

Abundant Life Church

Helping People Discover
and Develop New Life
In Jesus Christ

October 14, 2009

Highlights In
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Fall Family Picnic

Sunday, October 18th, @ 4pm
Twin Lakes Park on Clark Rd.

Hot food, drinks, and tableware will be provided

Last names A-M bring a side dish to share

Last names N-Z bring a dessert to share

**Don't forget
your lawn chairs!**

**Also...
don't forget your
outdoor games,
sports gear, and
sunscreen!**



ALC Online

Blog

ALC Volunteer Openings

Greeter Ministry: Many options and openings available. If interested, please contact Becky Stutzman @ 993-0933.

Computer Operators: Help run Power Point and Media Shout for Sunday services. To join the team, contact Jared Reall @ 321-3393.

Kidz Kingdom: Many opportunities available for adults and high school students. To get involved, contact Kristin Fourie @ 321-6078.

Hats of Hope: This ministry sews and knits hats for cancer patients who have lost their hair due to chemotherapy treatment. To get involved, contact Leah Holm @ 746-5043.

Ushers

October 18th

Vernon Weaver, Darrell North, Doug Atha, Rich Miller, Royce Miller, Nathan Grieser, Allen Miller, Henry Zook, Stan Labady, Marlin Yoder

Christmas Outreach 2009

MARK YOUR CALENDARS!

Saturday, Dec 5th
Time TBD

Christmas Program
followed by
Winter Wonderland

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM : For Preschool-12th Grade. Practices are **Mondays @ 6:30pm** for K-12th grade. We invite all kids to come out to be a part of the choir. Watch for an announcement for the start of preschool practice.

WINTER WONDERLAND...will feature real snow, rides, food, and games! We will need everybody's help to pull off this exciting event! We need help with construction, sewing, food prep, and lots of helpers in other areas. Stop by the Information Center Sunday and see where you can sign up to help!

Baptism Service

Sunday, October 18th
See Pastor Rick if you'd like to be baptized

Informational Mtg.

For the
Miami Mission Trip
This Sunday right after 1st service
In the Prayer Room

Blood Drive

Sunday, October 18th
8:30am-12:30pm

Appointments taken in 15-minute intervals. Sign up @ the Information Center on Sunday to reserve a spot.

Missions Corner

Miami Mission Trip!

We are planning to leave Thur. Nov. 5th at 4pm and return Sunday the 8th in the morning. The cost for the trip will be \$95 a person, plus gas. We will be working with a homeless ministry on Friday and Saturday, then attending a church service Saturday evening. We will have an informational meeting with more details on Oct. 18th at 10:15am in the Prayer Room. Call Rick @302-3925 with questions.

KIDZ KINGDOM

Parents, in our current series "**Center Stage**" we are learning how to worship God! This week, our focus will be on giving. We'd like to begin a service project supporting the ministry of the African Children's Choir, who performed for us this year! We will be talking to the kids this week about how they can give, and a letter will be sent home to parents. It's an awesome opportunity to show our kids how blessed we truly are! Thank you for your support!



UNITE

UNITING THIS GENERATION
TO AWAKEN OUR PASSION

For 18-20 something's
Tuesday nights at 7pm
In the Thrive Center.

For more info, email us at
unitesrq@gmail.com



Youth Pastor Andy Ard
924-5835 andy@alcsrq.com

Grades 6-12 meet Wednesdays from 6:30-9:15pm in the Thrive Center

Parents - Check out the Parent Newsletter on the Youth Ministry page of ALC's website @ www.abundantlife-sarasota.com

Disciple Now

High School & Middle School

October 23-24

Cost is \$30

Money due Wednesday, October 21st

Abundant Life

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October 2009 Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
				1	2	3
4	5 Christmas Program Practice, 6pm Bringing Up Boys, 7pm "When God's People Pray", 7pm Financial Peace University, 7pm Prayer Night, 8:15pm	6 UNITE, 7pm	7 Thrive, 7pm	8 Praise Band, 7pm	9	10 Men's Breakfast, 7am Night of Praise, 7pm
11	12	13 Small Group Leaders Mtg., 7pm	14	15 Kidz Kingdom Curriculum Night, 4pm	16	17
18 ALC Blood Drive, 8:30am Baptism Service Fall Family Picnic, 4pm	19	20 Finance Team Mtg., 7pm	21	22	23 Thrive Disciple Now	24 Thrive Disciple Now
25	26 Hats of Hope, 7pm	27	28	29	30	31

2 R BETTER THAN 1*

There are many things in life that you & I can accomplish on our own. After all, one of the greatest values we promote in this country is "Individualism." *"If It's to be, it's up to me!"* Or, *"Just pull yourself up by the b o o t s t r a p s"* In our pride we'd like to think that we can do anything on our own. So we work harder and harder, even to the point of wearing ourselves out, just to say *"We did it."* Sort of crazy isn't it? But we all do it from time to time. The problem is that it goes totally against how God designed it all to be.

The Bible says that we need each other; It says that things get done much better when we do them together; It says that we get much more done when we work together. We were all designed to be involved in each other's lives – for real relationships. As Followers of Jesus Christ, it is especially important for [us] to be involved in each other's lives. The Bible calls that Fellowship! Another word we sometime use is Community. It is very essential for our well-being to be connected relationally in with each other.

It's interesting that as we look at the life of Jesus, one of the first things he did as he began his ministry was to gather around him a group of guys who became his small group. He intentionally chose 12 very common, normal guys to be his constant disciples. They eventually went on to be the Foundational Leaders of the Church. He chose them to develop their leadership potential but they also became His close friends and partners. They went with Him wherever he went – as a human being, He needed their companionship.

Could Jesus have accomplished his ministry all by himself? Well, being God, he could obviously do anything all by himself. But even then, God isn't just one being – He is a Triune God – Father, Son and Holy Spirit. So God is never all by himself, there are always three involved. But the fact is, Jesus chose to include others in his ministry & mission, to not do it all by himself. In doing so, he set an example for us and how we are to live our lives and do our ministry. We were created to need each other. Things just simply go better when we are connected with others. Some people try to do this "Christianity" thing all by themselves. They use phrases like, *"It's just me & God. After all, isn't God enough?"* The answer is, for some things, God is definitely all you need, but for many things, we need each other. To be a true growing Follower of Jesus Christ you need to be con-

nected with other Followers of Jesus Christ. After all, the 2nd Greatest Commandment Jesus gave to us is, "Love your neighbor." Then in **I Peter** it says we are to "Love each other deeply." You can't truly love people if you're not connected with them in genuine relationship. You can't practice the 50+ "One-anothers" in the New Testament by being all by yourself. You need other people in your life.

U R NEEDED*

The other side of the equation is that **Other People Need You**. It is actually a very selfish attitude to think that you don't want to be connected with other people in close relationship. The Bible says that God has given you gifts and talents that you are to use to help other people. So when you choose to not be involved in other people's lives you are depriving them of your help and blessing. You were SHAPED to help other people and to minister to them. There are people who need your help, your advice, your talents, your love and support. They may not know it yet, but people are just waiting for you. You just may be the answer to the prayers and requests they are asking God for.

You can't practice the 50+ "One-anothers" in the New Testament by being all by yourself.

S ERVING TOGETHER

One of the values we have here at ALC is Team Ministry. As you may have noticed, we have no committees, but we do have teams. We believe that ministry is better accomplished in Teams. So rather than thinking of doing your ministry all by yourself, think of gathering a team of people around you to assist you in the ministry you are doing. You will get more done and it will be much more fun.

This also why we strongly encourage you to get plugged into a small group. You need others and they need you. A small group is a place where people are connected as a spiritual family to help each other in life, sort of like *"Doing Life Together."* If you're not in a group check out the display on the patio after a service on Sunday, or maybe you'd like to start a new group – give me a call and I'll help get started.

Be Blessed & Encouraged, **VERN**

*Typos are intentional :)