



## Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ March 2018

### Upcoming Dates

**Koinonia**  
March 20

**Men's Breakfast**  
March 24

**Palm Sunday & Prayer Meeting**  
March 25

**Good Friday Service**  
March 30

**Easter Egg Hunt**  
March 31

**Easter Services**  
April 1

**Women's Retreat**  
April 6-8

**Manassas Battlefield Tour**  
April 28

**Newcomer Dinner**  
May 19

**Inquirers Class**  
June 1-2

**Vacation Bible School**  
June 25-29



will be leisurely. Then an opportunity for quiet time is offered prior to the first session. Saturday afternoon is open for a variety of activities — a deeper dive discussion, focused prayer, hiking, games, antiquing, fitness class, a spa activity, or perhaps a nap. Dinner leads into our second session which is followed by star gazing or s'mores by the fire pit. Sunday we gather for a hearty breakfast, worship, and our final session before departing at midday.

Our prayer is that women will be blessed by this retreat and leave feeling more encouraged to grow in their faith, deeper connected to their sisters in Christ, and better equipped to receive Christ's invitation to come home to Him.



### Holy Week and Easter at APC

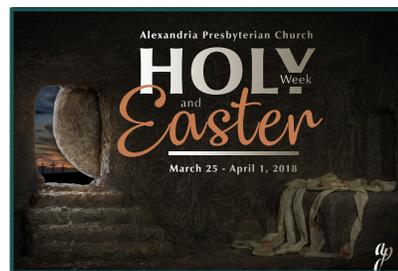
by Trevor Manor, Director of Music Ministries

Once a year, both campuses of APC gather for a special evening to commemorate the death of our Savior, and to express our love for Him. Join us this Good Friday at our Russell Road Campus (March 30 at 7:30pm, prelude at 7:15pm) for *Around the Table of the King*. It's a night of worship and remembrance of Christ's great sacrifice for us, and how He made us a part of His family.

All the musicians who are rehearsing for this service (the Adult Choir, Youth Choir, Praise Team and instrumentalists) are praying that it would be a blessing to our entire church family. Nursery will be provided. (We want this to be a multi-generational worship event, after all, where families feel welcome!) In addition to special music, we'll have scripture readings, a meditation from Pastor Tom, and we'll close by coming around the King's table for the Lord's Supper. We hope you will come and experience Christ's love through the unfolding of the Passion account from Luke's Gospel. As we grieve our Savior's death, and the sin that led Him there, we encounter further depths of thankfulness for His sacrifice.

Then, we reach new heights of joy on Easter morning, when we celebrate the risen King! For over a quarter of a century we have publicly proclaimed Jesus' resurrection in Market Square, and this year will be no exception. Join us at 7am as Bagpipes and the Praise Team proclaim the risen Son as the sun rises over Old Town Alexandria. Then at our 8:50am Russell Road service, special brass and percussion will lead us musically in a rousing service of praise, as we hear from the choirs and Praise Team. At our 11am service at Braddock Road, the Praise Team will lead us in joyful singing to the risen Lord. "Thine be the glory, risen, conquering Son; Endless is the victory Thou o'er death hast won!"

Service details can be found on the "Holy Week and Easter" postcards, available on the Information Booth in the Fellowship Hall. We encourage you to take these postcards (as many as you'd like) and invite friends and family to these special services, including Palm Sunday, March 25.



### APC Women's Retreat by the Women's Retreat Committee



On the weekend of April 6-8, many women will come apart to hear the Lord's voice, to lay down their burdens, and to rest their weary souls. Jesus promised that wherever two or three are gathered — He would be in their midst. So imagine what it will be like when He fulfills His promise to the large number of women gathered for our APC Women's Retreat!

This year we are excited to return to Meadowkirk—a retreat center set in the beautiful countryside surrounding Middleburg, Virginia. Our guest speaker, Susan Yates, is a pastor's wife, mother, grandmother, author, and seasoned retreat speaker. Our retreat theme, "Coming Home," focuses on the familiar verse in Matthew, "Come to me, all you who are weary and burdened, and I will give you rest." Susan promises to deliver three biblically inspired messages targeted to inspire women of all ages, and in all stages of life and spiritual growth. To reflect on our theme, "Coming Home," Susan will share lessons from one of her most recent books, *Risky Faith*, laced with illustrations from her many years of walking with the Lord.

For those attending—expect to be refreshed in worship and play. We begin Friday night with a coffee house atmosphere—a relaxing time with music and fellowship. On Saturday morning, breakfast

### A Focus on APC's Men by Elder Jim Taft

As Spring rolls around and baseball teams report to Spring training camp, APC's men will be soon be gathering for their own times of fellowship and spiritual training. First up to the plate will be APC's Men's Breakfast, scheduled for Saturday, March 24th, 8:30-10:15am. in the Fellowship Hall at RRC. Men (especially APC's men) like to eat! So what better opportunity for fellowship than around the breakfast table? After breakfast, we'll have an engaging panel of speakers, comprised of four of your fellow APC men, who will share their thoughts about the challenges of striking the right home-work balance and as well as the challenge of being Gospel men in our workplaces — in the face of sometimes difficult work situations and relationships. Please sign up for the breakfast so that we may have some idea of how much food will be needed.

Close on the heels of our breakfast, will be another great opportunity for fellowship, fun, and learning as Elder Gary McGee conducts a tour of Manassas Battlefield on Saturday, April 28, from 8:30am—3pm. We'll carpool up to the Battlefield site, tour the site with our own expert guide, eat at a nearby Cracker Barrel (there's that men and food thing again!), and return home by mid-afternoon. First Manassas (also called Bull Run) was the first major engagement of the Civil War, and, as such, featured some strategic blunders as well as impressive acts of valor and courage. We'll focus on examples of leadership of both types.

We're also revamping the Men's Ministry portion of APC's web site, where we'll announce future opportunities for upcoming events, small group studies, and smaller group sharing. So, please consider those various opportunities to grow as Gospel men.





## Family Devotions

by Josh Diack, Pastor of Congregational Life

"Brevity is the key to successful devotions." That may sound like a cop-out to some, but it actually demonstrates a good degree of wisdom. Life is not all about the big moments or the things that wow us. Often times, it's the small things done faithfully over a long span of time that have the greater impact and ability to shape us. The gospel (life, death, and resurrection of Jesus) is our source of strength. Developing a devotional time with your family is a fruit and an overflow of enjoying and growing deeper in the gospel. Some of you may be well-established in your family devotions. Others of you may feel as though you ought to do it, but for many different reasons, don't know where to start or what it should look like. Establishing this routine can be really difficult, but it's never too late to start. It's never about being perfect. It's about letting the beauty of Christ enter the struggles of our every day lives.

My suggestion would be: Go ahead and jump in! Don't wait, just choose a time of the day that works for you and your family, and plan to stop what you're doing at that time to come together. You might be asking the question: What should it look like? My suggestion would be to aim for brevity at the beginning, around 10 minutes. It also may be helpful to choose something that is age-appropriate for your children. One resource for kids ages 5 and under is 'The Big Picture Story Bible' by David Helm. Read a chapter with your child(ren), allow them to ask questions, and talk with them through it. For kids a little older, 'Old Story New' and 'Long Story Short' by Marty Machowski are great resources on the Old Testament and the New Testament. Read and talk through these lessons with your kids and allow God's Word to direct your prayer concerns as you end your time.

It may not always go how you plan, you may feel sometimes like you do more herding of your little flock than teaching, but all of this is invaluable training for parents and for children as we seek our heavenly Father together. If you would like more information about family worship or would like to talk further, please contact me at [josh.diack@alexandriapres.org](mailto:josh.diack@alexandriapres.org) and I will be happy to serve you in any way I am able.



## Children's Chatter

by Leslie Bridge, Director of Children's Ministries

Gospel conversations. Gospel transformation. Gospel preaching. These are things we hear and talk about a lot at our church. These are core essentials of who we are at APC. I wonder how many of us think about how and what this looks like among our children? They may not use the words we use, but they are having gospel conversations, and they are being transformed by the gospel.

In Children's Church, Sunday School, and Explorers, children are learning how the entire Bible shows us God's great rescue plan. Some of the children are learning the hand motions to the Old Testament, which is teaching them the storyline of the Bible and how it points to our need for a Savior, a Rescuer. Recently, some of the older children have been taking a closer look at the message of the gospel and what that means for them. Others have been studying the teachings of Jesus and have been learning about who He is and what He came to do. Some of us are learning about our need for a Rescuer through the book of Judges.

Taking the time to hear what the children have been talking about and what they say during the teaching time makes my heart sing. Many parents have shared with me how their children are making connections with the gospel and how they are growing. Just the other day, a parent shared how her child is starting to see things more clearly and is growing in her faith. I know many of us pray for these children on a regular basis and it is so encouraging to see how God is answering. Please keep praying for them.



## PROTAS Update

by Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

Praise God! We had an awesome Winter Retreat in February—PROTAS' largest retreat EVER at 75 people. We were so blessed to have a great team of teen leaders, adult leaders, and such great encouragement in gospel community. Our teaching theme was "PERFECTION." The rollercoaster of life on Earth is full of highs and lows, with the truth of our imperfect stories in plain sight and the lies of a perfect life constantly out of reach. Hebrews 10:14 says, "For by a single offering he has perfected for all time those who are being sanctified." Pray as many teens are taking an honest look at the cracks of their personal timelines, and by faith are seeking to look to Jesus, who shines eternal hope into their daily lives.

Teen/Adult Missions Summer '18 ~ Young Life Capernaum Camp August 11-15: The past two summers we have had the BEST time coming alongside teenagers with handicaps, seeking to give them the best camp of their life and leading them to Jesus (many for the first time). We walk one-on-one alongside campers for 5 days at Rockbridge Young Life Camp here in Virginia. Camp includes: zip-lines into the lake, piggy back rides, fishing, mealtime fun, and gospel processing during cabin times. Anyone from mature middle schooler to retiree with a heart interested in working one-on-one with a special needs student at camp are encouraged to apply.

A Continued NEED: There are still 80+ teens, but to be honest, there have been no new volunteers added recently to the work of APC's kingdom-building teen ministry. I need more adults to intentionally step into teen culture and "earn" the right to share their lives with the next generation, living out joys and pains in relationship with our teens. Teens often remember THE PERSON who "earned" their trust. In the moments we share as friend, mentor & discipler, a bridge opens to point them to Jesus! These teens are amazing and you will be inspired as you walk alongside them and cheer them on in life. Listening, praying, offering empathy, and sharing how the gospel has been at work in your life as they process Christ at work in theirs. THIS IS generation to generation ministry. Contact Adam LeRoy at [adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org](mailto:adam.leroy@alexandriapres.org) if the Spirit is leading.

## Giving at a Glance July 1, 2017 - February 28, 2018

Actuals: \$1,186,703  
Budget: \$1,268,323  
Difference: \$81,620 (93.56%)

## 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

Russell Road Campus ~ 2405 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22301

Braddock Road Campus ~ 1302 West Braddock Road, Alexandria VA 22302

703-683-3348 (office) 703-683-2392 (fax)

[alexandriapres.org](http://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.*