



# The Burning Bush

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## First Edition Issue 1 Vol. 1:1

Hello Brothers and Sisters:

This is a first attempt to create a new Newsletter for the APC. It is connected to the new webpage as part of an effort to encourage greater fellowship and encouragement with one another within our family group during the year. My hope is to distribute a new issue every month, two, ....or maybe three, depending on interest, news, and need. Your participation, contribution, involvement, editorials, ideas, "constructive"... critiques, occasional praise, "warranted"... complaints, "atta boys" ...now and then, personal stories, funny stuff, comics, ....etc., etc., etc. are all encouraged to share. Who knows maybe even an editorial staff might develop at some point and we can use it as a means to promote our group to others who have an interest in us. I find that many people are getting tired of the "corporate machine organization mentality" around us and are naturally attracted to "people" organizations as a result. Perhaps we can be a more "people" organization for some of them. But...sorry...there I go "editorializing" already. In any case...if you have interest please be involved.

Jonny



Why the  
"Burning Bush" ?

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# The Burning Bush

## Why the "Burning Bush" ?

This symbol of course can certainly change if we desire it to, but for my part I was looking for a symbol that spoke of the life-giving energizing fire of God the Holy Spirit, as a means to convey the idea of life and action in this fallen world. I realize there are several interpretations of the burning bush from Exodus, and I realize from a hermeneutical standpoint Moses and the Hebrews probably would have been impressed more with the idea of preservation in the presence of a potentially destructive force, i.e. "Our God is a consuming fire". However, it seems to me that from this side of the Cross of Christ and the outpouring of the Holy Spirit at Pentecost, that fire as in the "tongues of fire", has a both a continuing and a new meaning. We are not consumed by the "consuming fire" of God's Holy presence due to the Cross but now imbued with new life, fire, and energy from the Holy Spirit poured out upon us. A meaning evident in the flame on the side of the Cross in the Methodist symbol. I suspect that it was because of this that Presbyterian Church in Ireland upgraded their understanding of the symbol to a more positive frame of reference to be described as "burning...but flourishing". So, I simply have ...errr... "borrowed" that idea for the newsletter. I trust they won't mind, imitation is the greatest form of flattery. We are a unity of branches, a bush or family tree, alive with the consuming but life-giving fire of our Father, the Holy God through His Son who intercedes for us and His Holy Spirit who quickens us, fills us and energizes us to do Our Fathers work.

The article below from Wikipedia gives some decent background on this:

"The symbolic meaning of the burning bush has been emphasized in Christianity, especially among participants in the Reformed tradition of Protestantism. Judaism also attaches symbolism to it.

### Reformed tradition

The burning bush has been a popular symbol among Reformed churches since it was first adopted by the Huguenots (French Calvinists) in 1583 during its 12th National Synod. The French motto *Flagror non consumo* - "I am burned but not consumed" - suggests the symbolism was understood of the suffering church that nevertheless lives.



However, given the fire is a sign of God's presence, he who is a consuming fire (Hebrews 12:29) the miracle appears to point to a greater miracle: God, in grace, is with his covenant people and so they are not consumed.

The current symbol of the Reformed Church of France is a burning bush with the Huguenot cross. The motto of the Church of Scotland is *Nec tamen consumebatur*, Latin for "Yet it was not consumed", an allusion to the biblical description of the burning bush, and a stylised depiction of the burning bush is used as the Church's symbol. Usage dates from the 1690s. The Burning Bush is also used as the basis of the symbol of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, which uses the Latin motto *Ardens sed virens*, meaning "Burning but flourishing", and is based on the biblical description of the burning bush. The same logo is used from the separated Free Presbyterian Church of Ulster. The burning bush is also the symbol of the Presbyterian Church in Canada, Presbyterian Church in Australia crest, Presbyterian Church of Eastern Australia with the motto in English since its foundation in 1846: 'And the Bush was not consumed', Presbyterian Church in New Zealand, Presbyterian Church in Taiwan, Presbyterian Church in Singapore, Presbyterian Church of Brazil, the Presbyterian Church in Malaysia, the Free Reformed Churches of North America, and the Christian Reformed Churches in the Netherlands."

"Ardens sed vires"  
"Burning but flourishing"



# The Burning Bush



The "Breaking" News!

Click on Pictures for full story!



\*Church Rolls Out New Sleep Number  
Pews !

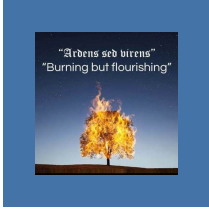


\*Reformed Pastor Completes  
Brief 47-Year-Long  
Sermon Series On Book Of Romans

The Report from  
the Vision,  
Mission, and  
Values  
Committee

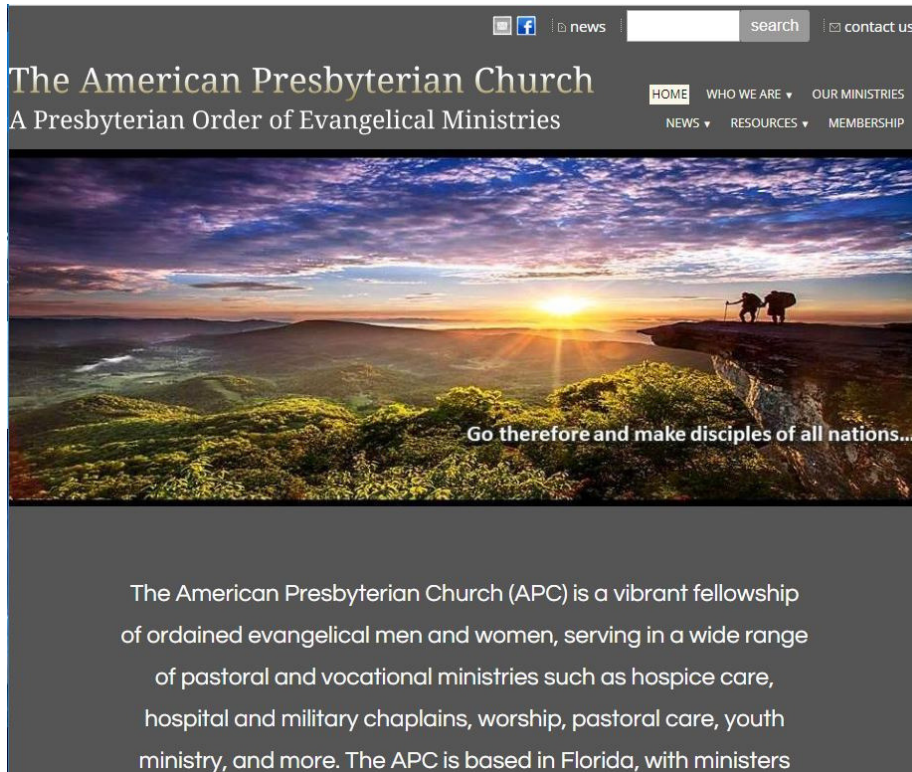
click





# The Burning Bush

## A New Website



The new website is live now and at [www.apc.church](http://www.apc.church), you are obviously looking at it. If you are concerned that the domain name changed, we can still go back to the old one once I get access to it. But, from a marketing, publicity, and search conflict standpoint after I researched it I decided it might be best, for now, to focus on the acronym APC like all our other Pres. brothers, PCA, OPC, ARP, EPC, ECO, etc, etc, etc... and to seek to brand "APC" for ourselves. If you are interested, there are more details I would be happy to discuss the other Amer Pres folks and why I believe that it is wise to avoid the similarities in the domain name and chart our own course. We are not done yet with it and still refining both the look and the content we present. If you would like to discuss any aspect of it, particularly any additions or corrections concerning you or any information concerning the other members please get in touch and let's talk about it. If you would like to have a landing page that introduces you in the "Our Ministries" section rather than the link that goes directly to your webpage, I am happy to work with you on it. Please see the one I created for Ellen and I at Fideles Ministries for an example.

Okay, first attempt at a newsletter, gotta start somewhere, and improve from there.

May God Bless,

Jonny