



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ January 2017

Upcoming Dates

Week of Prayer
January 8, 14

Koinonia
January 17

Newcomer Dinner
January 21

Women's Event
January 27-28

Inquirers Class
February 3-4

**PROTAS
Winter Retreat**
February 17-20

All Church Dinner
February 25

**Relational Wisdom
Seminar**
March 4

Holy Week
April 9-15

Men's Retreat
May 19-21

**Women's Bible
Studies**
Every Thursday
Every other Friday



Saturday, February 25: All-Church Dinner, Memphis BBQ Style *An evening for the family of APC to gather together for dinner, music, and fellowship*



The Family of God by Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

For this reason I bow my knees before the Father, from whom every family in heaven and on earth is named, that according to the riches of his glory he may grant you to be strengthened with power through his Spirit in your inner being, so that Christ may dwell in your hearts through faith – that you, being rooted and grounded in love, may have strength to comprehend with all the saints what is the breadth and length and height and depth, and to know the love of Christ that surpasses knowledge, that you may be filled with all the fullness of God.
Ephesians 3:14-19

The apostle Paul sees something here that many believers may miss: that when God saves the individual, He always places that person into family. His family. Too often today Christians tend to think of their relationship with God primarily in individual ways: "me and God".

This is wrong on multiple levels. First of all, the doctrine of the Trinity argues against this thinking. The Godhead consist of three persons: the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. These three persons of the Godhead enjoy perfect unity, harmony and relationship. Since we are made in God's image, we also were created to live in close relationship with our spiritual family members. When we were saved, we were brought not only into close relationship with the God who saves us, but with other family members who were saved in the same way. We need each other to fully understand and enjoy the family experience that the apostle Paul speaks about.

Gospel truth gets worked out in Gospel family/community. We comprehend with all the saints the depth and breadth of Christ's love. This calendar year, we will continue exploring and experiencing Gospel truth and Gospel community in different ways. Our preaching series this month will return to this theme, it will be a focus in our regular prayer meetings, and we will also address this theme in our Relational Wisdom Conference on March 4. Some of our Covenant Fellowship Groups will also work through the concepts of this conference together in our homes from week to week.

Would you pray that God will open up your mind and your heart in new ways to the blessings of spiritual family this year?



Discovering Relational Wisdom at APC by Josh Diack, *Pastor of Congregational Life*

What thoughts or reactions come to your mind when you hear the term "relationship"? For some, the term may be wrongly thought of as gender specific, or important for only certain types of personalities. It might stir up feelings of anxiety or inadequacy as you think of family, friends, co-workers, and social networking. On the other hand, maybe you thrive on relationships and find them life-giving and natural. Wherever you fall in the spectrum, relationships can be mysterious, complex, and have potential for great depth and meaning.

The Bible emphasizes over and over again that we are made for relationship at our very core. In fact, Jesus said the Ten Commandments could be summarized in our ability to love the Lord our God with all our heart, and our neighbor as ourselves. Clearly, the way we relate to the Lord and to each other is of utmost importance, and deserves our attention. But we must seek wisdom in order to love well in relationships, because it doesn't come easy. We all encounter challenging aspects of relationships in various areas of life. Seeking wisdom in our interactions is essential to growing in our Christian walks.

We have an exciting opportunity at APC this spring to delve more into this topic, through a conference led by founder of Peacemaker Ministries Ken Sande. I invite you to mark your calendars for March 4 and to attend the Relational Wisdom 360 Seminar. Ken has over 30 years experience in dealing with mediation and conflict resolution, and has distilled much of what he has learned over the years in this seminar. The development of his ever-deepening convictions about what is truly substantive in relationships and used of the Lord for His glory will be fleshed out in this conference. Ken will walk us through what it looks like to grow in wisdom awareness and engagement with ourselves, others and the Lord.

Ken will join us at our Russell Road Campus from 9-3pm, with lunch provided. The cost is \$25 per person for those who register during the month of January, and \$30 after. Registration for the seminar will begin shortly after the New Year. Scholarships are available. For any questions related to scholarships or the seminar, please contact Josh Diack at josh.diack@alexandriapres.org.



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.



PROTAS Update: Summer '17 Already?

by Adam LeRoy, *Director of Youth Ministries*

The new year just got started, but the summer will be here before we know it! Many students over the years have served on short-term mission trips, discovering much about God's world and His plans for their lives.

Our teens have two mission opportunities this summer: one team will be headed to Paraguay in July, and another team will serve as camp buddies at Young Life Capernaum in August. I am hopeful that some of you reading this may even end up on one of these two teams.

So, why Paraguay? We are partnering with Pastor Joel Acevedo and the reformed church planting efforts he started as a missionary many years ago in Paraguay. APC has been supporting Project Paraguay for a long time, and we have the opportunity to be the first complete missionary team from APC. Our team of 20 people might look like this: up to 10 high school students, 3 adult leaders, Pastor Joel & his family, and a medical team of 3 or 4 adults from APC. Plans are coming together to help lead an outreach camp over 3 days with teenagers from 4 different communities around Asuncion, Paraguay (with follow-up visits by our team back to their communities/homes), provide light medical care for 400 people through our adult medical team, work on light construction projects at one of the 3 church plants, and lead children's bible club ministry at the main church/school. Please visit projectparaguay.org for more info.

Would you consider praying, supporting and possibly even joining us on these awesome adventures this summer?



APC Sunday Evening Courses

by Bruce Forsee
*Director of Adult Education
and Visitation*

Opportunities to learn and grow in the Christian faith will be offered on Sunday evenings, starting this month.

Sonship is our staple discipleship curriculum. Combining videos, large group discussion, and small group fellowship, this 12-week course will help you better understand the magnificence of the gospel of grace. In Sonship, you will see the transforming power of the gospel as you deepen your relationship with Christ. As you experience the gospel's power, you will find greater joy and security in Christ as well as a deeper love for those in the family of God. This class, led by Pastor Tom Holliday, begins January 8.

If you've ever asked the question, "Why did I do that?" then you've probably wondered how sin takes hold in your life and how you can fight against it. In Hungry Hearts, a new 6-week class starting January 15, we will explore how sins are not isolated actions but are systemic in nature. By understanding how sin entangles us so thoroughly, we will be better equipped for spiritual battle. This class is led by Pastor Bruce Forsee.

There is no cost to APC members for course materials. Childcare is provided. For more information, contact the church office.



Staff Spotlight

Ruth Joyce
Administrative Assistant

After braving the seemingly endless winters of the Chicago area for four years, Ruth graduated from Wheaton College with degrees in Theology and also Health Science. She was very grateful to find a much-elusive job straight out of school, working at the church building she grew up in. She is excited to be back in NoVA with her APC family.

Giving at a Glance July - December 2016	
Actuals	\$834,296
Budget	\$951,587
Difference	\$-117,291 (88%)



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Children's Chatter

by Leslie Bridge
Director of Children's Ministries

On any given Sunday morning, we witness some really fun and encouraging things related to children. The first thing you may notice is a whole herd of children running down the Sanctuary isles on their way to Children's Church. As I greet them, almost all are smiling and are excited for what might happen during the rest of church time. Each Sunday, the children are learning one aspect of worship for a month. I love that there are a whole host of volunteers, including a very creative teen group teaching the children. As I think about these children heading into a time when they will stay in the sanctuary, they will have a greater understanding of what worship entails.

Sunday school has just as much energy in the classroom as the kids bring to Children's Church; we just don't see them running to the classes. Each of the classes focuses on the Gospel message in each of their lessons. The elementary children continue to keep posters on the wall stating how Jesus is better than anything else. It's fun to read the things the kids share. In the 1st and 2nd grade class, two boys have professed faith in Jesus this fall, which is so encouraging. I cried as each of them shared the news with me, and I am not a big crier!

When the children enter the fellowship hall for Explorers, that is when you see pandemonium. It just reminds me the kids love to be together and look forward to what happens on Sunday nights. We play, we eat, and we study the Catechism questions done through NewCityCatachism. Who wouldn't want to come on Sunday night? Mostly, I hope you are noticing that God is at work in the lives of the children at APC. God is working through the volunteers who commit to teaching and leading the kids and God is working in individual lives of children and all are affected. I am so grateful for the community of children and what God will be doing in 2017. Keep your eyes open and watch.

Inquirer's Class

February 3-4

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.

"Mike and I found fast friendship at APC and signed up for the soonest Inquirers Class to help us get more rooted in a new community. We found that the class emphasized clarity in understanding the denomination, its beliefs and our local church and especially enjoyed that we were able to dialogue with the pastors as they led. A bonus was that our group was fairly small and consisted of several families, allowing us to get to know one another through topical discussions and meal breaks. I would highly recommend anyone who is new to APC or curious about the PCA to take the Inquirers Class, where many questions can be examined and answered with robust scriptural and historical backing."

-APC member Isabel Lee

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