



The Year of Simplicity

Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ January 2016



Cultivating a Life of Simplicity by Pastor Tom Holliday

A new year brings new opportunities for growth. This month APC is launching an exciting new ministry opportunity as a church family. All of the covenant fellowship groups in the church are participating in the sermon series, "cultivating a life of simplicity."

Each CFG will do a deeper dive following the sermon, exploring together how we can cultivate a spirit and life of simplicity. Each CFG will begin with a brief video from the previous week's preacher, who will also provide a study guide for the group to follow.

The Bible says that "iron sharpens iron." I believe that we will all be more effective in embracing a life of simplicity as we benefit from working through these concepts together. So, if you are not currently in a CFG, this would be a great time to jump in. Please see Pastor Josh Diack if you would like more information in deciding which group might be the best fit for you. Our CFGs meet all around the DC metro area, six nights a week.

"The main thing that God gets out of your life is not the achievements you accomplish. It's the person you become. Putting a schedule together is not so much about determining what you're trying to get done: it's deciding who you want to become."

– Dallas Willard

Upcoming Dates

Communicants Class

January 14

Child and Youth Safety Class

January 17

Koinonia

January 19

Newcomers Fellowship Dinner

January 23

Inquirer's Class

January 29-30

Women's Retreat

February 5-7

Teen Winter Retreat

February 12-15

All-Church Dinner

February 27

Holy Week

March 20-27

Women's Bible Studies

Every Thursday
Every other Friday

Nursery Ministry

The nursery is a place for the APC congregation to tangibly demonstrate the Gospel through sacrificial time, care, and teaching. From newborn through age four, the APC nursery seeks to point our children to Jesus, while providing quality, safe, and nurturing care. As a church community, we take seriously our calling to train up children to know and love the Lord. The nursery is our first opportunity to put this calling into action! As our nursery continues to bustle with children, we invite you to invest in this church-wide ministry opportunity.

In light of our congregation's growth, the Session decided it would be beneficial to create a Nursery Advisory Committee to explore ways to enhance the care and education of our children. The members of this committee are Sarah Field, Nikki Harshman, and Stacey Diack. As these ladies continue to monitor the nursery program, they will seek feedback from parents and volunteers; make recommendations for operations; and encourage an atmosphere of warmth and Christ-centered teaching. Our prayer is that each child will learn about God's truth and character through their nursery experience. Please feel free to contact members of the committee with any questions or feedback, or if you are interested in getting involved with the nursery.

The mission of APC's Children's Ministries is to assist parents in equipping our children to navigate life by establishing them in the Gospel, engaging them in God's Word, and exploring with them opportunities to serve each other, our church and our community for the glory of God. -Leslie Bridge, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Ministry

We believe evangelizing and discipling our covenant children are central callings of the church and want to ensure our ministries are well-aligned with these responsibilities. To that end, we surveyed many parents in the church in July and received valuable feedback regarding the effectiveness of the Sunday School, Children's Church, Explorers and Vacation Bible School programs. As a result, our Director of Children's Ministries (DCM), Leslie Bridge, has re-evaluated and enriched curricula and hosted edifying workshops for Sunday School and Children's Church volunteers.

Also, your Session established a Children's Ministries Advisory Committee (CMAC) to assist our DCM and Session in overseeing the ministries. The CMAC will be a sounding board for program changes recommended by the DCM, be a "listening post" to capture parental feedback, evaluate volunteer recruitment methods and training, and periodically survey the congregation. Importantly, the CMAC will pray for the ministry, including all staff, volunteers, children, and parents. The members of the advisory committee are Joanne Beckham, Christine Brittle, Carrie Brown, Jenn Foxworth, and Diane Wadsworth. Elder Rob Pittman, Leslie Bridge, and the committee members are happy to address any questions or comments you have.

As a prerequisite to working in any children's ministry, please sign-up for the upcoming Child and Youth Safety Class on January 17. This class is required every 3 years.



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.



PROTAS Update

by Adam LeRoy
Director of Youth Ministries

At the end of the days I, Nebuchadnezzar, lifted my eyes to heaven, and my reason returned to me, and I blessed the Most High, and praised and honored him who lives forever, for his dominion is an everlasting dominion, and his kingdom endures from generation to generation. Daniel 4:34

King Nebuchadnezzar had built up a mighty earthly dominion, and then had everything taken away. Graciously, the Lord gave him an opportunity to turn and see truth. We, sons and daughters of the King, also have been given beautiful moments of sanctification to cry out to the Lord when things get ripped away and find the One who restores all things.

Through the years, APC has been blessed to have many adults intentionally step into teen culture and “earn” the right to share their lives with the next generation, living out their joys and pains in relationship with our teens. God’s dominion and kingdom truly endure from generation to generation when we look for ways to communicate the sanctifying work of his Spirit within us. Cross-generational ministry is hard kingdom work, but what teens often remember most about the church,

is THE PERSON who “earned” their trust. In the moments we share as friend & discipler, a bridge opens to point them to Jesus, our only hope!

To be crystal clear today, I need partners in ministry! To give you a peek, over 40% of the teenagers in PROTAS today were not here last year. There has been unprecedented growth/turnover this past year and there simply are not enough adult leaders. Please consider joining APC’s kingdom-building youth ministry by coming alongside a few teenagers. These teens are amazing! You may even be inspired by them and they certainly need to hear stories of how the Lord brings His children out of darkness into His marvelous light. Your testimony was meant to be shared from generation to generation.

Contact Adam LeRoy at adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org to grab a coffee and chat about joining the ministry team.

Needed: Sons and Daughters Who Look to the Lord

APC’s New Officers & Families

We are thankful for God’s provision of all our new and returning elders and deacons! Our elders minister through both teaching and governing, while our deacons extend the ministry of mercy.



Matt and Carrie Brown with daughter Millie



Rob and Ruth Fisher with son Nick



Russell and Jenn Foxworth with daughters Hannah, Selah and Rebekah



Nate and Cammy Kinder with children Jayden, Lucas and Korra



Owen and Lina Gentry with son Edwin



Christian and Kaycee Poole with children Ella, Bradley, Kate and Jack

Inquirer’s Class—January 29-30

Interested in membership or hearing more about the heartbeat of APC?

Attend this Friday-Saturday class with Pastor Tom Holliday for an in depth look at Christianity, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and APC.

Women’s Retreat—February 5-7

APC’s women’s ministry encourages all ladies to join us for a weekend of connection and encouragement from other women, while spending sweet time with the Lord as we reflect our calling to rest and trust.

Holy Week at APC

Join us for our special services:

Palm Sunday, March 20
Good Friday, March 25
Easter Sunrise Service and
Worship, March 27

Giving at a Glance

2015 Actuals	\$1,820,423
2015 Budget	\$1,650,000
Difference	110%



Koinonia

by Josh Diack
Pastor of Congregational Life

With busy schedules and the fast pace of city life, we know it can be hard to connect with others, let alone foster relationships that are meaningful, honest and encouraging to your faith. Koinonia (a biblical Greek term) meaning, “fellowship, shared community, communion,” is a ministry which seeks to provide a place whereby adults in a similar stage of life (20’s-40’s) can grow in their devotion to Christ, through teaching, fellowship and mutual ministry in a smaller setting than on Sunday mornings.

Tuesday Night is an opportunity for people to come and connect with each other over a meal, and as we devote ourselves to a time of bible teaching, song and prayer. These meetings happen once a month in the adult education wing, and are a time where we can be revitalized and strengthened in our seeking to show the love of Christ to our city.

Each month we organize a social activity or service event to foster connection and enjoy time with one another. During these formal and informal meetings, we are able to build friendships and grow to know and care for each other as we experience life in a variety of different settings.

Contact: Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life: josh.diack@alexandriapres.org

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