

WEEKLY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Explorers and PROTAS are on break for the holidays and will resume next Sunday.

Year-End gifts to APC. Since today is the last worship service of the year, if you forgot your check, you may also make your year-end gift through APC's online giving portal, but today is the last day for 2017. Thank you for considering APC in your year-end planning.

Call to Prayer— January 2017 (RRC). As we embark on a New Year, the elders invite you to join them in APC-wide prayer opportunities: this Wednesday, January 3, 7:30pm in the Chapel; Sunday, January 7, 5pm in the Fellowship Hall; Saturday, January 13, 9am in Room 104. Mark your calendars to attend at least one of these three corporate prayer times. Childcare will be provided for Sunday's prayer meeting.

Sonship begins next Sunday, January 7. The APC Sonship course combines group lectures/videos with small group interaction and meets for 12 Sunday evenings from 5-7pm. Sonship is designed to help you take some of the glorious theological truths of the gospel—truths that you may know in your head—and apply them to the nitty-gritty reality of daily life. You'll find that as the gospel re-makes you, not only will you experience a growing Gospel view of yourself, but you will also find a greater joy and desire to share the wonderful news of God's lovingkindness with others. Childcare is provided. Sign up at the Information Booth after worship.

Sunday evening class "The Prodigal Son, or The Father With Two Sons" begins next Sunday, January 7. Elder Lee Beckham will be leading this 9-week class using a combination of short lectures and group discussions to guide participants through this familiar parable. The younger son has usually gotten top billing, but there are three characters to consider in this story. Each one brings unique opportunities to evaluate the extent to which the gospel has penetrated our spiritual lives. Join us at the Russell Road Campus in Room 303 from 5-7pm.

Women's Tuesday Evening Bible Study. On the second and fourth Tuesdays of each month, we will hold a women's evening Bible study at APC's Russell Road Campus. Starting January 9, we will walk through "Prayers of the Old Testament" by Lynne M. Baab. No homework is required. If you are interested in attending, please email Joanne Redmond-Beckham at redmond_joanne@hotmail.com.

Thursday Women's Bible Study. Beginning January 11, the Thursday Women's Bible study will begin a new 10-week series entitled "From Garden to Glory, A Bible study on the Bible's Story" by Courtney Doctor. "The Bible, from Genesis to Revelation, is a beautiful, epic, and cohesive story showing our eternal God's redemptive mission to rescue and restore His rebellious, wayward children. But it's not a story meant merely to inform us. The story itself is meant to transform us and invite us to participate with Him in this glorious work!" Please join us on Thursdays from 9:45-11:30 in Room 303 at RRC. Childcare is provided. To sign up, please visit the information booth or contact Lynn Streett at bryant.lynn.streett@gmail.com or 703-942-8075.

Dinner & Discussion of MLK's "Letter from a Birmingham Jail"—Friday January 12, 6:30-8:30pm, West Braddock Campus. Mark the Martin Luther King, Jr. holiday by joining Pastor Chris and your APC family for a potluck dinner. We'll read King's letter together and discuss this central text of the Civil Rights era—originally addressed to Christian and Jewish leaders who opposed the movement. Please bring an entree, side dish, or dessert to share. APC will provide drinks. Questions? Contact: chris.sicks@alexandriapres.org.

Communicants Class for Children and Teens. The class will begin Thursday, January 18 from 4:30-5:30pm at RRC and run for eight weeks. Parents, please talk with your child/teen and consider whether or not you think they are ready to join the church as a communicant member. To find out more information, preview the workbook, or to sign up; please contact Pastor Tom Holliday (tom.holliday@alexandriapres.org) or Adam LeRoy (adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org).

Newcomers' Fellowship Dinner, Saturday, January 20, 6-8pm. If you've been attending APC for one week or several months, Sue Edwards invites you to her home, 2405 Terrett Ave., Alexandria, VA 22301, for food and fellowship. You'll have a chance to meet church officers and staff, ask questions and learn more about the ministry God is building here. Childcare is provided. Please sign up at the Info Booth or email Sue Edwards at sue.edwards@alexandriapres.org.

Inquirer's Class January 26-27 (RRC). If you are interested in membership or in gaining a deeper understanding of APC, you should attend this class. You will receive an introduction to Christianity, the PCA, and the specific vision/mission and philosophy of ministry at APC. Membership is open to all who profess faith in Christ and believe the basic teachings of the Christian faith. Attending the class does not obligate you to join the church. The Friday night session is from 6:30-9pm starting with a dinner, and the Saturday session is from 9am-3pm. Please RSVP to Sue Edwards at sue.edwards@alexandriapres.org or sign-up on Sunday if you wish to attend, and indicate if you have childcare needs.

UPCOMING DATES

Koinonia (20s-30s ministry) January 16
All-Church Dinner February 3

(See above for other important upcoming dates)

CORPORATE PRAYER IN 2017

Every Sunday, 8:30am—Chapel (RRC). Praying for our Worship Service.

Second Saturday of the month, 9am—Room 104 (RRC). Praying with our Elders for our church.

Fourth Sunday of the month, 5pm—Chapel (RRC). Praying with our church community.

SUNDAY MORNING MINISTRY WORKERS

Hospitality *This Week's Coffee Set Up:* Deb Wood
Next Week's Coffee Set Up: Deb Wood
Nursery *This Week's Church Service:* Katy Browne
Next Week's Church Service: Rodney and Margaret Veenstra

CHILDREN AND TEENS

Children's Church Room 124, during the sermon for children ages 5-7
Sunday school | 10:45-11:45am | Russell Road Campus

Children	0-4, Nursery Wing; 2-3.5yr olds, Room 129; 3.5-4yr olds, Room 126; 5yr olds, Room 114; Grades 1-2, Room 124; Grades 3-5 Boys, Room 115; Grades 3-5 Girls, Room 113
Teens	Jr High 6th-8th and Sr High 9th-12th, 4th Floor

Sunday evening | 5-7pm | Russell Road Campus

Explorers	children age 5-5th grade, Fellowship Hall
PROTAS	teens 6th-12th grade, 4th Floor

ADULT EDUCATION

Sunday school | 10:45-11:45am | Russell Road Campus

1 Samuel, *Led by Elder Bryant Streett, Chapel*
 This 10-week study of 1 Samuel will cover events from the birth of Samuel to the death of King Saul. Among other things, we will discuss Eli and his sons, battles with the Philistines, Israel asking for a King, Saul's kingship, the Lord's rejection of Saul as king, David's anointing, David and Goliath, Saul's jealousy/fear of David, Jonathan, Saul's hunting of David and David's grace toward Saul, Nabal and Abigail, and David living among the Philistines.

The Kingdom of God in the Gospel of Matthew, *Led by Pastor Josh Diack and Elder Jim Taft, Room 303*
 What do you think of when confronted with the advent of a new leader and a change in administration? Perhaps you think of motorcades, marching bands, and fanfare. Perhaps you ask questions such as: What are they like? Can they be trusted? What legacy will they leave behind? Those present at the announcement of the coming Messiah were also asking these questions. In this class, we will attempt to address the central theme of the Kingdom of God as presented in the Gospel of Matthew. We will reflect on this theme as we grow in gratitude for having received "a kingdom that cannot be shaken, and thus offer to God acceptable worship, with reverence and awe" (Heb 12:28).

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Email Distribution List. Periodic e-announcements keep the APC family informed of ministries, events, prayer requests, and classifieds. To subscribe, please contact the church office at admin@alexandriapres.org.

Submission Deadlines. Requests for bulletin and pulpit announcements are due to the office by Tuesday.

Covenant Fellowship Groups (CFG). APC offers a variety of CFGs which meet for study, prayer, fellowship, accountability and growth. A list of locations, times and contact info can be found online or in the CFG brochure at the Information Booth.

Find Us on Facebook. Please visit the APC Facebook page and hit the "Like" button while you're there!

Bulletin on your iPad or Tablet. To receive a PDF of the weekly bulletin, please e-mail Stacey Diack at stacey.diack@alexandriapres.org.

Listserv for APC moms. This is a secure, confidential listserv for APC women. To join, send an e-mail to apcmoms-subscribe@yahoo.com, and you'll receive an e-mail invitation to join.

UNCHANGING TRUTH—CHANGING LIVES

APC is a church of sinners. It's that simple. But we are bound together by the Gospel that saves us and transforms us. The transformation is, however, a process. God isn't through with us yet. Everyone in this church is struggling with something. If you are currently struggling with greed, gossip, drugs, alcohol, sexual brokenness, eating disorders, anger, pride, etc—you are not alone. More importantly, God does not intend for you to struggle alone. That's why He made the Church. If you would like to learn how your brothers and sisters at APC might be able to encourage you, pray with you and struggle alongside you, contact Tom Holliday at the church office.

unchanging
 truth.
 changing
 lives

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.

Please silence all cell phones and other electronic devices.

Parents with young children: a Family Worship Space with video simulcast is available downstairs.

Nursery is available for children ages 5 and under. Please see a greeter or usher for assistance.

Bibles and offering envelopes are available at the Information Booth.

Holy Worship Service

GOD INVITES HIS PEOPLE TO WORSHIP

■ **prelude** | *Chris McCahey, harmonica; Trevor Manor, Director of Music Ministries, piano*

■ hymn of praise

Our God, Our Help in Ages Past

■ call to worship

Please stand and read responsively. From Psalm 65:1-5,11-13.

Leader: ¹Praise is due to you, O God, in Zion,

All: and to you shall vows be performed.

Leader: ²O you who hear prayer,
to you shall all flesh come.

**All: ³When iniquities prevail against me,
you atone for our transgressions.**

Leader: ⁴Blessed is the one you choose and bring near,
to dwell in your courts!

**All: We shall be satisfied with the goodness of your house,
the holiness of your temple!**

Leader: ⁵By awesome deeds you answer us with righteousness,
O God of our salvation,

the hope of all the ends of the earth
and of the farthest seas;

**All: ¹¹You crown the year with your bounty;
your wagon tracks overflow with abundance.**

Leader: ¹²The pastures of the wilderness overflow,
the hills gird themselves with joy,

**All: ¹³the meadows clothe themselves with flocks,
the valleys deck themselves with grain,
they shout and sing together for joy.**

■ hymn of worship

As the Hart Longs for Flowing Streams

■ **prayer of adoration** | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **scripture reading** | *Elder Matt Coombs*

Psalm 90

From Everlasting to Everlasting *A Prayer of Moses, the man of God.*

¹Lord, you have been our dwelling place
in all generations.

²Before the mountains were brought forth,
or ever you had formed the earth and the world,
from everlasting to everlasting you are God.

³You return man to dust
and say, “Return, O children of man!”

⁴For a thousand years in your sight
are but as yesterday when it is past,
or as a watch in the night.

⁵You sweep them away as with a flood; they are like a dream,
like grass that is renewed in the morning;

⁶in the morning it flourishes and is renewed;
in the evening it fades and withers.

⁷For we are brought to an end by your anger;
by your wrath we are dismayed.

⁸You have set our iniquities before you,
our secret sins in the light of your presence.

¹²So teach us to number our days
that we may get a heart of wisdom.

¹³Return, O Lord! How long?

Have pity on your servants!

¹⁴Satisfy us in the morning with your steadfast love,
that we may rejoice and be glad all our days.

¹⁵Make us glad for as many days as you have afflicted us,
and for as many years as we have seen evil.

¹⁶Let your work be shown to your servants,
and your glorious power to their children.

¹⁷Let the favor of the Lord our God be upon us,
and establish the work of our hands upon us;
yes, establish the work of our hands!

■ heidelberg catechism question and answer 117

Please stand and read responsively.

Leader: What is the kind of prayer that pleases God and that he listens to?

All: First, we must pray from the heart to no other than the one true God, revealed to us in his Word, asking for everything God has commanded us to ask for. Second, we must fully recognize our need and misery, so that we humble ourselves in God’s majestic presence. Third, we must rest on this unshakable foundation: even though we do not deserve it, God will surely listen to our prayer because of Christ our Lord. That is what God promised us in his Word.

■ congregational prayer

■ farewell

■ song of worship

Be Thou My Vision

Be Thou my vision O Lord of my heart—Naught be all else to me save that Thou art
Thou my best thought by day or by night—Waking or sleeping Thy presence my light

Be Thou my wisdom and Thou my true word—I ever with Thee and Thou with me
Lord Thou my great Father I Thy true son—Thou in me dwelling and I with Thee one

Be Thou my battle shield—sword for my fight—Be Thou my dignity—Thou my delight
Thou my soul’s shelter—Thou my high tow’r—Raise Thou me heav’nward O Pow’r of my pow’r

High King of heaven my victory won—May I reach heaven’s joys O bright heav’n’s Sun
Heart of my own heart whatever befall—Still be my vision O Ruler of all

Ancient Irish Poem ca 8th cent., Tr. Mary E. Byrne, 1905; Traditional Irish Melody, arr. David Evans, 1927

■ new year offertory prayer

Leader: Lord, with the hymn writer we consecrate ourselves and our belongings to You:

All: “Riches I heed not, nor man’s empty praise; Thou mine inheritance, now and always.”

Leader: As the new year approaches, we offer all that we have to You. Give us wisdom how we are to spend our money, but especially give us generous hearts, which are quick to see the needs of other and respond in faith.

All: “Thou and Thou only, first in my heart, High King of heaven, my treasure Thou art.”

Leader: Bless this offering for the building up of Your body and the spreading of Your kingdom.

All: In Christ’s name, Amen.

■ presentation of tithes and offerings

GOD FEEDS HIS PEOPLE THROUGH HIS WORD

■ **sermon scripture reading**

Romans 8:12-34

Heirs with Christ

¹²So then, brothers, we are debtors, not to the flesh, to live according to the flesh. ¹³For if you live according to the flesh you will die, but if by the Spirit you put to death the deeds of the body, you will live. ¹⁴For all who are led by the Spirit of God are sons of God. ¹⁵For you did not receive the spirit of slavery to fall back into fear, but you have received the Spirit of adoption as sons, by whom we cry, “Abba! Father!” ¹⁶The Spirit himself bears witness with our spirit that we are children of God, ¹⁷and if children, then heirs—heirs of God and fellow heirs with Christ, provided we suffer with him in order that we may also be glorified with him.

Future Glory

¹⁸For I consider that the sufferings of this present time are not worth comparing with the glory that is to be revealed to us. ¹⁹For the creation waits with eager longing for the revealing of the sons of God. ²⁰For the creation was subjected to futility, not willingly, but because of him who subjected it, in hope ²¹that the creation itself will be set free from its bondage to corruption and obtain the freedom of the glory of the children of God. ²²For we know that the whole creation has been groaning together in the pains of childbirth until now. ²³And not only the creation, but we ourselves, who have the firstfruits of the Spirit, groan inwardly as we wait eagerly for adoption as sons, the redemption of our bodies. ²⁴For in this hope we were saved. Now hope that is seen is not hope. For who hopes for what he sees? ²⁵But if we hope for what we do not see, we wait for it with patience.

²⁶Likewise the Spirit helps us in our weakness. For we do not know what to pray for as we ought, but the Spirit himself intercedes for us with groanings too deep for words. ²⁷And he who searches hearts knows what is the mind of the Spirit, because the Spirit intercedes for the saints according to the will of God. ²⁸And we know that for those who love God all things work together for good, for those who are called according to his purpose. ²⁹For those whom he foreknew he also predestined to be conformed to the image of his Son, in order that he might be the firstborn among many brothers. ³⁰And those whom he predestined he also called, and those whom he called he also justified, and those whom he justified he also glorified.

God’s Everlasting Love

³¹What then shall we say to these things? If God is for us, who can be against us? ³²He who did not spare his own Son but gave him up for us all, how will he not also with him graciously give us all things? ³³Who shall bring any charge against God’s elect? It is God who justifies. ³⁴Who is to condemn? Christ Jesus is the one who died—more than that, who was raised—who is at the right hand of God, who indeed is interceding for us.

■ prayer for illumination

■ **sermon** | *Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor*

“The Gift of Intercessory Prayer”

GOD’S PEOPLE RESPOND

■ **song of response**

Take My Life

Take my life and let it be consecrated Lord to Thee

Take my moments and my days—Let them flow in ceaseless praise

Take my hands and let them move at the impulse of Thy love

Take my feet and let them be swift and beautiful for Thee

Here am I—all of me—take my life—it’s all for Thee

Take my voice and let me sing—Always only for my King

Take my lips and let them be filled with messages from Thee

Take my silver and my gold—Not a mite would I withhold

Take my intellect and use ev’ry power as You choose

Take my will and make it Thine—It shall be no longer mine

Take my heart it is Thine own—It shall be Thy royal throne

Take my love my Lord I pour at Your feet its treasure-store

Take myself and I will be ever only all for Thee

Chris Tomlin, Frances Ridley Havergal, Henri Abraham Cesar Malan, Louie Giglio; ©2003 worshiptogether.com songs, sixsteps Music (Admin. by EMI Christian Music Publishing); CCLI#4162843

■ dismissal

Leader: Let us go forth and serve our city and our world as those who love the Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

All: We will go forth and serve our city and our world in the name of Christ.

■ benediction

■ announcements