



Alexandria Presbyterian Church ~ November/December 2010

Upcoming Dates

Corporate Prayer

1st Sat mornings  
3rd Wed evenings

Monthly Newcomer Fellowship Time

4th Sunday mornings

Thanksgiving Praise Service

November 21

Baptism Service

November 28

CCS Youth Choir

Rehearsal  
December 4

CCS Dress Rehearsal

December 11

Christmas Candlelight Service

December 12

Church Offices Closed for Holidays

December 24-31

2011 Call to Prayer

January 2,5,8

Sonship Begins

January 9

Newcomers' Dinner

January 22

Inquirer's Class

February 4-5

Christmas Candlelight Service — Sunday, December 12

Sing Noel: Lessons and Carols at APC

Prelude 5:45 P.M. — Service 6:00 P.M.

Long before area retailers pulled Christmas decorations out of storage, APC members began selecting and rehearsing Christmas music and readings, designing print materials, planning decorations and staging, preparing for APC's annual Christmas Candlelight Service. The Christmas Candlelight Service (CCS), to be held on Sunday, December 12 at 6:00pm, has been an annual tradition at APC for many years.

2010 will be the tenth year that Doug and Gale Manor, as music directors at APC, have been blessed to participate in this special service commemorating the coming of Christ. That's ten years of beautiful Christmas music, many hours of planning, happy memories of rehearsals, and lots of candle wax!

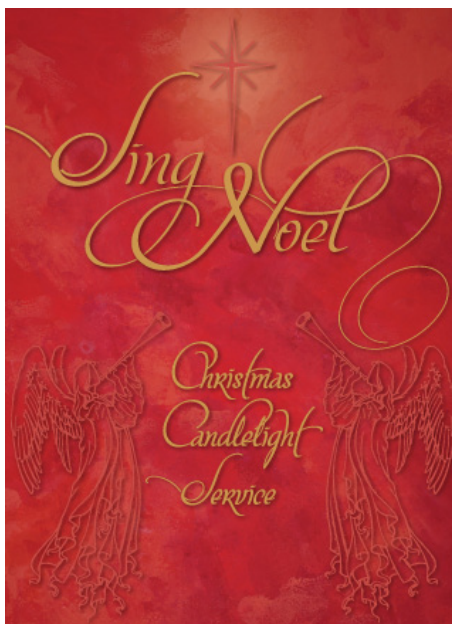
This year's service, *Sing Noel*, will again be in the Lessons and Carols format. Lessons and Carols originated in England in 1880. It features a series of lessons from

scripture read by various church members, with Christmas carols and congregational hymns interspersed throughout.

The APC adult and youth choirs, instrumentalists and readers will lead us in worship that evening.

Not only will our ears enjoy the beauty of the music that evening, but our eyes will delight as well. The sanctuary will be beautifully decorated and lit with candles as we ponder the amazing truth that God has come to earth in the form of a helpless baby, the Light of the world, to redeem His loved ones. A favorite part of the service for all ages is the candle lighting portion when all are invited to hold a lit candle and sing carols to close the service.

The CCS is APC's largest outreach event of the year. We hope you will attend and invite your friends, family and co-workers at a time of year when stepping inside a church for a Christmas service is sometimes less threatening than attending a Sunday morning worship service. The APC Hospitality committee is planning a lovely reception and there will be nursery and activities for children ages six and under. Let's join together and *Sing Noel!*



He Wants You  
by Chris Joyce, Executive Director of Ministries

Can you recall a time from your childhood days when a person of authority in your life invested focused attention in just you? Perhaps it was to share a meal—just the two of you—or play catch, or to see you perform in a play. Maybe it was time spent teaching you a new skill. Can you remember that special feeling, of being set-apart? *An adult actually wants to spend time with me? To listen to my thoughts, my aspirations...maybe even where I hurt?*

Sit back and close your eyes for a moment. Breathe deeply. Plumb the depths of those emotional memories. It may be right there, floating top of mind, as you relive that warmth for a moment. Maybe you have to dig deeper, sorting through those memory cells to resurrect a particular experience. Either way, give it a whirl.

That attention that you so relished was on the *real* you—not on the child you wished you were. It wasn't a

function of your power—you were a kid, after all. It wasn't predicated on your position in the great pecking order of life, or your gifts, or any of the other magnets of attention that come along later. This was just about that person and you, a community of two.

One of the greatest challenges we have as Christian men and women is to accept the gospel truth that the God of the universe—our Creator, the One who actually sings with joy over us—desires a special, personal relationship with each one of us. It's easier to accept that He is with us corporately, isn't it? We look better in a crowd, after all. *But God and me, one on one, warts and all?* That truth of God's desire for us, amply demonstrated throughout His Word, is what Sonship is all about.

Back to childhood. Recall that iconic recruiting poster of Uncle Sam in your local post office, eyes locked on you, that long, boney finger centered on your heart.

(continued on p.2)

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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: Skye Duncan, Elder

We are very glad to be serving APC! I am an Active Duty Army officer (at Fort Belvoir) and Victoria is a stay-at-home: 1) homeschool teacher, 2) homemaker, 3) part time Physical Therapist. Victoria's family all live just down the road in the Richmond area and Skye's family hails from the NW (OR/ID).

We met and got married in Augusta, GA in 2001 and immediately moved to Fort Lewis, WA; where Keelin (now 7) was born just three years later. I deployed a couple times from there, and upon returning we moved to Fort Campbell, KY where Élise and Carys (now 4) were born. We moved here in 2007 and have loved the growth opportunities and wonderful community at APC. We'll be stable here for at least a couple more years, then after that, we will go wherever God calls us and do what he calls us to do (most likely military duty since I still have 5 years+ until retirement). I am extremely honored and humbled to be elected as an elder here, and I know that with the Holy Spirit's power we will all see great things in the years to come.



## To the Moon and Back

by Adam LeRoy, Director of Youth Ministries

No, this is not a pitch for next summer's youth mission trip. Mella, my four-year-old daughter, and I have adapted this phrase from one of her children's books. It goes like this, "I love you so much, all the time, to the moon and back, because I do." As I am tucking her into bed, we say it in unison as we cuddle and with pink butterflies prancing around the room. But when I say it the other 10 times a day, such as in a public place, Mella usually responds with a sweet smile and an honest reply like "Dad, I already know that." As a teen, I'll wager she'll lose the smile and (I suspect) she'll have lost that child-like joy, and may be embarrassed—even resentful—given a hardened outer shell. When this shell develops, will my response to it be seasoned with grace for my daughter?

What will I do in response to that feeling of separation from my daughter, once it begins? How will I present the King's inseparable love to her?

Romans 8:39 states "neither height nor depth, nor anything else in all creation, will be able to separate us from the love of God that is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

Admittedly I want her to know that I have that same love for her that the Gospel is so beautifully communicating. But, I need to know how to keep from provoking anger, as instructed in Ephesians 6:4. I want my love to point her to the Son's perfect love. Will I sometimes need to get out of the way for her to know the love of God? How will I need to decrease so that my Father's perfect love for her may increase?

In my travels to the moon and back I will hit traffic jams. I'll run out of gas and my ability to love will fail along the way; but God's word never fails to encourage me to parent and be parented as His child: 1 John 3:1 "How great is the love the Father has lavished on us, that we should be called children of God! And that is what we are!"

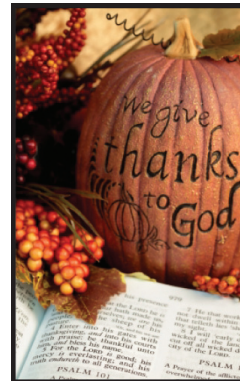
*(He Wants You—continued from p.1)*

that finger with the spiritual hand of God, but don't change the punch line: I want you! Just as you are. Just as I have shaped you, bringing you to this very moment.

Sonship is a major part of APC's discipling ministry. We've offered it back-to-back (sometimes more than once) for 19 years. Note we do not call Sonship a "program" for fear that the program might become the focus. For the record, the object of our attention in Sonship is God and His promises to His people. It's a powerful, guided, 16 week journey through the promises of our Father, centered on but not limited to the book of Galatians. It's two hours on Sunday night, with homework. A big investment. Is it worth it? Ask around. You'll hear about some incredible returns.

The immersion in God's promises is a great investment, plus we throw in added benefits: (a) a student manual which costs you nothing and you get to keep; (b) childcare, and (c) great fellowship. You spend time with the larger group for Q&A after each message, and then do a deeper dive with your small group.

He wants me? How do I enlist? Sign up at the Information Table downstairs through December.



## Annual Thanksgiving Praise Service

Everyone is invited to gather in the Sanctuary at 5:00pm on November 21st for a unique service of thanksgiving and praise, where individuals will have the opportunity to publicly give testimony to God's goodness throughout the year. It's an annual tradition you won't want to miss!

Immediately following the praise service, we will move downstairs to the Fellowship Hall for an appetizer/dessert reception.

Volunteers are needed for the reception, both to help and to provide food. Sign up to help in the Fellowship Hall or contact Jacqueline Zee (jacqueline.zee@gmail.com) or Amy Hendricks (amymhendricks@gmail.com).

Please note: The morning schedule on November 21st will remain unchanged, with worship at 8:50am and Sunday School at 11:00am.



APC is invited to participate again this year with Del Ray Baptist to collect Christmas boxes for delivery to needy children overseas. This is a ministry of Samaritan's Purse, and it's an easy way to bring a smile and the Gospel to a child. You may pick up instructions and a shoe

box downstairs in the Fellowship Hall. Boxes need to be returned to church today or next Sunday, November 21st. Learn more at [www.samaritanaspurse.org](http://www.samaritanaspurse.org).

APC Giving at a Glance	YTD Giving (10/31)	\$1,010,301
	YTD Budget	\$ 951,849
	Difference	\$ 58,452 (+6%)

## 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