



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ♦ April 2009

Upcoming Dates

**Palm Sunday
Worship Service**
April 5

**Maudy Thursday
Worship Service**
April 9

**Easter
Sunrise, Breakfast,
and Worship**
April 12

LCI Level 1 Training
April 16-18

**Multi-Church
Prayer Meeting**
April 24

Nationals Game
May 2

TableTalk Dinners
May 9

Inquirer's Class
June 5-6

**Vacation Bible
School**
June 29 - July 3

Women's Retreat
September 25-26



Easter Sunrise by Chris Joyce, Executive Director of Ministries

Have you ever allowed a God-given opportunity to slip through your fingers? Or encountered a Spirit-enabled moment, where the Lord just teed it up for you...and you completely missed the ball? Or, worse yet, you didn't even take a swing? Every Christian can answer those questions with a resounding "yes." Thank God we serve a risen Christ who has forgiven each of us for our sins of omission, and commissioned us to confess Him at every occasion!

Let's turn that spotlight of examination from individual to communal. In His providence, God has given Alexandria Presbyterian Church a potent opportunity to witness to His power and promise, publicly, on Easter morning. Believe it or not, He has opened the Alexandria city square to the proclamation of His Word, the celebration of His beautiful plan of redemption, and the lifting of praises to Him. All in public...for all to see...at sunrise...on Easter morning...at Market Square. How's that for teeing it up?

Imagine the scene: 400 chairs. The fountains quieted. The bright banner gently stirred by the breeze, proclaiming the risen Christ. Bagpipes break the silence as the sun rises. A golden light illuminates the square. Praise music proclaims the good news.

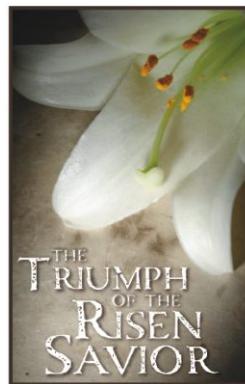
Greeters distribute invitations to worship to passersby. There is already a crowd that has gathered to begin this celebration.

Pedestrians are intrigued to find out what is transpiring in the public square. They wonder—what has awoken so many, so early, on this spring morn? Some join the service, changing their plans as the Spirit nudges them into this celebration.

We Christians often lament the secularization of our society. We decry the formidable barriers that are raised in the public sphere against the gospel. Yet here we have an opportunity—a God-given grant—to exit the sanctuary and enter the public square with the Truth. The Light. The Logos.

Will you join your APC brothers and sisters on Easter morning, 7:30am, at Market Square? Can we fill that space with sacred music? Can we raise our voices collectively, and celebrate the risen Lord? Can we proclaim our triune God amidst our city?

And guess what...there's even coffee.



PALM SUNDAY WORSHIP
April 5—8:50 a.m.
MAUDY THURSDAY SERVICE
April 9—7:30 p.m. (Prelude at 7:15 p.m.)
EASTER SUNDAY SUNRISE SERVICE
April 12—7:30 a.m. at Market Square, Old Town
EASTER BREAKFAST
April 12—8:30 a.m.
EASTER SUNDAY WORSHIP
April 12—10:00 a.m.
NURSERY IS PROVIDED FOR ALL EVENTS.



the Great Commission by Dorothy Taft, Missions Committee Chair

Here at APC, we often conclude the worship service by declaring together, "We will go forth to serve our city and our world in the name of Christ."

In addition to our individual acts of service, APC also sends and supports a number of people who engage in full-time mission work both stateside and abroad. Missions is an integral part of the life and ministry of Alexandria Presbyterian Church, led by a small but dedicated Missions Committee. Through regular communication, foundational prayer and financial support, APC partners with missionaries overseas who are planting churches in secularized societies, Muslim countries and Latin culture; responding to the needs of the persecuted church; and training spiritual leaders. Here in the United States, our missionaries primarily focus on training and equipping those in missions, reaching out to university students

from abroad or who have spent little or no time in a church community, and supporting young expectant mothers in need of a support network.

APC presently supports 14 domestic and 16 overseas missionaries, including three serving in countries which are hostile to the Gospel and thus too sensitive to publicize. For 2009, more than 14% of the church's budget is committed to the support of missionaries in Africa, Asia, Eurasia, Europe, Latin America, the Middle East and the United States. APC also contributes an additional two percent of its budget to various mission-related needs within our denomination, the Presbyterian Church in America; and another two percent to our daughter church, Iglesia Gracia y Paz.

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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: Holly Sanchez, Nursery Coordinator

Holly was born in Long Beach, CA and lived in southern Cali most of her childhood years with a 5 year break when she lived in Phoenix. "I moved around a lot!" She attended the United Methodist Church where music was a big part of her life. She was always in some sort of a musical ensemble singing at church and in her high school group. Holly continued with the Methodist church until her junior year of high school when she found Covenant Community Church.

The CC Church integrated Holly into missions going to Mexico, Taiwan and then to Paraguay where she met Pastor Joel Acevedo and her husband, Gerardo Sanchez. In 2002, Holly and Gerardo were married in Chile, where they both lived for the first year and a half of their marriage. When Holly and Gerardo made their way back to the states, Gerardo

received an invitation from Pastor Acevedo to be the music worship leader for Gracia y Paz. Neither Holly nor Gerardo had ever been to the east coast and thought it would be an interesting adventure. At the end of 2004 they moved and soon after Holly began working for APC as the Nursery Coordinator. Being one of the oldest of 17 grandchildren, she knew she could do the job.

In 2006, Holly had a brief hiatus in her career at APC with the birth of their daughter, Millalin, but has been back with APC since 2007. Holly and her family are now looking forward to the upcoming birth of their second child in August. If asked what she thought her greatest accomplishment was, she would say that despite being the eldest of four siblings she has kept her status of being the shortest.



IRS Rules Regarding Automobile Donations

By Chris Sicks, Director of Mercy Ministries

Did you know that donating your car to APC could provide a larger tax deduction than if you give it to other organizations? A few years ago, the IRS changed their rules to favor vehicle donations that actually help a person who needs a car. Many non-profit organizations actively seek vehicle donations, which they quickly sell. Under the IRS rules adopted in 2005, donors may only take a deduction for the amount the charity sells the vehicle for. Sometimes, this is a lot less than the vehicle is actually worth, because many of these charities simply "flip" donated cars to wholesalers for a few hundred dollars.

However, if a car is donated to a church or ministry that then gives the car to a needy individual, the donor is able to deduct the fair market value. Over the years, APC has been able to give donated vehicles to needy individuals in our congregation and from our community. In one instance, a family's car broke down one day, and we were able to give them a great car the very next day!

One important note: Financial and material donations to APC may not be "directed gifts." This means you cannot give a car to the church, with the stipulation that we give it to Billy. The deacons prayerfully consider who to give each vehicle to.

If you have a vehicle you'd like to donate to APC, please contact Chris Sicks at the church office.

Here is some further guidance from the IRS website on what "fair market value" means: "Some car donation program operators have mistakenly claimed that donors can deduct the highest value listed in a used-car buyer's guide for their make and model of car, regardless of the donated car's condition. The IRS, however, will only allow a deduction for the fair market value of the car. Fair market value takes into account many factors, including the vehicle's condition. The fair market value of the taxpayer's car may be substantially different than the highest value listed in a used-car buyer's guide for that make and model of car."

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The goals of Missions at APC and specifically the Missions Committee are to:

- Sacrificially obey the Great Commission by the sharing of the Gospel and the discipling and training of believers and the leaders of the Church;
- Involve APC members in missions through persistent prayer, corporate and individual financial support, friendship of missionaries and mutual accountability;
- Stimulate commitment to, involvement in, and heart for missions among the APC congregation, including in short-term missions.

How can you get more involved in missions at APC?

- Regularly pray for one or more missionaries at home and in your Covenant Fellowship Group.
- Join the Missions Committee—we meet once a month on Sunday evening from 7:15-9pm at the church.
- Become an ombudsman for an APC-supported missionary—the primary point of contact for that person at APC; staying in regular communication; sponsoring welcome events when he or she is in town.
- Volunteer to assist on special projects of the Missions Committee, such as updating the Missions Guide, maintaining the bulletin board, or organizing a short-term missions trip.
- Consider participating in a short-term mission trip through APC, Mission to the World, or World Harvest Mission.



Children's Chatter

by Leslie Bridge, Director of Children's Ministries

Children's Church is one opportunity to steadily build a spiritual foundation in the lives of our children. As a young child going to a nominal church, I didn't really receive any instruction for worship; and for that matter, I never heard a gospel presentation. By the time I was in Jr. High, I had no desire to attend church, mostly because I didn't see any relevance for it in my life.

During Children's Church the kids learn why and how to worship through singing, interactive lessons and prayer. The songs they sing are chosen to help illustrate the morning's lesson. Sometimes we pause to ask questions or do an exercise that helps introduce the point for the day. Right away, the kids are focusing and engaging in learning the point of their service. And as they move through their service, each part helps illustrate the message.

Diane and Brian Wadsworth led Children's Church for a couple of weeks in March. During the fellowship time, Diane made it a point to find me and tell me how much she loves the curriculum for all the reasons I mentioned above. During the last time they led, the Wadsworths presented the gospel to the children, and Diane said it was wonderfully explained in the lesson. She was thrilled with the kids' attentiveness and understanding as they were teaching.

I love hearing how much the leaders enjoy teaching and how much they like the curriculum. I also love that the gospel is presented in the context of the kids learning about worship. This is just one of the ways we are helping to build a solid gospel foundation in the lives of the children here at APC.

APC Giving at a Glance

YTD Giving (through March)	\$264,288
YTD Budget	\$253,188
Difference	\$ 11,100 (4%)

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