our hope with the Connect cancer support group... to bring together people who have cancer as a part of their personal story. But unlike many other cancer support groups in this area, our desire is to come together in the name of Jesus, reminding ourselves that God is the stronghold of our lives (Psalm 27), not cancer.

Sadly, cancer doesn't seem to be going away soon. We think there are many people in the DC Metropolitan area who would benefit by coming together with others who understand. We desire to be a Christ-centered, encouraging community for each other and for those that Jesus brings to our group.

But how do we invite others into our community? That's where you come in....

Do you know anyone who is currently battling cancer?

Or someone who previously battled this disease but is healing from the emotional and mental aftermath that cancer brings?

If so, I invite you to tell them about Connect. Our group is open to men and women of all ages who are either currently battling cancer or have so in the past. We meet once a month during the Sunday School hour here at church.

If you have more questions about Connect, contact me at ssicks@gmail.com or 703-625-0457 (mobile). Feel free to give my number or email address to your friend! You can also tell that person about our Connect cancer blog, which is located on the church's website under the media tab.



APC Vacation Bible School—June 23-27

by Leslie Bridge, Director of Children's Ministries



"WILDERNESS ESCAPE: Where God Guides and Provides" is the Vacation Bible School theme this summer. Each day the children will learn one important "Bible Point" from the life of Moses as he and the Israelites escape Egypt and travel to parts unknown—trusting God all the while. Bible stories, verses, songs and hands-on activities will help kids learn more about God and His Word: that it is true, comforting, surprising, life changing and for everyone.

Not every child learns the same way, which is why this VBS is so fun. Children have a chance to learn the way they do best. "Wilderness Escape" offers a variety of learning stations to meet the needs of all kinds of learners. Leaders at each of the stations ask meaningful, thought-provoking questions and apply the "Bible Point." Every child will come away from VBS remembering the "Bible Point" because of the way they interacted with God's Word that day.

Interested in Volunteering at VBS?

VBS is structured to give each volunteer one job the entire week, and whether you are a station leader or a crew group leader, your part makes the experience successful. Children ages 4 through 4th grade are welcome and any 4th or 5th grader has the opportunity to be a leader or a leader in training. If you would like to know more about how to volunteer or have any questions about VBS, contact me at leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org or at 703-307-4526, or come to the VBS informational meeting on April 6, 10:30am in Room #104 (during the fellowship time).



PROTAS Update

by Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

PROTAS youth ministry is in the midst of putting together our fifth international mission trip to Costa Rica, July 15-28th. We are partnering in the gospel once again with our brothers and sisters in Ciudad Neily, a small rural community near the border of Panama. The church is called Casa de Oracion y Alabanza and families in the church will once again host us in their homes. The cultural and relational immersion is my favorite and most challenging slice of the experience.

So what kind of fruit are we hoping for by sending teens to serve in Costa Rica? How could this experience impact their view of living missionally once they return home? The host church sent us a letter after we returned from Costa Rica in 2012 and I pulled a few of the highlights for you to read as a testimony...

"We pray for their safe return and that their experience here has marked their lives and their walk with Christ as their investment in time, energy, strength, and prayer has positively impacted our church and community... Their hands, their feet, their strength, their creativity, their wisdom was a blessing. Their flexibility and thirst to serve Him was key to the success of their servanthood here in our community. Their positive attitude and God-serving approach to everything was so apparent and contagious... The fruits of the seeds planted in our ministry will be big and abundant... We give all the honor and glory to the Lord for making APC part of us and our walk in His Kingdom."

We want the love of God to transform us as we immerse ourselves into Costa Rican community, work on various construction projects, do acts of mercy, visit to the Comte indigenous Indian community near Panama, and participate in the church's neighborhood outreach. **BUT EVEN MORE** we pray that our students would hear and respond to Jesus's call to live missionally in our community at home after this trip.

- **Would you consider joining our team in prayer?** Specific prayer needs will be printed and available for you to take off of my office door in the Fellowship Hall.
- **Would you consider financially supporting our team?** We'd love to serve you a Costa Rican meal and share fellowship at our fundraising dinner on Saturday, May 3, 6pm in the Fellowship Hall at APC. Many of you will 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 response slip.

We are going on a great adventure and it is an honor to partner with these teens as they serve the King and His Kingdom.

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