



Alexandria Presbyterian Church • May 2008

Upcoming Dates

Table Talk
May 10

Mother's Day
May 11

Last Explorer's
May 18

Last PROTAS
May 18

APC Men's Retreat
May 31-June 1

PROTAS
Sr. Graduation
June 2

Inquirer's Class
June 13-14

Father's Day
June 15

First Day of Summer
June 20

Vacation Bible
School
June 23 - 27



Why You, Man, Should Come on the Men's Retreat by Charles Mitchell and Jim Taft

Okay, man. We know how it is. You live in Washington, D.C. Which means you're busy. Yet here's someone asking for your time. For some retreat. Not only that, it's on a weekend, when you're busy escaping all that stuff that keeps you...well, *busy*, the rest of the time! Like work, and traffic, and your Blackberry.

Yes. Trust us. We know. We treasure our weekends, too. And we still think you should consider attending the APC Men's Retreat. And since this is a high-minded, intellectual publication, here are the top ten reasons why:

10. To hear Jefferson Kaster explain what the VMI cadets did on New Market Battlefield in May, 1864.

9. Then hear Steve Gribshaw explain how West Point cadets could've done better.

8. To make new friends and have some great fellowship with your brothers in Christ.

7. Because the Men's Retreat Committee has made sure there will be one or more types of

meat served with each meal.

6. You may not know who Jonathan Griffin is yet, but he swears he sings a mean Johnny Cash. And we'll have a guitar. And a big bonfire.

5. To crush the other team...er, enjoy "spirited competition" against another group of guys in Ultimate Frisbee. And to see if Daymen Tiffany's any good.

4. Sunday morning worship in Alexandria is good. Sunday morning worship in the foothills of the Blue Ridge is better.

3. To find out if Bob Morrison and Gary McGee really do play a game called "petanque."

2. Because, the truth is, none of us know all there is to know about being a Christian man, and we owe it to our families and our Lord to find out as much as we can.

1. One Word: MAPRON!

Register on the church website, or in the fellowship hall. Deadline is May 18, cost is \$60, and scholarships are available. See you there, brother.



A Letter from 2405

This is a letter from your building. That's right...Mr. 2405 Russell Road. I'm more than bricks and mortar. I have a mission—I'm home to four congregations. And let me tell you, it ain't all easy. So take this little note as a love letter from your house.

You APCers are the first to use me every week, and you're also the last to leave at night. Now I'm not trying to put you at risk of "building righteousness," but just like you turn everything on when you come in, remember to turn things off (e.g., lights, window A/C units in the summer months) and close and lock windows that you opened, when you finish. Otherwise, I get no rest, and you pay a lot bigger utility bills.

Btw, help out the building custodian, Javier, and

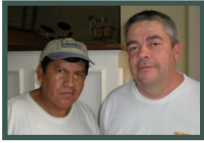
Florencio, the church maintenance man. Please pitch in and pick up trash, especially in the pews. On communion Sundays, try to toss your cups in the trash cans in the foyer. I like to look good not just when I first open, but for all the worship services on Sunday.

I bet you noticed the signs around the sanctuary and in the bulletin that ask you not to eat or drink in the sanctuary. I appreciate you respecting that, as I am carpeted, and food and drink are hard to clean and often stain me. Give me a break, and do your drinking (coffee, tea and the like, thank you) in the fellowship hall. And speaking of the fellowship hall, you folks sure do like to fellowship! And food. And drink. So a little bit of help on picking up after that hoe-down you call fellowship time would be greatly appreciated.

(continued on p.2)

2405 Russell Road, Alexandria VA 22301 | 703-683-3348 (office) | 703-683-2392 (fax) | 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.



Staff Spotlight—Florencio Vargas and Javier Restrepo

Javier, our custodian, is originally from Medellín, Colombia, but has been in the USA for 27 years. He met and married his wife of 22 years here (who he lost to colon cancer early in 2006). Javier moved to Virginia in November of 2006 and took over Mario Rocha's position as custodian. He has enjoyed working at 2405 Russell Rd, and does his job with love. "If one doesn't do things with love then it's not good for you". People have welcomed him well here and he is grateful for that. He is planning on staying here. He visits his family in Rhode Island whenever he can and is looking forward to becoming a grandfather this June!

Florencio, our handyman, is from Cochabamba, Bolivia, and has been in the USA since 1989. He began working for Del Ray

Baptist Church nine years ago on sporadic jobs. He is now a full time contractor Monday through Friday, and has been blessed by the support and trust both APC and DRBC have given him by allowing him to work in their homes, yards, basements, ceilings, bathrooms... you name it!

His wife Lucía, daughter Pamela (12) and son Carlos (18) just joined him from Bolivia after two long years of paperwork and 10 years of separation. He would like to extend his deepest thanks for the help and care through this process. "Not only have you given me a car but you have shown me Christ and loved my family".

(2405, continued from p.1)

I'm feeling even more well used of late, now that you have a video simulcast of the worship service in the fellowship hall. I'm thrilled that many of you take advantage of that each Sunday. If you have a sick child, please don't leave them in the nursery. Instead, take advantage of the simulcast in the fellowship hall.

I also need to ask you parents to keep your children in the fellowship hall during the fellowship time. They can be on the stage or in a classroom, but please don't allow them to run the halls and hide in the nooks and crannies of the building. I can be dangerous to a small child wandering around without anyone knowing it. Please communicate to your children that they aren't allowed on the playground without adult supervision, cause that's just not safe.

Del Ray Baptist and Del Ray Hispanic both meet during your fellowship time, so please consider that. Don't hang out in the halls either upstairs (around the front or back of the sanctuary) or in the lower hallway or stairway off the fellowship hall. The sound travels right into their services, and I know you want to be considerate of their worship also.

One final note: if you are using me for a meeting or ministry during the week, and you are the last one to leave, please be sure to turn off any lights and/or air conditioners. If you could also make sure my doors that were used by you or your group are locked, that too would be appreciated.

It is a blessing to have four congregations using me to worship the Lord each week. I bet I'm the busiest church building in town. Let's all do our part to make it a smooth operation ...together, we are one big family!




Children's Chatter by Leslie Bridge

These past few days have caused me to long for those hot, humid, hazy days of summer. It may seem crazy, but I just love those kind of days. At least once or twice a week for the past month, I have been working on getting ready for this summer's VBS. This year's theme is **Power Lab: Discover Jesus' Miraculous Power**. I know Vacation Bible School doesn't start until June 23rd (ends on June 27th), but there's so much to do: volunteers to recruit, children to invite, decorating the Fellowship Hall, etc., so it's never too soon to get ready.

Children will love the interactive curriculum, including moving around the church and some pretty incredible learning. Each day the children will rotate through four stations—Bible Blast, Hyperspeed Games, Cinema Science and Wacky Works Crafts—to learn the point of the day, a character trait of Jesus. There are also daily challenges to do at home, to help kids remember the key Bible Truth from that day.

Last summer we had over 75 children at VBS, including 25 from outside our church. It was great to see your neighborhood children come with your kids last summer. My prayer is that this year we will see many more come from your neighborhood. Please prayerfully consider inviting some of your neighbor kids when you bring yours to VBS in June. Also, if God is calling you to be a volunteer in this fun, fantastic, and focused ministry, please contact me.

APC Giving at a Glance	Giving (through April) Budget	\$358,516 \$311,770
-------------------------------	--------------------------------------	------------------------



VBS: June 23—27
9:30am—12:00pm
Look for the registrations soon!

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