

# Abundant Life Church

Helping People Discover and Develop New Life In Jesus Christ

March 3, 2010

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AL Online

Blog

**Saturday, March 13th**

**11am-5pm**

**Abundant Life Church**



**Petting Zoo**

**Volleyball Tournament**  
all skill levels

**Live 6-Horse Carousel**

**Car Show Bounce Houses**

**Bike Rally Kids Games**

**Free Food**

[Hamburgers-Hot Dogs-Italian Sausage]

[Homemade Ice Cream]

[Randy's Famous Kettle Korn]

[Homemade Soft Pretzels]

[Cotton Candy]

**Spring Carnival**

To register for the following, please call 924-5835:  
Volleyball Tournament  
Bike Rally  
Car Show

## 1st Saturday's

1st Saturday Events

March 6th

Men's Breakfast 7:00 am at ALC

Worship-Prayer-Teaching 7:00 pm at ALC

Habitat for Humanity Service Project postponed until April 10 due to weather

## Free FPU Sessions

Tuesday March 9th and 16th from 7-9pm in the Thrive Center. These two sessions are free for those who would like to come out and see what

Financial Peace University is all about.

For inquiries or to register, call Jill @ 953-4859.

## Note of Appreciation

"With whole-hearted gratitude, Sarasota Christian School wishes to say "THANK YOU". God has blessed our school with the auction this year raising over \$130,000. We appreciate those who donated items and helped in many areas throughout auction day. We count it a blessing to have ALC as part of the SCS family."

## Ushers

**March 7** Nathan Grieser, Darrell North, Doug Atha, Rich Miller, Royce Miller, Allen Miller, Henry Zook, Stan Labady, Lyle Hostetler, Marion Helmuth, John Schrock

## Open House

Mennonite Financial invites you to their Annual Winter Open House on Thursday, March 11th. Stop between 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m. to enjoy Randy's Famous Kettle Korn and Global Bean coffee. Come and meet their staff and find out about the services they have to offer. They are located at 3407 Bahia Vista St, across the street from Yoder's Restaurant.

## Missions

Linda Andriaccio will be out on the patio this Sunday, March 7th, to share about her upcoming mission work with YWAM. Stop by her table and see what her work will be about.

## ALC Blood Drive

Sunday, March 28th from 8:30-12:30

Appointments in 15 min. intervals

Watch for opportunity to sign up soon

## Class 401

"Discover your personal mission in the world to reach people for Jesus"

Sundays, March 14-28 during 2nd service

This class will be open to all - even if you've not taken Class 101-301. Sign up by calling the church office @ 924-5835 or on our communication card on Sunday.

## Employment Opportunity

Sunnyside Village is looking for a person who would be willing to drive the bus when residents need to go shopping or on special trips. Must have a CD license. Would be approx 8 hours a week.

For more information call 371-2750

## Haiti Relief Effort

As part of our ongoing efforts to aid the people of Haiti, please take a moment to see how you can help. To give securely online or to see what items are still needed, please click [HERE](#) or visit [www.agapeflights.com](http://www.agapeflights.com). You may drop off your items to the church M-F, 8:30-5 or Sundays until Noon. Thanks!

## Missions Corner

Local Mission Opportunity-Host a short term, 3 week, Foreign Exchange student and influence a young life forever. For more details contact: Terry & Wanda Jackson, Program Coordinators 928-0179 or 302-7837  
wanda.r.jackson@gmail.com or  
terryjacksonmail@gmail.com  
See flyer at information booth

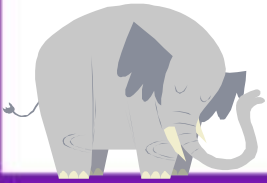
# KIDZ KINGDOM

In our new series, "Upside Down Town", we are learning that even though the world wants us to live upside down, God wants us to live right! One of the ways we can do that is to help others in need. We are currently collecting items for ALC's homeless ministry. On March 7th, @ 6am families can join the ALC team downtown and hand out the items we have collected. To participate, you may donate any of the following items or fill 2 gallon baggies with one of each of the items:

**Toothpaste & Toothbrush • Towel & Washcloth • Comb or Brush • Shampoo • Bar of Soap • Deodorant • Nail Clippers • Granola Bars**

-Our goal is to give each person 2 completely filled bags-

**Deadline to bring items to the church is March 5th @ 4pm**



**The Power of the Word!**  
**Reading and meditating on the Bible will change your life forever! To help you in this journey we have developed a Daily Bible Reading Plan and Life Journal to write down and record what you are learning and what God is speaking to you. Pick up your copy in the Life Center today!**

**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](http://www.abundantlife-sarasota.com)

**THRIVE**  
YOUTH MINISTRIES

## Habitat for Humanity Service Project

Postponed until April 10, 2010

Habitat for Humanity is looking for volunteers to help in a work day project

Please contact Pastor Andy @ 924-5835 for information and release forms

# Abundant Life

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## March 2010 Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
	1 Truth Project, 7pm Ladies Crop Night, 7m Prayer Meeting, 8:30pm	2 Praise Band Practice, 7pm	3 "Stepping Up" Women's Bible Study, 9am THRIVE, 7pm	4	5	6 1st Saturdays: Men's Breakfast, 7am Worship/Prayer/ Fellowship, 7pm
7	8	9	10	11	12	13 Spring Carnival
14	15 Ladies Crop Night, 7pm	16	17	18	19	20
21 Class 401, 3-7:30pm	22 Hats of Hope, 7pm	23	24	25	26	27
28 ALC Blood Drive	29	30	31			

# BEING CONNECTED

As our culture continues to modernize and have technological advances it begins to effect other areas of our lives. One of the areas that has become obvious is our pursuit of instant gratification. Much of our technology is designed to help make things easier and quicker. Between microwave ovens and faster internet services we have almost anything we need at the tip of our fingers and we have it now. And if for some reason it's not working as it should we get impatient and demand service – right now.

Another area that technology has affected is in the way we stay connected with people. With the new social networks on the internet – Facebook, Twitter, MySpace, IM, etc, we feel as if we are truly more connected to people. This can become an illusion. Though you may be electronically connected to someone and can easily send them a message or two instantly, it can become a cover-up for real and true relationships. Nothing can replace face-to-face and knee-to-knee interactions with someone. As humans we are designed to need physical and emotional contact with other people in our lives. These other methods can keep us connected on an information level, but if that's all you've got you are emotionally and relationally starving for something and someone deeper.

As we look at God and the Church we see the same dynamic – the need for each of us to be personally connected. As I think about the whole picture one of the words that comes to mind that I think helps to best describe our relationship with God and with each other is the word – **CONNECTED**. God so much wants us to be connected with him in the form of a personal relationship with him. He could have just sent us a message through an angel or another form of communication, but He chose to personally come here to earth as a human being to connect with us physically and emotionally to help us make that spiritual connection to him. And today we continue to strengthen that connection to God by reading the Bible and through prayer.

We also emphasize the importance of every Christian to be personally connected to other Christians. One of the key ingredients for people to get plugged into a church family and to stay plugged in is "Connection." It is important for every person to be connected to several other members of the Family. It is also important to be connected to something that gives a person a sense of meaning and purpose. These are the two most important things we can, aside from people's personal connection with God, to help people get and stay involved in the church family.

That is why we strongly encourage each person to get involved in a ministry of some kind and to get into a small group. This is where you come in. As a member of the Family you have a responsibility to help other people become members of the Family and for them to become thriving participants in the Family. This is not just a church leadership or a program thing. This is a relationship kind of ministry we can all be a part of. One of the most significant things you can do as a part of the

Abundant Life Church Family is to get personally involved in helping others become part of the Family, and to help those already in the Family become more connected.

As you build connections with people through a personal relationship and help them get involved in some kind of ministry where they can use their time, talents, and gifts to serve, you are truly doing the ministry of a Follower of Jesus Christ. This is what we all do together. One of the things we as leaders are constantly thinking and praying about is how to help people who come through our doors get and stay connected to our church family. And from what I believe you have the same heart and concern as well. The answer for most people is being Connected.

**Being Connected** starts with a connection with God. That's why we do whatever we can to help the people of our community – people in your life – to hear about the Good News and how they can have a personal relationship with God through Jesus Christ. That is the most important connection a person can make in life. So we as a Church Family work together to help as many people as possible connect with God through personal and public sharing of the Good News with them. Then as they make that connection we help them get connected to the Church Family through genuine relationships with other Family members. This can happen through informal relationships or through structured Small Groups. However it happens it is vital for the nurture and development of a Follower of Jesus Christ.

It is also important that we help each other get connected through ministry. We all need to have some kind of opportunity to use our lives to help and serve other people. As we serve with other people on a ministry team of some kind we not only find fulfillment in making a contribution, we also begin to connect with other people while we're serving together. It's a win-win for everyone. A job gets done; we are serving God; and we connect with others.

It's as we all work together in this process that we will see the Church Family grow and be strengthened together. We will see God's blessing on us and see more and more people in our community come to know Jesus Christ as their Lord & Savior. Let's together become the Family that God has called us to be.

Be Blessed & Encouraged, Vern