



Upcoming Dates

Lessons and Carols
December 18

Week of Prayer
January 2, 5, 8

Newcomer Dinner
January 22

Walking in the Spirit
January 23

Inquirer's Class
February 4-5



A fun time at the Sharpie Party at Braddock Road!

A Season of Preparation

ALEXANDRIA PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH

DECEMBER 2021



Arise-Touching Hearts, Touching the World by Tom Holliday, Senior Pastor

"Arise – Touching Hearts, Touching the World." This was our capital campaign theme. Three years ago we kicked off our Arise Capital Campaign. We stepped out in faith, trusting

God to provide significant financial resources in order to build a new church home. Over the past three years we have witnessed the mighty hand of God to provide, protect and preserve in ways we could not have imagined.

Despite the rising costs and additional challenges related to the pandemic, we are still on track for financing the building and moving into our beautiful new church next Spring. Arise-what an apt word to describe what we see taking place.

As we said then, and we continue to believe now, the central purpose of this new building is not simply a beautiful building rising up from the ground (which is truly exciting), but rather the rising up spiritually of the members of this body of Christ. Many of us can testify of a growing work of Gospel renewal in our own hearts. The rising up of our faith and understanding of what the Almighty God wants to do in us and through us so that His great name is proclaimed in powerful ways.

In this season of preparation, as we prepare to move in to our new building, may each of us ask Jesus to touch our hearts in new ways. What a beautiful thing to see that as He

touches our hearts, He is touching the world through us. He continues to bring the nations to us giving us unprecedented opportunities to bear witness to His love and mercy.

I can't wait to see what His true temple (the body of Christ represented through APC) will look like between now and next Spring as we move in. As the work continues day by day at 1300 West Braddock Rd., may we be even more excited and encouraged by the construction work we see taking place in us.

"In whom the whole structure, being joined together, grows into a holy temple in the Lord. In him you also are being built together into a dwelling place for God by the Holy Spirit." Ephesians 2:21, 22 (ESV)

"You are no longer wandering exiles. This kingdom of faith is now your home country. You are no longer strangers or outsiders. You belong here, with as much right to the name Christian as anyone. God is building a home. He's using us all - irrespective of how we got here - in what he is building. He used the apostles and prophets for the foundation. Now he's using you, fitting you in brick by brick, stone by stone, with Christ Jesus as the corner stone that holds all the parts together. We see it taking shape day after day - a holy temple built by God, all of us built into it, a temple in which God is quite at home." Ephesians 2:21, 22 (The Message)



New Building Update by Matt Coombs, Executive Director of Ministries

As I consider building and ministry preparation, I'm most thankful and deeply encouraged by the HOW. How are we preparing? Prayerfully!

Building preparations include much continued physical work (the latest happenings and pictures are posted and updated every few weeks at www.alexandriapres.org/building). Even more preparation is happening within the various committees as they continue to oversee the work, make decisions, reach out to our neighbors, and make ready for a new worship center on West Braddock Road. More committees will be formed, more decisions will be made, and more preparation is needed now so we are ready this Spring. But the real preparation is happening on our knees as we pray for our building and neighbors and workers, but most importantly for the Gospel to remain the main thing (not a physical building).

Our ministry leaders are praying now, asking God to reveal His vision for what their ministry will look like. As they look ahead, they are thinking creatively, being flexible, and crying out to the Lord asking for wisdom, asking to be filled with the Holy Spirit, and asking for Him to provide clear direction for their ministries. I'm so thankful! And it is encouraging to know we worship a God who hears these prayers, who joins us in these prayers, and who answers these prayers.

Additionally, as a congregation we are praying. Praying for the committees, praying for the ministry leaders, praying for ourselves. So many are stepping out to be part of this Gospel community - to live out APC's mission - to be part of God's kingdom work! Volunteering, praying, being on a committee, working behind the scenes, serving in full view. We are preparing now for something bigger. We have been called to stretch now. We need all hands on deck - every member doing their part. This does not happen without prayer. And God is doing a good and deep work in our midst, not just building up a physical building. Much like the building progress, much of which is hidden behind the outer structure or going on under the surface (like our basement being built below the surface which includes the nursery, children and adult classrooms, a kitchen, fellowship hall and more), God is offering an opportunity for us to grow deeper roots in Him. We firmly believe and we are praying that He is growing our roots now to support the growth that He will provide.

It is exciting that God is inviting each of us to be a part of growing His kingdom. Please pray for our ministry leaders. Please pray for our physical building. Please pray for our spiritual building - the building up of each and every person's life of faith and repentance and humble reliance on Christ alone. Please pray for the building and ministry preparation.

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.



Inviting Jesus into Our Dreaming

by Serenity Novak, *Worship Assistant*

Thinking big and dreaming, transforming and expanding—I'll be the first to admit these concepts don't come naturally to me. I'd much rather fit in with the status quo and follow the established rules. Perhaps you can relate to that. As much as we are all excited to have a new church home, we will all have to adapt to new ideas and schedules and ways of doing things. Will you pray along with me that God would open our hearts to embrace those changes?

As I have spent time pondering what it means for the music ministry to prepare for this season of growth and change, I have come up with many more questions than answers. That's a good place to be, because we can then invite Jesus into those questions and allow the Holy Spirit to direct our thoughts and plans. So I'd like to share some of those questions so you can pray alongside me as we dream and plan.

How can the music in our services better serve the hearing of the Word of God? What

purposes do the songs we sing fulfill? Are they for rehearsing truths about God? Are they for entering into a closer emotional connection to God? Are they for blessing those around us? Are they for planting these truths deep in another part of our brain? How can we better incorporate all of those functions into our Sunday morning worship?

What does it mean to welcome the nations into our church family? What does it mean to welcome someone who has just met Jesus into our church family? In what ways will our musical styles and languages expand to bring in those who are familiar with different musical traditions? What new instruments and singing styles and songs might we incorporate into our worship? How will we be enriched by the expansion of our worship vocabulary?

Will you pray alongside me as we dream and plan? Pray that God would move us in his direction and not ours, and pray that he would enable us by his Spirit to move in directions that may seem scary or impossible right now.



Preparing An Uncommon Invitation

by Adam LeRoy,
Director of Youth Ministries

For God, who said, "Let light shine out of darkness," has shone in our hearts to give the light of the knowledge of the glory of God in the face of Jesus Christ. But we have this treasure in jars of clay, to show that the surpassing power belongs to God and not to us. 2 Corinthians 4:6-7

Over the past several years, I have altered my commute to Russell Road so that I drive by our new campus as it rises up from the ground. The building is amazing and has certainly caught Alexandria's attention, but the people who have been investing time and treasure in support of this project are writing a story of uncommon generosity to our city. Thank you! This building will create new bridges and spaces for gospel ministry to happen, so that we can share the invitation to the gift of abundant life found in Jesus!

So how will teen ministry be prepared to share the gospel to teens who show up? Apart from the power of the Holy Spirit we cannot, but praise God He uses our weakness to display His good news. You know jars of clay are fairly weak. We are rebuilding our student leadership team—in fact I asked imperfect teens to apply. Four new student leaders have stepped forward in faith to help move their community forward! This team will serve their peers as they use/grow the gifts God has given them, and we will encourage one another to serve out the strength God alone provides.

Our teaching theme this Fall has been authentic gospel transformation, striving towards honesty. Teens are being challenged with this uncommon invitation: to bring their very real lives to God, right where they are, just as they are, as there is no benefit to getting cleaned up first. Change happens when we show up for teaching of the Word, fellowship in community, and praying for one another! May God continue to grow this type of kingdom community as we seek to put the gift of the transforming light of Jesus front and center.

Would you consider joining me to share the uncommon gift of the gospel to teens within APC, or towards students at Alexandria City High School through Young Life (a mission devoted to introducing adolescents to Jesus Christ and helping them grow in their faith)? Please let me know as there is great need for additional adult volunteers.

Come and Behold Him

Lessons and Carols Service

December 18, 2021 at 5pm

2405 Russell Road
Alexandria, VA 22301

Nursery will be available for children ages 3 and under who have been pre-registered on our website: alexandriapres.org.



Children's Corner

by Erin Furgerson, *Director of Children's Ministries*

We are in the season of Advent. It is a season of preparation. In the Children's Ministry, this preparation includes asking God to prepare our hearts and minds for ministry, asking God to provide and prepare the people who will be involved in ministry, and asking God for the preparation of the physical spaces for ministry. The most important of these is the preparation of our hearts and minds.

Let's start with prayer! We need people regularly praying for our children, the nursery volunteers, the Sunday school teachers, the Explorers leaders, and me! As we make the most of every opportunity to share the gospel with our children, teaching them God's Word and His character, we need to pray, asking for God's leading, guiding, enabling, encouraging and sustaining. Pray for our children's spiritual growth and development and the same for the adults who lead, disciple and teach them. Pray also for God to provide the people we need for ministry. Are you one of them?

We also need to be praying about how we, the Children's Ministry, can make a difference in our new neighborhood! This ministry outreach may look like playdates on the playground, Vacation Bible School, Easter Egg Hunts, Trunk or Treat, Family Fun days or service projects. How will God use us there?

As we prepare the physical spaces, our nursery rooms and classrooms need to be safe, inviting, engaging, and kid-friendly for each age group. Spaces need to be environments that give opportunities for ministry to happen with ease. The nursery reception area needs to be welcoming to our APC family and especially to our visitors. Signage needs to be clear to help with finding nursery and children's classrooms. Play and learning spaces need to engage our children and foster their growth and development.

As we prepare, I want to invite you to be a part of the Children's Ministry! Join in prayer! Join in ministry! Join in the preparation!

Giving at a Glance

7/1 through 10/31/2021

YTD Giving \$630,844

YTD Budget \$631,000

Percentage 100%