



# ALEXANDRIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

## FALL 2021

*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.*

### Upcoming Dates

**Hot Dog & Ice Cream Social**  
September 12

**Explorers, PROTAS & Sunday Evening Classes Begin**  
September 19

**Inquirers' Class**  
September 24-25

**Koinonia Camping**  
September 24-25

**Women's Conference**  
October 1-2

**Men's Breakfast**  
October 16

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

**Giving at a Glance**  
July 1 - August 31, 2021  
YTD Giving \$288,988  
YTD Budget \$312,000  
Percentage 93%



### Living Out Our Mission by Pastor Tom Holliday

APC's theme for the coming year will be our mission statement, which you can find written above. I encourage you to read through it several times!

As many of you know, the elders select a theme every fall: a Biblical truth or theme that we believe God wants our congregation to focus on. The process is always the same: after much prayer and discussion, we wait on God to reveal to us His plan for our congregation.

At this particular season of our church life, preparing to move into our new building in the Spring, we believe working through our mission statement as a congregation will be beneficial to all of us. This mission statement reminds us that God has called us to be a Gospel-centered

church in everything we do. It is exciting to consider how God will bless the various ministries of APC as we pray through this mission together.

Beginning this month, the preaching will focus on this subject, CFGs will work through it in their groups, and the teens and children's ministries will likewise seek to apply it to their lives in their time together.

Please pray with our elders and staff that the Lord will make this a fruitful time in our church life as we seek to be a welcoming community of believers, growing in our Gospel joy, experiencing greater spiritual transformation, and responding with grateful hearts to our God and world.

### New Building Update by Elders Jim Taft, Gary McGee, Bob Metheny and Ben Crowley

These are exciting times in the life of APC for a host of reasons; not least of which is the progress being made in constructing our new worship center. If you've driven by our Braddock Road campus recently, you've seen the "bones" of the new building taking shape. Here's a summary of the major tasks accomplished to date and the work scheduled for the near future.



- General site preparation and excavation of the basement were completed in February and March, respectively.
- The concrete foundation, basement walls, and basement floor were completed in June.
- Concrete floors for the ground and the second floors were poured in the latter part of August.
- Elevator shaft and stairwells are 90% complete. They'll be finished over the next several weeks.
- Structural steel was erected in early August and follow-on detailed steel work is ongoing.

The next major milestones will be installation of the roof, metal stud walls, and the building's brick walls -- as work eventually shifts to the inside of the building. That's when the excitement will really build! We're hopeful that our new worship center will be completed in March 2022; approximately six months from now. But, there are a lot of moving parts to this enterprise, as you can imagine (including weather uncertainties) and we'll have a better sense of the completion date as we approach the end of 2021. One event to keep on your radar screens will be a "Sharpie Party" to

be scheduled some time in the early Fall. We'll invite the congregation to bring sharpies to the construction site and write, for posterity, their names, Bible verses, and other sentiments on the floors and pillars of the sanctuary -- before those items are covered over as part of the final phase of construction. Stay tuned for details about that event.

In addition to all of the "hard" construction activities, there are myriad "soft" elements of the project, such as furnishings, security, and audio-visual equipment that will need to be acquired for our new building. Teams of APCers, with assistance from consultants, are currently working on those elements. We've been blessed, throughout this project, by a very capable and hard-working team of consultants and contractors who are expertly implementing this project for us.

In addition, there's a small army of APC members, who've brought amazing expertise and perspectives to the table, and have graciously given of their time to help steer and direct this project. We're so grateful and appreciative of everyone's efforts. Please continue to pray for their efforts and remember the following needs, in particular:

- Maintaining positive neighborhood relationships;
- Making wise decisions in the myriad issues/choices we face for the remainder of the project;
- Safety for our General Contractor and subcontractors; and
- Keeping the main thing the main thing.....

As much as we're focused on the logistics of constructing our new worship center, we need to remember that it's ultimately not about the building, but rather, about the gospel. Our goal -- in all we do relative to the worship center -- is that that we will be a "welcoming community of believers, rejoicing in the gospel, transformed by its power and responding with grateful hearts in service to our God and our world." We fervently pray that the city of Alexandria (and beyond) will be drawn to the majesty and mercy of our great God.



## PROTAS Updates (APC's Teen Ministry)

by Adam LeRoy *Director of Youth Ministries*

It has been a rough 18 months of circumstances nobody wanted, but there is much to be thankful to God for. A mix of highs and lows that have occurred in teen community over Covid include:

PROTAS Youth Ministry hit our 25-year anniversary of intentional ministry towards teenagers. We used Zoom for: youth group, lunch buddies, office hours, Capernaum camp, and even a 3-month daily Bible study. We re-gathered in person last September for Jr. High & Sr. High gatherings outside. Five awesome PROTAS parents stepped up to help co-lead discipleship groups at their homes—a significant life-line for these teens! This past March we started meeting again in-person (2.0) and this summer we even had weekly field trips at parks together. As families have moved away, we also have welcomed several new families.

It's been a crazy journey. I have tried to reframe my mind/heart and encourage the teen community along the way with the following: As we lean-in to the unmerited love of God available to us in Jesus, my desire is that unchanging truths transform our perspective of how much He cares for us, **DESPITE ANY CIRCUMSTANCES**. If I am honest, I have let the negative circumstances speak too deeply into my heart and it has left its scars. I know I am not alone.

As I prepare for students to re-gather as a community this Fall, a central piece of our authentic model of Gospel transformation will be to strive towards honesty. While at Young Life camp in August with Alexandria City High School students, the camp speaker made the following statement: "Give everything you know about yourself, to everything you know about God!" It was a loving invitation to these students to consider



stepping out in faith towards Jesus, right where they are, just as they are. PROTAS teens and the friends they invite into community will hear this welcoming invitation as well. We will seek to bring our very real lives to God and see how He can make all things new!

Students and parents (including myself, as I have 3 kids in PROTAS now) can be strong in the Lord as we acknowledge that this season does NOT define our lives or change our identity in Christ. Join me in seeking the Holy Spirit's help to reveal more about ourselves and join me in trusting in the Father who loves us and promises not to leave us where we are, but to transform us by his power and grace!

Unchanging Truth ~ Changing Youth, pray with me to that end! With our hearts and minds anchored beyond the circumstances of this world!



## Children's Chatter

by Erin Furgerson *Director of Children's Ministries*

As we live out the mission of APC in the Children's Ministry, we welcome visitors to the nursery, we help children know and experience the gospel through nursery and Sunday school lessons, we sing and praise the Lord with joyful hearts, we discover how to live out the gospel during Explorers as we love God and love others, and volunteers serve in response to the gospel by teaching, discipling and caring for our children. In all of this we rely on the Holy Spirit's transforming power to turn our hearts, and our children's hearts, to God.

One of the ways we lived out our APC mission this summer was our Wilderness Escape VBS, June 28-July 2. We had children participating at home and in person with 98 kids in all! Those at home were able to use this as an outreach and gathered in homes and backyards. In person, we gathered for a fun-filled morning of singing, Bible lessons, crafts, games, and funny videos. While it was a very unique year during Covid, like no other VBS before, we wore our masks and joyfully participated! We welcomed many children from outside of APC!



All week the children learned that we can trust God no matter what! Just as He led the Israelites on their wilderness journey after escaping Egypt, we too can know that God is with us, gives us what we need, gives us strength, saves us and guides us today!

We prayed for God's transforming power to reach in the hearts of the children, and adults, as the gospel was clearly presented. Please keep praying that those seeds of gospel truth will continue to grow on the soil of these children's hearts. Pray that they come to know in their hearts and minds who God is and experience Jesus' love.



## The Lord at Work at APC

by Josh Diack

*Pastor of Congregational Life*

God has been faithfully and remarkably at work at APC, despite the challenges of this past year. The hardships of this time have drawn us to pray like no other time, and we shouldn't be surprised that we are reaping the blessing of answered prayer. The Gospel's transforming power has proven to be stronger than a pandemic! His promises have remained true, and His kingdom continues to advance at APC and across the world. As I think about the many ministries at APC (which span the ages!), I give thanks for how the Lord has clearly been at work.

Our Covenant Fellowship Groups have welcomed many new APCers, whether virtually or in-person. To be sure, it has involved some out-of-the-box thinking, but it has also proven that the welcome of Christ isn't bound by mere circumstance. Rejoicing in the Gospel compels us to welcome, love and minister to others. I've been so encouraged to hear of new attenders getting plugged in, known and pursued in their CFG.

Many creative opportunities were granted for greater outreach and compassionate service. This was true for us as a church as well as for many of our mission partners across the world. God continues to work among the nations through these partnerships, and we have had the blessing and encouragement of hearing first-hand accounts of how our rejoicing God continues to further the advance of the gospel. The mission's committee continues to be prayerful about how to best serve you and supply you with this same encouragement. You can be on the lookout for some of these initiatives in the weeks ahead.

We've seen the Spirit work powerfully to transform many of our men and women through the gospel. God has been spiritually strengthening men with renewed desire to meet together for the purpose of spurring on and sharpening one another in their faith. As a result we are looking to facilitate small bands of brothers in the weeks ahead. One of those opportunities will also include a men's retreat scheduled in May of 2022.

The Lord's beautiful provision for His women has been on full display throughout this very unusual year. The women of APC have faithfully met together in mid-week Bible studies, virtual seminars, social gatherings and more. The fellowship and study opportunities will continue this fall, along with a weekend retreat on October 1-2 taking a look at Christ's delight in and design of His church.

As we continue to look to our God in prayer, tasting His glory and drawn to His majesty and mercy, He will continue to accomplish his purposes in the days ahead. For this we can have much thankfulness and anticipation!