



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ♦ June 2009

Upcoming Dates

Pancake Brunch
June 14

Old Town Architectural Tour
June 20

PROTAS Domestic Mission Trip
June 20-27

Vacation Bible School
June 29 - July 3

Women of Faith Conference
July 31 - August 1

Choir Retreat
September 18-19

Choir Rehearsals Resume
September 22

Women's Retreat
September 25-26

Inquirer's Class
October 2-3



Who is APC?

by Chris Joyce, Executive Director of Ministries

Have you ever wondered who APC is? "Hello? We're a church, Chris." I know that. But when you lift the hood on APC, what are some of the innards? How are we wired? How many cylinders do we have? "Stop with the car analogy, Joyce. Get to the point!"

Okay. Here are some interesting factoids—at least, I find them interesting—about this amalgamation of souls that's labeled Alexandria Presbyterian Church. These aren't comprehensive, nor fully descriptive...but I do think they are interesting. For example:

- We have about 325 "active" adults. By active, I mean members and regular attenders who are engaged in worship and ministry.
- God's blessed us with about 100 children and youth as well, also engaged with the body.
- Roughly 80% of those active adults are members of APC; 20% are faithful regular attenders.
- Half of our actives are in a Covenant Fellowship Group (CFG). More than half have been through Sonship. [I salute you, survivors of that 16 week forced march!]
- Two thirds of our active adults are married...one third are single.

"Okay, Chris... that's sort of interesting. But how about

some really good stuff? How old are we? How long have we been here? How many of us are on Facebook? Whose cell phone was ringing last Sunday? Stuff like that?"

- I can't tell you how old we are with precision. I can tell you that many of us aren't comfortable reporting our birth year. I can also tell you that, for those who list it, 35% of us are "under 35." [That includes me of course... the gray hair came since I took the job on staff].
- More than half of us have arrived at APC since 2004. A bit less than that got here sooner.

Numbers tell a story. For instance, that over half our folks have gone through Sonship confirms the importance of this ministry to APC. Half of our adults involved in CFGs also underlines the importance of that ministry.

In the Inquirer's class, I sometimes opine that APC is a net exporter in Christ's economy. We send many out. God has been gracious in continuously replacing those exported with new imports—new believers, Christians transferring from other areas, and some from other local churches.

Thank you, Lord, for the many lives you have sent in, changed and sent out of your sanctuary doors at 2405 Russell Road.

By the way, APC also stands for "Always Plenty Changing."



A Midsummer Night's Read by Marc Allen, Elder

The Year of Christian Education rolls forward. Summer has seemingly come sooner than any of us were prepared for. A sudden shift into the hot season, the vacation season, the no-school season, the beach season, the travel season. But Summer, of course, is not really summer without a Summer Reading List close at hand. Recognizing this need, and not wanting anyone to miss out on Summer because they lack their own, I have canvassed our friends to bring your friendly neighborhood Christian Summer Reading List, and hence Summer, direct to you!

Gale Manor, mother of three, choir master extraordinaire, and scion of a glorious Christian music making family, points us to the works of Henri Nouwen. In particular, she recommends **The Way of the Heart**. It speaks to solitude, silence, and prayer. It is fresh and compelling, and pointedly challenges our task driven mentalities. There is also an edited collection of his writings on prayer that might serve as great devotional material.

Lee Beckham, humble Sunday School teacher, long serving APC elder, father of Addie, offers up **Les Miserables**, by Victor Hugo. It is not just a musical, you know! Les Mis is a heavy tome; perfect for a long beach stay.

It tells a deep tale of the character of man, the character of hope, and the character of sacrifice and suffering. You can learn more about the Bishop and Fantine from the book than you ever would have dreamed from the musical. And, if you really want to understand the power of Susan Boyle's singing (the recent weeks' Britian's Got Talent phenom), you have to read the book. Lee also suggests **Surrender To Love** or **The Gift of Being Yourself** (both by David Benner), **The Genius of Guinness** (Michele Guinness, on the missionary branch of the well-known brewing family), and **Here I Stand: A Life of Martin Luther** (Ronald Bainton). (Lee reads a lot, as you can see!!)

The other Lee... Leonor Lee, long-time APC member, founding choir director, mom of many, grandmom to others, teacher to children, and encourager to all, says that **The Power of a Praying Wife**, by Stormie Omartian, deserves a read. It will build up your marriages and bless your husbands (ed. note: a notoriously cantankerous crew!). And it is an easy read with short chapters, which is particularly useful if you are constantly interrupted by children. Leonor also notes that the husband's companion, **The Power of a Praying Husband**, deserves no less attention!

Gary Roberts, our silver-haired hospitality wizard,
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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.



People Who Proclaim the Lord's Goodness...
 By Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

"How great are his signs, how mighty his wonders! His kingdom is an eternal kingdom; his dominion endures from generation to generation." Daniel 4:3

"At the end of that time, I, Nebuchadnezzar, raised my eyes toward heaven, and my sanity was restored. Then I praised the Most High; I honored and glorified him who lives forever. His dominion is an eternal dominion; His kingdom endures from generation to generation." Daniel 4:34

King Nebuchadnezzar had built up a mighty earthly dominion, and then had everything taken away. Graciously, the Lord gave him an opportunity to acknowledge the Most High as sovereign. This beautiful moment of redemption gives us hope to cry out to the Lord when things get ripped away. I am inspired by his eventual response as a child of the King of Heaven, considering his earthly kingdom to be nothing and sharing what he had learned to all the people of the earth.

In adolescence, things are constantly being ripped away. Friendships,

popularity, and reputation just to name a few. Life definitely can seem fragile when there are daily decisions and questions about which way to go in life. APC has been blessed to have many adults through the years step into teenage culture and share their whole lives with the next generation, living out their joys and pains in relationship with our teens. God's dominion and kingdom truly endure from generation to generation when we allow ourselves to be drawn into the work of communicating these eternal truths.

Would you consider praying about volunteering in or supporting our teen ministries? Most studies agree that roughly 70% of all born again Christians come to Christ before they are 21. This is a statistic that should give us pause to reflect on how important laying a firm foundation for our covenant children is, and then bathing that foundation in prayer as we wait for the Lord to work in their lives.

***Broken vessels are encouraged to apply, because your powerful stories of sanctification were meant to be shared.*



(Allen, continued from p.1)

shutterbug of all things APC, and bold evangelizer of the Word, reminds us of a great classic: **The Pilgrim's Progress**, by John Bunyan. The allegories and dialogues of this now 300-year old book give great comfort by refreshing the orthodoxies of our faith and showing us that our struggles today were the same struggles of old. Smiles; Tears; Laughter; Reflection. All are guaranteed, as you see yourself in the book and realize what Christ has done for you.

Chris Sicks, greeter to all, father to three, chef, host, friend, and minister, calls us to consider **Love Walked Among Us**, by Paul Miller, of the Sonship ministries. Miller has unusual ability to help us see Jesus' compassionate heart; our deep need for His forgiveness; and the awesome work the Lord does in our lives to make us more like Christ.

Leslie Bridge, "Coach" to all the little ones, Bostonian through and through, incredible servant to families and parents, says that for meditation and devotion, we should read **Whiter Than Snow**, by Paul Tripp. It is a life changing journey through Psalm 51. She also flags **Redemption Accomplished and Applied**, by John Murray, which comes with her pastor's endorsement!

Adam LeRoy, father of two, Teen-whisperer, proclaimer of the Word, suggests we pick up **The Problem of Pain**, by CS Lewis. So effective a read for our teens at their winter retreat a few years back. A candid passage through the connection between suffering and purpose. God is speaking to us through our trials; are we listening?

Finally, our lion-hearted Bob Morrison, devoted husband to Rosemary, founding member of APC, stalwart front-row worshipper, leader and friend to so many of us, puts the spotlight on three winners: **The Lost Art of Listening**, by Michael Nichols. A special book that distills years of clinical wisdom into practical advice to help you listen with the same intensity with which you usually talk. An especially good read for couples! **Second, Real Sex: The Naked Truth About Chastity**, by Lauren Winner. Beguiling humor and verve are said to mark this one, as Winner makes the case that chastity is the most unnatural of Christian virtues, such that the church must redouble its efforts to teach its value and the practices necessary to protect it. And finally, **Ruthless Trust**, by Brennan Manning. The work of a storyteller showing forth the love of God and reminding us all who we are: a child of Him and a believer in His son our Lord Jesus Christ.

So be sure that June, July, and August do not go by without your having a real Summer—i.e., be sure you read some good books! I look forward to hearing which of these make your list this Summer. Please stop me and let me know downstairs sometime.

YTD Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (through May)	\$451,110
	YTD Budget	\$438,750
	Difference	\$ 12,360 (+3%)

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