



Alexandria Presbyterian Church • June 2008

Upcoming Dates

**PROTAS
Sr. Graduation**
June 2

**Costa Rica PROTAS
Fundraiser Dinner**
June 6

**Children's Ministry
Town Hall Meeting**
June 8

Inquirer's Class
June 13-14

Father's Day
June 15

**Summer PROTAS
Begins**
June 18

First Day of Summer
June 20

**Vacation Bible
School**
June 23 - 27

**Last Friday
Open House**
June 27

**PROTAS
Costa Rica Trip**
July 16-30

Teacher's Workshop
August 22



Witnessing Supernovae by Elder Chris Joyce

Astronomers are excited. One of their own recently captured the final moments of a star. One that died 88 million years ago. There's an explanation on PBS's website, as reported in The News Hour with Jim Lehrer (May 21, 2008).

For the Christian, there's a macro story here. About God's creativity. His power. His timelessness. The majesty of His creative power demonstrated once again for all to see. The three-part narrative of creation, destruction and redemption.

There's also a micro story. I don't think it's too big a stretch to see the parallel between the creative destruction of a star and the creative destruction of an individual. A person created in the image of his maker.

Think about the parallels with your own life. Your own little supernova. The creative act that you represent. The reality that this act of God, although visible to you and all those around you for only a few generations, was in His mind's eye *more than* 88 million years ago.

Think about the energy we each have expended—the fuel we have consumed—pursuing our own particular appetites. The bright flame of our

desire. The supernova is a resource hog, consuming itself in its nuclear furnace. Everything is fuel to that insatiable appetite. These words apply to humans, too.

Another interesting thing about supernovae: iron. If there's iron in the core, the star is poised for disaster. Just a question of time. It cannot get any more energy out of iron. No more nuclear fusion. Eventually the star collapses within, then explodes. With a big bang.

Think about the iron in our own heart, before we inhaled the gospel. Recall how dense that old heart was? Remember the weight of it? The sensation of being about to explode?

That weight, that burden of a heavy, hard, iron heart, is only removed by the cross. It can only be broken down...melted...and then removed by the work of the Holy Spirit. Otherwise, that heart will eventually implode. Then we will explode. Also with a big bang.

Final point. Just like the invisible x-rays that precede the visible event of a supernova, our own gracious quickening by the Holy Spirit is invisible at first. It takes time for us (and others) to see the impact of His hand. The visible evidence lags the gracious event.

But ultimately, it is visible. For all to see.



Calling All Teachers

"Listen, O heavens, and I will speak; hear, O earth, the words of my mouth. Let my teaching fall like rain and my words descend like dew, like showers on new grass, like abundant rain on tender plants. I will proclaim the name of the Lord. Oh, praise the greatness of our God!" Deuteronomy 32:1-3

How's that for an inspirational word picture of teaching? Ever desire to have your words "descend like dew... like abundant rain on tender plants"? If yes, read on. If unsure, read on. Even if you answered no, *read on.*

First, some good news. *The demand for teachers at APC is growing.* The market's not soft, demand has not peaked. In our children, teen and adult divisions, there is growing demand for teaching talent.

Also, *we're blessed with wonderful content.* Think about it. We've got God's truth, the best

content in the universe. We also have God's promise: when we faithfully present His truth, it will have His intended impact. No believer left behind.

Third, *we're blessed with a captive audience.* OK, maybe that's an overstatement. We haven't asked the ushers to start driving Fellowship Hall laggards into the classrooms. At least, not yet. But the truth is, we do have a very willing audience, hungry to learn more.

That's where you come in. Consider joining the APC teacher rotation. Many of you have expressed interest in this ministry. We know, because we actually went back and reviewed your membership application. No doubt others of you have felt the tug of teaching since your arrival at 2405 Russell Road.

You may be hesitant. That's natural... even desirable. It's good to be humble. You may feel under-equipped. That's okay, too. God is up to that.

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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.



Staff Spotlight—Sharon Smith

I was born in Panama and lived overseas (mostly Central America) until I was 10 years old. At that time my parents divorced and my mother, older brother and younger sister and I moved to central Florida, where I spent the next six years. I spent my junior and senior year of High School in Kuwait, living with my father who was in overseas banking his entire career.

I did not grow up in a Christian home. After graduation, I came back to live with my mother and step father (who was a new believer) in middle Tennessee, and began going to church. Late that summer, the Lord brought me to Him during a week long revival where the evangelist was teaching through the book of Ruth.

The Lord led me that Fall to a small Bible College, where I spent two years. I will forever be grateful for the new foundation

He was building in me. In Him is my real life: Col. 3:3-4, 10.

I am married to the most wonderful man in the world! He is a true gift in my life. My husband Ralph and I started visiting APC in 2001, a few months before we married. We loved it the first Sunday we came; we were welcomed warmly and appreciated the teaching. We joined APC on Easter Sunday, 2002.

We have 3 children: Shylah, 23, Jared, 22, who both live in Rolla, Missouri, and Gabriel, 19, who just finished his first year of college at JMU.

I had worked as a receptionist for the past 6 years and began to feel strongly about a year and a half ago that I wanted to serve the Lord in a ministry, wherever He led me. The Lord brought the opportunity to serve on staff at APC a little over a month ago and I am so thankful!

I trust myself to the God who made me, for He will never fail me..... I Peter 4:12-19.

(Teachers, continued from

And you'll be less inclined to take any credit.

Consider implementing this three point action plan:

1. Prayerfully consider raising your hand to Dave Todaro (Elder—Children and Youth Ministries), Marc Allen (Elder—Adult Sunday School Ministries), Leslie Bridge (Director—Children's Ministries) or Adam LeRoy (Director—Teen Ministries).

2. Mark your calendar. Reserve August 22, 7:00-9:15pm, for APC's teacher workshop. We'll serve a light dinner at 6:00pm, and child care will be provided. The two-hour workshop, "Effective Sunday School Teaching" will be a great entry point for aspiring teachers, and a good refresher course for experienced teachers. We'll cover three topics: (a) let the passage make the point, (b) learner friendly lessons, and (c) the power of co-teaching.

3. Follow through, and register for the workshop. We'll start sign-ups in mid-June, both in the Fellowship Hall and through the website. And as an APC member, the workshop will be free to you. What a deal!



Children's Chatter by Leslie Bridge

As I was setting up for the Explorers' end of year water party, suddenly the clouds parted and the ground dried. Thinking about the next few hours and what would take place brought a huge smile to my face. I think "smiles" might define our children's ministries. If you were to ask any of our 40 volunteers, I bet each one would smile as they answered you. Same goes for the 35 VBS volunteers. Children involved in the various programs seem to smile with delight as well.

Many of our children want to rush out to Children's Church, attend Sunday School, and come back on Sunday night for Explorers. This past Sunday several parents told me that their children wanted to know if we were going to have Explorers that night. I believe this illustrates how much the children enjoy the ministries we are providing. They were quite disappointed that

Explorers wasn't meeting for the summer months.

The community of believers who come together each Sunday to teach and lead Children's Church, Sunday School and Explorers are an extension of every family in our congregation. Those involved help solidify what every family prays for and longs to see in each child. I am so grateful for those who give of themselves in this way. I love watching how God is using them to develop in the children a love for the Lord and a desire for following Him.

Why do I mention all of this? It's that time of year when we invite volunteers to join each of the children's ministry programs. The impact we have in the children's lives is significant and really fun. It takes lots of volunteers to minister to the many children here at APC. If you would like to find out how to be involved in any one of these children's ministries, I would love to talk with you. It is a worthy investment of your time and energy.

APC Giving at a Glance	Giving (through May)	\$432,323
	Budget	\$382,540



VBS: June 23—27
9:30am—12:00pm
Register on the web or
in the Fellowship Hall!

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