



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ September 2015

Upcoming Dates

Koinonia
September 15

Newcomer Dinner
September 19

CFG Meet and Greet
September 20

Inquirer's Class
October 2-3

APC Picnic
October 4

October 24
Women's Autumn Evening Event

October 25
Baptisms

Service Opportunities Fair
November 1

Men's Breakfast
November 21

Christmas Candlelight Service
December 12

Women's Bible Studies
Every Thursday
Every other Friday



The Year of Simplicity by Pastor Tom Holliday

Mark the date: Sunday, October 4

An afternoon for the family of APC to gather together for a picnic, games, and fellowship.

The elders are pleased to announce the theme for the next year: simplicity. Beginning this month, we will examine the topic of simplicity through various forums, including sermons, Sunday school, CFGs and other venues.

What comes to mind when you think of simplicity? Simple – yes, simplistic – no.

A word that helps me to think about simplicity is, minimalism. Jacob Jolibois

defines minimalism in the following way:

“Minimalism removes the meaningless to make room for the meaningful.”

I find that helpful. Simplicity requires removing the things that get in the way of the greater good. Simple things are clear and comprehensible. They are not cluttered with unnecessary things, be that words, ideas,

or anything else. They don't weigh us down.

Let's face it, we all have to deal with clutter. Clutter gets in the way. Whether it's a messy house or desk, or mind or soul, we are challenged to remove the meaningless things from our lives to make room for the truly meaningful— internal or external. Many of us

know how a cluttered mind or heart weighs us down. In the coming year, we will ask God to reveal things that are standing

in our way, and show us necessary steps to remove the clutter. Most importantly, we will invite Him into the conversation, so that we achieve a greater level of peace and serenity in our lives.

I'm looking forward to this journey towards simplicity in my life. I hope that you will join me and the elders as we explore this important topic together.

“Simplicity requires removing the things that get in the way of the greater good.”



Learning in Order to Love

by Rev. Bruce Forsee, Director of Adult Education and Visitation

I love to learn new things about the Bible.

I remember when I first learned that the order of the Psalms was deliberate. Psalm

22, which describes the suffering of Christ, must of necessity precede Psalm 23, God's assurance that He is our Shepherd. We can be part of His flock only because of what Christ has accomplished for us. You have to go through Psalm 22 in order to arrive at Psalm 23. Psalm 24 then completes the picture with Christ being crowned as the King over all creation.

While learning new things might be fun, there's a

danger in learning too much. I'm not saying that it's possible to learn too much. I'm saying that, because we are

sinners, learning comes with an inherent danger. If we link knowledge with greed, for instance, we will manipulate and use people for our own purposes. If we link knowledge with pride, we might judge or intimidate others who have less knowledge than we do. The result is always destructive. The apostle Paul commented on how sin uses knowledge when he warned the Corinthians not to judge one another. “And so by your knowledge this weak person is destroyed, the brother for whom Christ died.” (1 Cor. 8:11)

The solution is not to stop learning. God gave us His

Word to learn. We're supposed to study it, meditate on it, and memorize it. We're supposed to dig deep because the Bible is such a glorious book that you will never master it. It always has more to say because it speaks to us about an infinite God.

The issue is not how much you know. It's a matter of why you learn what you learn and what you do with what you know. Without love, knowledge is not only worthless, it's dangerous. Unless your learning expresses itself in love, you haven't completed the learning process. You've only just started. As you study Scripture, look

for Christ. Look for ways in which God is good to His people. Look for His patience, His saving acts, His faithfulness to His promises even when we aren't faithful. Pray that God would translate those wonderful truths into love for Him and love for His people

As the new Director of Adult Education at APC, my ministry is a failure if people simply learn more. If that learning is not translated into greater love for God and love for one another, we haven't really learned. Let's pray together that God would enable us “to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fulness of God.” (Ephesians 3:19)

“The issue is not how much you know. It's a matter of why you learn what you learn and what you do with what you know.”

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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.



A Look Back and an Invitation Forward

by Adam LeRoy
Director of Youth Ministries

- Playing
- Relationships
- Offering
- Teaching
- Accountability
- Service

PROTAS teen ministries had a full summer between field trips, summertime youth group, a student leadership retreat, and the Atlantic City, NJ mission trip. We had a great week partnering with New City Fellowship of Atlantic City (PCA) as we did tangible works of mercy, outreach to the community, and children's bible clubs each night in a neighborhood called Carver Hall. The children we ministered to were very receptive to the gospel and our team learned a ton as we poured ourselves out on behalf of Jesus and learned to love Atlantic City. The church has a new location in the city which is ideal for hosting urban mission teams and they have added an associate pastor to their staff. Join me in thanking God for His MANY blessings!

Our student leaders spent a week at the beach in July thinking back about the past year of ministry and planning a fabulous year of ministry to come. For our Sunday night large group meetings this fall, every other week we will have an emphasis on teaching and small group mentorship. Our student leaders will be teaching on each letter of the acronym of PROTAS and Adam will be teaching on the topic of "Abiding In Christ" which will propel our small group time. We've got discipleship groups, awesome activities (Columbus Day lock-in, paintball in November and a Star Wars themed Christmas party just to name a few), and a mission trip to Costa Rica in July '16 that you will want to start praying about your participation in now! I encourage every student to connect within PROTAS community this Fall as we seek to abide in Christ. By the grace and gift of God our lives are united to Jesus, in dependence on Jesus, and remain in Jesus.



Staff Spotlight: Stacey Diack

Communications Manager

As APC's newest staff member, Stacey is excited to take on the role of part-time Communications Manager. Stacey was just seven years old when her dad came to pastor APC, so this has been her church home for most of her life! Stacey studied Psychology and Communications in undergrad, and went on to get her Masters in Counseling at Reformed Theological Seminary in Orlando. She met her husband Josh (who is also on staff at APC) while studying at RTS. They have been married for six years and have three delightful little boys!



Children's Chatter

by Leslie Bridge
Director of Children's Ministries

We are about to kick off another year of ministry. Children will move to new Sunday school classes, new children will join us for Children's Church and Explorers will start soon. Volunteers have been recruited and are still being invited to help lead the various children's activities.

It is exciting to see things come together as we trust God to grow us.

The Sunday school teachers just met for a workshop and it was great to be together. I asked all the teachers to read "Show Them Jesus", which is about how the stories of the Bible point to Jesus. As I have mentioned a few times recently, we do want the children to know the stories of the Bible, but more importantly, we want them to know the God of those stories. After reading the book, the teachers are more excited about teaching and

are looking forward to leading your children in seeking Jesus. The elementary age children are going to be keeping a list this year as they study one of the gospels. You may want to investigate what that list is all about. Explorers will be starting again on September 13th.

This year we are going through Tim Keller's New City Catechism. I am thrilled with the opportunity to expose the children to some of the basic tenants of our faith and to see how

God will store up these treasures in their minds and hearts for a lifetime.

As I pray for these children, I often wonder what they will become and what kind of impact they will have for God's Kingdom. Please pray for us as we pour into the lives of the children at APC. Also, would you prayerfully consider how you might come along side us, either by serving in some capacity or praying for us. There is a need for a male and female Explorer leader. Please contact me at leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org.

"We want children to know the stories of the Bible, but more importantly, we want them to know the God of those stories."



Experiencing Authentic Community

by Josh Diack
Pastor of Congregational Life

Did you know there are almost 60 commands in the New Testament that talk about how to relate to one another? Paul wrote many of these commands, which sheds light on his expectations for Christian fellowship. At one point, Paul reminded the Thessalonians of how dear they were to him, and how much life they had shared together (1 Thess. 2:8). He gives us an insight on what it looks like to be in meaningful relationship with our brothers and sisters in Christ.

This depth of fellowship doesn't just happen automatically - it requires time, commitment and trust. Ultimately, it is a work that only the Holy Spirit can forge. At APC, we want to invite the kind of fellowship which Paul modeled, and Covenant Fellowship Groups (CFGs) are a significant way to do this. Whenever God's people gather around the Word of God, with the Spirit of God, we can expect great things.

If you aren't part of a CFG, I encourage you to consider joining one this fall. If you would like to learn more about CFGs, or hear about our leadership training class this fall, please feel free to take a brochure at the information booth, or contact me. I would love to talk with you.

Contact: Josh Diack
josh.diack@alexandriapres.org

Fall Quarter Adult Sunday School Classes

God's Big Picture

Led by Pastor Josh Diack, and Ben Crowley

Nehemiah: Building for God's Glory

Led by Pastor Joel Acevedo

2 Peter: Magnificent Promises

Led by Rev. Bruce Forsee

Giving at a Glance (as of Aug. 31)

2015 Actuals	\$1,074,458
2015 Budget	\$1,076,000
Difference	99.8%

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