



## Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ September 2016

### Upcoming Dates

**Choir Retreat**  
September 16-17

**Newcomer Dinner**  
September 17

**Second Service Launch**  
September 18

**Koinonia Kick-off**  
September 24

**Inquirers Class**  
September 30-  
October 1

**Baptism**  
October 16

**Officer Elections**  
October 30

**Service Opportunities Fair**  
November 13

**PROTAS Paintball**  
November 19

**Thanksgiving Evening Service**  
November 20

**Christmas Service**  
December 18



### One Church, Two Services

by Pastor Tom Holliday

In case you missed the townhall meeting, the elders of APC are pleased to announce that we will kick off our second worship service, 11am at the West Braddock Road Campus, next Sunday, September 18. We are deeply encouraged by God's provision in giving us this church property and excited to see how the Lord is going to use it to continue reaching more people with the gospel, in this new place and at this new time.

How does this affect you? If you are planning to continue your worship in the first service at Russell Road, this change will have very little impact on you. The main change you will notice is that our worship service will end a little earlier – 10:15am, with Sunday school beginning at 10:45am instead of 11am. You will still have the same 30 minutes for fellowship.

If you plan to attend the second worship service, the changes will be more apparent. There will be coffee and fellowship available before and after the service, but there will be no Sunday school class for adults or children. We hope that many of our adults will take advantage of the Sunday evening classes beginning this month. See the bulletin for more details.

Both worship services will start off this year focusing on our new theme, "the family of God." We will study God's word together, exploring what the Bible teaches concerning our family privileges, responsibilities, and opportunities to live out our Christian faith together. Let's pray that God will open our eyes even more to the awesome privilege of being in His family, and discovering the family life we share with our brothers and sisters.

### Inquirers Class—September 30-October 1

Interested in membership or hearing more about the heartbeat of APC? Attend this Friday-Saturday class with Pastor Tom Holliday at our West Braddock Road Campus for an in depth look at Christianity, the Presbyterian Church in America (PCA) and APC. Contact the church office for more information and sign up after worship on Sundays at either campus.

**Join the Social Committee!** If you would enjoy dreaming up and planning fun events to help foster community at APC, the social committee could use your help! We meet several times a year to plan events big and small. Contact Pastor Josh Diack at [josh.diack@alexandriapres.org](mailto:josh.diack@alexandriapres.org) if interested.

### Singing in the Family of God: APC Choir Ministry for 2016-17

In the book of Hebrews we learn that our Savior sings. He says to His Father: "I will tell of your name to my brothers; in the midst of the congregation I will sing your praise." (Hebrews 2:11-12) Jesus is our elder brother who leads by example, inviting us to join Him as He sings His Father's praises. In this new ministry year of "The Family of God" I would like to invite you to prayerfully consider contributing your voice to the APC choir, drawing others before the Lord's throne. Here is what to look forward to.

#### Adult Choir

The Adult Choir is gearing up for another exciting year of ministry (September to June). We sing on Sunday mornings three times a month during our 8:50am service. Our in-house retreat is just a few weeks away, which includes the following: a Friday dinner in the Fellowship Hall (September 16 at 7pm) with a devotional from Pastor Tom (spouses are welcome), a Saturday rehearsal (September 17, 9am-2:30pm) with breakfast at 8:15am and lunch provided. The weekend will be an energizing way to begin the new choir year, and great preparation to kick off singing in worship that Sunday, September 18.



#### Youth Choir

Youth Choir (ages 8-12th grade) is fast approaching. The YC will sing at two of the 8:50am services during the Christmas season—an Advent service on December 11 and a special service celebrating Christ's birth on December 18. Rehearsals take place in the chapel, beginning Sunday, October 9 after the first service, from 10:15-10:45am, and they go through December 11. A dress rehearsal is on Saturday, December 10 from 9-10:30am.

Although the choirs will not sing at our 11am worship at the West Braddock Road campus, we are looking forward to this new service, beginning September 18. It will feature mostly the same songs and instrumentation as the first service. We are excited for a new semester to sing together as the family of God!

**Contact Trevor Manor, Director of Music Ministries, at [trevor.manor@alexandriapres.org](mailto:trevor.manor@alexandriapres.org) to sign up for Adult or Youth Choir, or sign-up after Sunday worship at either campus.**

Russell Road Campus ~ 2405 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22301  
Braddock Road Campus ~ 1302 West Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22302

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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.*



## Children's Chatter

by Leslie Bridge, Director of Children's Ministries

Do you hate to see the lazy, hazy days of summer coming to a close? I know I do. Even though it has been so incredibly hot and humid outside, I will miss the longer days and going out for evening walks. Yet, as the seasons begin to change, I always anticipate the beginning of something new. For many of us this is the real beginning of the year and September signifies a new beginning.

This is the time of year children move up to a new grade in Sunday school. Those turning 5 may begin to attend Children's church, and Explorers kicks off tonight, September 11. Coming back after summer traveling creates excitement as we reconnect and see what God has done and is doing in our midst. Often new families join us over the summer months with changing assignments, and we greet them with excitement and anticipation of new relationships. September is filled with a sense of expectation of newness.

As we prepare to launch into the fall children's programs, I am excited and thrilled to see returning Sunday school teachers after a summer sabbatical. Children are starting to ask when Explorers is going to start again and new volunteers are being recruited all the time. Children's church will start a new year soon and we would love to have a few more couples join in the teaching. In the midst of all this transition time, I am still brought to my knees as I think about teaching and training APC children about our Christian faith and about a relationship with Jesus. The centrality of the gospel and growing as a covenant child of God are central in what we teach and all we do.

If you would like to know more about our children's activities or how you might be involved, please contact Leslie Bridge at [leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org](mailto:leslie.bridge@alexandriapres.org) or at 703-307-4526.



## Experiencing Authentic Community

by Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life

It's that time of year again when many of our Covenant Fellowship Groups (CFGs) pick back up and resume meeting together. This begs the question, what is the purpose of a CFG, and why should I prayerfully consider joining one?

There are many good reasons why we might initially consider joining a group. Oftentimes we might do so because we've been part of one in the past. Perhaps it's in order to make friends, to accomplish ministry together, or to promote diversity, and so on. Yet none of these ought to be the main goal. The chief objective for any group is movement toward Christ. When that goal is pursued, you can expect to experience transformation and witness community as a context for change.

Julie Gorman, in her book, "Community That Is Christian", identifies some of the benefits that often result from such a group stating, "in their journey toward Christlikeness, group members may grow in character, may discover new understandings, may develop skills that enhance their relationship with God and others, and may accomplish ministry to the body or to the world."

These are only a few of the benefits that often result when a group of people meet with such expectations. There are no limits to Christ's power when his Spirit dwells in us and among us. I want to be a part of that. I hope you do too.

After worship today, September 11, in the Fellowship Hall, we will have booths set up to represent the different CFGs at APC. We hope this will be helpful in providing a chance to meet group leaders and see all the different meeting locations around the city. With our growing congregation, we are in need of additional leaders and hosts. Beginning today, we are also offering a 4 week leadership training class for anyone interested in being a CFG leader. If you would like more information about joining a group or are interested in hosting or leading, contact Pastor Josh Diack at [josh.diack@alexandriapres.org](mailto:josh.diack@alexandriapres.org).



## PROTAS Update: Loosen Your Grip In Order To Hold On

by Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

Do you thrive when plans change? Does your flesh desire to control circumstances like mine? Our team of 26 was planning to go on mission to Costa Rica in July, but God led us in new directions and His plans were exceedingly good.

In July, a team of 11 returned to our domestic missions partner, a PCA church plant, New City Fellowship in Atlantic City, NJ. God's provision was amazing as our team learned to love the city of AC in gospel ministry. The theme for their urban mission teams this summer was "UNITY." Our VBS & Bible club theme was "Turn Back To God" and it was a privilege to watch the teens come alive in their service to God as they brought much joy to the children that they served!

In August, God also provided an opportunity for our team of 8 to serve in the Fairfax Capernaum ministry at Rockbridge Young Life camp. Our teens walked alongside teens with disabilities as one-on-one buddies through one of the most beautiful camping adventures I have even been on. As we sought to lay our lives down so our campers would experience the best week of their life, we were blessed beyond expectations in this gospel community.

Living missionally is possible every day wherever we find ourselves; may God continue to show us how to hold onto Him alone.

*"Building up believers in true wisdom and community."*

**Sunday evening adult classes begin  
September 18 at APC Russell Road, from 5-7pm!**

**Financial Peace University,  
Jeff Fearon**

Desiring financial peace? This fall, learn how to get rid of debt, manage your money, spend and save wisely, and much more! The cost of the class is approximately \$100 per family for materials and access to the FPU website. Scholarships are available. To sign-up or ask questions, please contact Jeff Fearon at [jeffreypearon@aol.com](mailto:jeffreypearon@aol.com) or Pastor Bruce Forsee at [bruce.forsee@alexandriapres.org](mailto:bruce.forsee@alexandriapres.org).

**Healing Hearts,  
Pastor Chris Sicks & Dorothy Taft**

Healing Hearts is an exploration of the nature of suffering, trauma, and the "heart wounds" we all experience. We'll discover how God can heal our pain, and use us to help others find healing. Lessons include: If God loves us, why do we suffer? What happens when someone is grieving? How can we forgive others? We will learn and experience what it means to be a healing community. To sign up or ask questions, please contact Dorothy Taft at [dorothy@odouglas.com](mailto:dorothy@odouglas.com).

**Parenting by Grace,  
Bruce & Kye Forsee**

If the goal of your parenting is simply to survive the first few years, this class will be a breath of fresh air. In this class you will learn the ingredients of peaceful gospel parenting. How can you have a peaceful dinnertime and bedtime? How can you limit whining or encourage your child to obey without manipulation or bribing? Above all, how can you become a means of grace to your children? To sign-up or ask questions, please contact Pastor Bruce or Kye Forsee at [bruce.forsee@alexandriapres.org](mailto:bruce.forsee@alexandriapres.org).

### Giving at a Glance

YTD Giving	\$276,648.56
YTD Budget	\$278,729.00
Difference	\$2,080.44 (99.25%)



## SUNDAY MORNING SCHEDULE

Russell Road: Holy Worship ~ 8:50am | Time of Fellowship & Coffee ~ 10:15am | Sunday School for All Ages ~ 10:45am  
West Braddock Road: Holy Worship ~ 11am | Time of Fellowship & Coffee ~ 12:15pm