



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ May 2015

Upcoming Dates

Newcomer Dinner
May 9

All-Church Retreat
May 15-17

Koinonia
May 19

Inquirers Class
June 5-6

Annual Nationals Baseball Game
June 20

Vacation Bible School
June 22-26

Baptism
June 28

Church Brunch
June 28, 12:00pm

Women's Bible Studies
Every Thursday
Every other Friday



A Special Invitation by Pastor Tom Holliday

Mark the dates: May 15-17

A weekend for the family of APC to gather together for refreshment and transformation.

Retreats say a lot about a church. What do I mean? For instance, the schedule reflects a church's priorities. Some churches fill most of the retreat time with good teaching. Nothing wrong with that, right? We could all benefit from more good teaching.

APC retreats don't carve out a lot of time for teaching, as important as it is. Why? Because retreat weekends afford our church rare opportunities to seize relational opportunities that are difficult to capture back home with our busy schedules. We are thankful for the regular, consistent preaching/teaching times that God gives us every week to proclaim his word, in the pulpit as well as in classrooms and homes.

Many of us would agree that what we find more challenging is investing the time and intentionality in connecting with our brothers and sisters at APC.

Perhaps you're thinking: "But, I have my CFG group—so I've got that covered."

As wonderful and meaningful as our communities of a few are to us, surely our Trinitarian Godhead invites us to experience and enjoy the rest of the family. I have no doubt that there are many others in the APC community who have similar interests, passions and life experiences like our own, who we have not yet met. We have intentionally created space this weekend to meet and make new friends.

Anytime God's people gather for the purpose of seeking Him, spiritual transformation is always a real possibility

Yet I would be doing you a disservice if I stopped here. This might suggest that the purpose of a retreat is mostly for meeting my needs. The Gospel continually calls us to seek the needs of others. Allow me to offer a suggestion: begin now asking God to connect you with a person (or people) this weekend who will become a part of your community. Not just people who have much in common with you, but maybe, even better, people that are quite different from you.

Would you dare to ask God to bring people into your life who are quite different from you in some way, yet God wants to

use in ways that will surprisingly enrich you? Nobody is part of APC by accident. Scripture tells us that God has arranged each part of the body, just as he wishes. Let's be open to this truth in new ways. So, I hope that you will prayerfully consider joining your church family May 15-17 at the NorthBay Retreat Center on the Chesapeake Bay.

If finances are a challenge, please speak with one of the committee members about available scholarships.

Oh, I hasten to add this: begin praying that God will meet you and refresh your soul through solitude. You will have time to take that long walk in the beautiful outdoors of the Chesapeake Bay, and find your soul fed along the way. And yes, like always, a special time of worship Sunday morning will conclude our family time on the weekend. I hope to see you there.

A Vision for Gospel Renewal

by Matt Brown

With this year's Church theme being a focus on a Vision for Gospel Renewal, I am encouraged by the scriptures that confirm to us that Gospel renewal is never devoid of community but rather takes place through our connections and interactions with one another. On May 15-17, 2015 we look forward to spending time together in NorthBay, MD enjoying God and each other in an amazing setting and just enjoying being family together. Our All Church retreat starts on Friday, ending after lunch on Sunday, and I really want to encourage you to consider taking Friday off of work and come up to NorthBay to enjoy some fun activities and amazing food that we are planning!



We Need Volunteers for the All Church Retreat

If you would like to be part of the 2015 All Church Retreat Volunteers, please contact Matt Brown at matt.uk.brown@gmail.com. We need numerous volunteers including cleanup crews on Friday at the pool, the Amazing Race stations on Saturday, the activities Saturday afternoon, and nursery helpers on Sunday morning.

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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.

Humble Savior, Humble Servants



by Pastor Chris Sicks
Associate Pastor

Princess Diana died on August 31, 1997. Three million people showed up for Diana's funeral on September 6, and it was broadcast around the world.

Do you remember who died on September 5? Mother Teresa. How fitting that the world was so absorbed by the death and burial of a famous princess that they hardly noticed the passing of humble Teresa.

I think she would have wanted it that way. The world values fame and fortune, power and prestige. Our God values humility:

This is the one I esteem: he who is humble and contrite in spirit. (Isa 66:2)

Blessed are the poor in spirit. (Matt 5:3)

Whoever exalts himself will be humbled, and whoever humbles himself will be exalted. (Matt 23:12)

Paul once wrote the greatest description of humility ever:

Do nothing from rivalry or conceit, but in humility count others more significant than yourselves. Let each of you look not only to his own interests, but also to the interests of others.

Have this mind among yourselves, which is yours in Christ Jesus, who, though he was in the form of God, did not count equality with God a

Mercy Ministry

thing to be grasped, but made himself nothing, taking the form of a servant being born in the likeness of men. (Phil 2:3-7)

That entire passage is about humble service—given by Christ and expected of his followers. We are first served by him, then enabled to be humble servants of one another.

Of course, it is on the cross that Christ's humility was most gloriously displayed. For your sake he endured shame and ridicule: "I am a worm and not a man, scorned by men and despised by the people. All who see me mock me; they hurl insults, shaking their heads." (Ps 22:6-7)

We just celebrated the resurrection of this humble Savior, who rose up from the depths of death and despair and carries us with him. Although he is now seated in glory, he continues to serve us—enabling us to become more humble, ready to serve.

Mother Teresa was voted the "Most Admired Person of the Century" in 1999. I think it was the combination of humility, love, and service that draws us to her—and to Jesus. Teresa said:

Jesus went about doing good. And we are trying to imitate him now because I believe that God loves the world through us. Just as he sent Jesus to be his love, his presence in the world, so today he is sending us.

May I encourage you today to ask Jesus to fuel your own humble service to those around you? The world doesn't understand true humility, or amazing grace. Show them some! And then tell them about Jesus who is the source.

PROTAS Update: Teen Missions Fundraiser

"Picnic Basket Lunch-2-Go"
Sunday May 31st

Our teens need your prayers and financial support as they learn to love and serve the city of Atlantic City the last week in July. This will be our second time partnering with New City Fellowship Atlantic City ~ PCA (www.newcityac.org) as a one week urban ministry team. We are taking orders for your "Picnic Basket Lunch-2-Go" for your after-worship lunch on Sunday, May 31. Suggested donation is \$50, \$150, \$250, whatever you feel led to give. Please fill out an order form which may be found outside Adam LeRoy's office (special dietary requests welcome) before May 24. Questions, please contact Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org.



Staff Spotlight:
Kashoro Nyenyezi
Administrative Assistant

Kashoro was born and raised in Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). She came to the United States in August 2001 as an international student. Kashoro holds a BA from the State University of New York at Oneonta, NY (SUNY Oneonta 2005) and a Master's degree in Public Administration (MPA) from Strayer University at Washington, DC (2011).

She is currently studying Conflict Analysis and Resolution focusing on gender at George Mason University in Arlington, VA. She worked with refugees in Kenya as well as in the US and enjoys helping refugees and international students as they adjust to new cultures.

Kashoro and Jean Claude were married in Arlington, VA in 2006. They have four children, Victoria, Grace, Christian, and Anastasie (Ana).

The Great Race



Children's Chatter

by Leslie Bridge
Director of Children's Ministries

We have had an exciting year so far with our children's ministry. We have seen growth both in the lives of the children and in numbers of children attending children's programs. Children's Church has had an average of 38 attending on a given Sunday. We completely fill the room and I am surprised you don't hear them singing in the sanctuary each week.

We have the privilege to help shape these children into who God has created them to be

A few weeks ago we dove in on a great adventure. The Explorer children are building Go-Karts to race at the All Church Retreat. The children measured and drew the lines for the design. Then we got the circular and jigsaws out, cutting out the cars, while most of the children sanded the rough edges of the wood. We are beginning to assemble them, painting them and

Go-Karts!

taking test-drives. It is so fun watching even the littlest ones getting in on the action. I am rather excited to see the race and the thrill on the kids' faces as they fly down the hill towards the cafeteria at NorthBay. I promise you, it will be a spectacle to watch.

In this busy season and growth in the number of children at APC, I am so impressed with how God is building community among the children. Working on building a Go-Kart solidifies their friendships with each other as they work together and solve problems. When they play and learn together, it is such a joy to watch them share personal things and encourage one another. I have said before that Explorers is like a CFG for children. If you were to observe a night of them working on building their Go-Kart, you would see it as well.

Giving at a Glance

YTD Budget through March	\$429,000
Actual through March	\$433,401
Difference	101%

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