



Alexandria Presbyterian Church • March 2008

Upcoming Dates

Daylight Savings Time begins
March 9

Good Friday Service
March 21

Easter Sunrise Service
March 23

Joint Worship Service
March 23

Last Friday (formerly Fourth Friday) Open House
March 28

Children's March Madness
March 30

Newcomers Reception
March 30

PROTAS High School PCA Retreat
April 11-13

PROTAS Friday Night Live
April 25

Vacation Bible School
June 23 - 27



Market Place Ministry by Pastor Tom Holliday

The apostle Paul is considered by many to be the foremost expert missiologist in the Bible. He was not only the leading missionary to the Gentiles, but the man who laid the blueprint for missions as we know it today. One of my favorite passages in the New Testament that illustrates one of his strategies is found in Acts 17:16-17. "While Paul was waiting for them in Athens, he was greatly distressed to see that the city was full of idols. So he reasoned in the synagogue with the Jews and the God-fearing Greeks, as well as in the marketplace day by day with those who happened to be there."

Paul was not a stranger to the marketplace. He understood that this was the place where people meet; therefore, this was the place to go to present Christ. I love that phrase, "with those who happened to be there." Paul didn't know who was going to be there, but knew that he would gladly share Christ with anyone who was willing to listen.

Almost every Easter morning for the past 15 years, APC has had the privilege of sharing Christ at Market Square in Old Town Alexandria, at our sunrise service. God has graciously given us this wonderful opportunity to communicate the life-changing power of Christ in perhaps the most central, public, historic part of our city. For those of you who have not yet visited Market Square, it is a beautiful city square adjacent to City Hall. It is the place in Alexandria where people gather year-round, to admire the surrounding beauty or just find some quiet

time on a park bench. The crowd is made up of Alexandrians as well as the many tourists who come to visit our city.

I invite you to join us at the sunrise service, Easter morning, at 7:30 a.m. Why? (I thought it was hard enough getting to church at 8:50am on Sundays). Because this sunrise service gives our church a fantastic opportunity to share Jesus with all the people who happen to be there. You might just be surprised at how many people just happen to be there year after year. I know, it's hard to explain, but lots of visitors come every year. Is it just for sentimental reasons? People who like sunrise services? Or maybe we are just reaching the early morning risers in Alexandria. I've concluded that it doesn't really matter; we're just glad they come and believe that God has a purpose for them being there. Some of them will join us for breakfast back at the church, giving us an opportunity to get to know them.

But enough about them, the visitors. Why should you come? Because it really makes a difference that the APC family is there when they show up. A good church turnout makes a big difference in the quality of the singing and worship overall. So, if you come, please come prayerfully, asking God to touch people's hearts with the gospel, folks who may have never heard the good news before. Also, be ready to *welcome* the folks who just happen to be there. I love the fact that we serve a sovereign God, which means that there are no random events. God will bring the visitors of His own choosing. By the way, that doesn't mean that we shouldn't invite our friends and neighbors. Who knows, but this might be the time God wants to reach them, too.



Chisel, Chisel, Chisel... By Adam LeRoy

If you want a great distraction this week, type in "C.S. Lewis on pain video" into Google or YouTube and enjoy a great clip associated with the teaching theme for the teen's Winter Retreat. It is from the movie *Shadowlands*, starring Anthony Hopkins as C.S. Lewis. At the end of the clip, Lewis speaks of the blows of the Sculptor (God) that indeed hurt us very much. Somehow, that pain has the intended purpose of making us perfect. So it begs

the following questions: Why does God allow bad things to happen? Is suffering a gift if we respond in the right way?

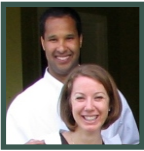
As the students entered the meeting room for each of our three retreat sessions, a different poster hung from the rafters. Each served as a tickler regarding that session's talk. The posters stated: God is not all-loving..., God makes people blind..., & Jesus said...

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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.

Officer SPOTLIGHT: Marc Allen, Elder



Shannon and I joined APC shortly after we arrived in the Washington, D.C. area in 2002, bringing to an end a number of years of East Coast bouncing. In just the prior six years, we had lived and worshipped in Massachusetts, New York, New Jersey, and Connecticut. After two years of commuting from Maryland to worship at APC, we were blessed to find a home in the heart of the church's Alexandria, Virginia community. As if to directly counter the stabilizing and tightening of our geographic circle, we have spent these DC years expanding our family's bounds: Three children are now part of our troupe, and a fourth is due in February 2008. Lauren was born just days before Shannon and I became APC members; Emma was born two years later; and James arrived in another two years. God has truly blessed us through our

children, and we give great thanks to be able to raise them in this church home.

APC has nourished both Shannon and me in innumerable ways. The support of friends and fellowship have been constant. The teaching in church, through Sunday schools, through Sonship programs, and through Covenant Fellowship Groups (CFG) has fed us. And the many opportunities we have had to serve in ministries throughout the church have always and constantly been, in fact, ministries to our souls.

As our family journeys through life together, we ask Christ to set the course for us. That said, we can so often be hard of hearing toward His gracious Word. But we have faith in the Lord, the salvation He has worked in our lives, and the great hope that promises. And we have the joy of knowing that APC, through its teaching and fellowship, is carrying out the Lord's sweet and mysterious work in our lives and bending our hearts and our ears to Him.



Children's Chatter

by Leslie Bridge

It is a good time of year to capture some highlights of what is happening in the Children's ministry. In case you haven't heard, our desire is to engage the whole child in learning with the head, the heart and the hands. Each of the children's programs directly focuses on one of those parts. Of course, learning occurs at every level, but we try to focus on one part with each program.

Sunday School focuses on the *head*. Each Sunday School teacher welcomes the children into the room and begins with either an attention getting activity or a lesson from the Bible. It is soon followed by an interactive time where the kids communicate what they are learning.

The teachers seems to have fun helping the children apply the lesson to their lives. If you see the youngsters coming out of Sunday school, you will often see them with their hands full of some activity they have done, which helps bring the lesson home.

We try to capture the *heart* of each child during Children's Church by helping them experience God's story in fresh, fun and meaningful ways. The lesson presents God's Word by having the children do surprising, fun stuff while they discover the adventure of applying God's truth to everyday life. My favorite is when we sing; the kids always say, "I know that song". Having a CD of the music for them to listen to during the week really helps them connect with the lesson.

The *hands* can point in four directions: up, down, out and in. During Explorers, we try to help the kids focus out with their hands. The game time, snack and lesson time are designed to help the kids form lasting relationships with one another and with their leader, in reaching out to one another. It is also a time to invite your friends and neighbors to join us, another outward movement with the hands. Lastly, the skill time is where the children can learn a life skill, like building a go-kart or making baby blankets for all the newborns in our church. Again, it has an outward focus of developing other centeredness" with their hands.

I am amazed and blessed at the privilege I have in helping to assist parents in equipping our children in their spiritual development.

(LeRoy, continued from p.1)

"In this world you will have trouble." Not exactly a typical "feel good" message re: how to live the Christian life. We spent time unraveling each of these intriguing thoughts as we looked at who God is (His character is multifaceted), how He has worked through people's lives in His word (using people's trials and earthly sufferings to draw His children into faith and repentance) and finally through the application of this theme in our own lives... otherwise known as the hard part!

At the end of each of the sessions, we closed with this simple statement, "Through any pain, suffering or tragedy; God has a way to bring glory to Himself!" Jonny, Alan and I wrestled with this for a while, but agreed on this wording as it keeps us looking to Him in all things. Easier to say than to do, but we must keep preaching to ourselves that God wants us to turn to Him in times of abundance and in times of need! Oh yeah, just for the record: we went skiing, played the Wii, and swung on the giant mountain swing as well!! It rocked...

Palm Sunday Service: Easter Worship
March 16, 8:50a.m. at APC.

Good Friday Service:
March 21, 7:39 p.m.
A prelude will begin at 7:15 p.m.

Easter Sunrise Service:
March 23, 7:30 a.m.,
at Market Square in
Old Town, Alexandria/301 King Street.

Easter Sunday Breakfast:
March 23, 8:30 a.m. at APC.

Easter Sunday Worship:
March 23, 10:00 a.m. at APC

Worship Schedule

APC Giving at a Glance	Giving (through February)	\$163,570
	Budget	\$148,308

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