

Abundant Life Church

Helping People Discover
and Develop New Life
In Jesus Christ

September 16, 2009

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Class 101

Sunday from 3-7:30pm

In the Thrive Center

Dinner & childcare* provided

Class 101 is ALC's membership class taught by Pastor Vern. You'll get to know what ALC is all about and have the opportunity to ask questions. Call or email the church office to sign up.



ALC Online

Blog

*Deadline for childcare sign up is Friday, September 18th

In Memory

As some of you may know, Pastor Ken Nauman passed away Tuesday morning. Visitation will be Thursday evening at Bahia Vista Mennonite Church from 6-8pm and Friday morning at 9am. The funeral will be at Bahia Vista Mennonite Church at 10am.

Ken will be buried in his home state of Pennsylvania. A meal will be served after the funeral for close friends and out of town guests. Please pray for his wife, Miriam, and the rest of the Nauman family. Their son Dale lives in this area. Their daughter Donna & Danny Weaver and family also live in the area and attend Abundant Life. Their daughter Bonnie & Gerald Roth and family reside in Iowa.

Missions Corner

Do you want to make an impact for Jesus Christ but you aren't sure how to? Consider going to Miami on a Mission Trip with DOOR. We are planning a trip and the tentative dates are Thursday, October 29th – Sunday, November 1st. We would love to see families go, but space will be limited. Contact Rick @ 302-3925 if you are interested. Some ministries have a minimum age requirement, so watch for details coming soon!

Upcoming Events

Fall Family Picnic

Sunday, October 18th

@ Twin Lakes Park

Begins @ 4pm

Details coming soon!!

Monday Night Happenings

“When God’s People Pray” from 7-8pm in the Chapel ~ Taught by Pastor Rick, this 6-week course by Jim Cymbala will focus on the power of prayer in our lives. Books available in the Life Center for \$8.

“Financial Peace University by Dave Ramsey” from 7-9pm in the Thrive Center ~ This 13-week course is designed to help you manage your finances from a biblical perspective. There is a \$100 charge per family. Call 941-953-4859 for information or to register.

Prayer Meeting @ 8:15pm in the Worship Center ~ We invite all of you to come out! If you are available to pray for others or need prayer for yourself or someone you know, these nights are for you. We expect God to move in mighty way!

Ushers

September 20th

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

Night of Praise

Saturday, October 10th

Baptism Service

Sunday, October 18th

See Pastor Rick if you'd like to be baptized.

KIDZ KINGDOM - don't miss out!

Hey everyone! Preparations for the Christmas Program have begun! And this year we are planning a community outreach directly following the Christmas Program!! It's called **A Winter Wonderland!** There will be snow, rides, food and games! But we need everybody's help to pull it off! We need people to help with construction, sewing, food prep and lots of helpers in lots of areas! Please call the church office to sign up.

The first practice for the Christmas program is **Monday, October 5th at 6:30 in the Sanctuary.** We will be using kids Kindergarten – 12th grade, with something special for preschoolers! See you then!



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

Ichetucknee River Tubing Trip

Saturday, September 19th

Meet @ ALC @ 6am

\$35 due tonight @ Thrive

Be sure to bring extra money for dinner!!

Disciple Now

October 23-24

Details coming soon!!

Abundant Life

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September 2009 Events

Sun	Mon	Tue	Wed	Thu	Fri	Sat
		1 UNITE, 7pm	2 Thrive, 7pm	3 Praise Band, 6:30pm	4	5 Men's Breakfast, 7am
6	7 Office Closed Happy Labor Day! Prayer Mtg., 6pm	8	9	10	11	12 Thrive Girls High Tea
13	14 "When God's People Pray", 7pm Financial Peace University, 7pm Prayer Night, 8:15pm	15 Finance Team, 7pm	16	17	18	19 Thrive Ichetucknee Trip
20 Class 101, 3-7:30pm	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28 Hats of Hope, 7pm	29	30			

THERE IS A REASON

Have you ever wondered why you are still here on this earth? After all, you made the necessary decision that will get you into heaven – you’ve accepted Jesus Christ as Your Lord & Savior, you’ve received his forgiveness for your sins, and you’ve been given a new heart and a new life. What more is there? Maybe I’ll just hang out here and hope to make it though to the end so that I’ll be in heaven with Jesus someday. If I just sit in the background where nobody will notice, I won’t have to get out of my comfort zone and actually have to do something. I’ll just ride it out till the end.

Ever felt like that? You know you’re “in”, but that’s about all you really want to do. Well, according to God, that’s a wrong way to think. Matter of fact, it’s a very selfish way to think. Getting “saved” is not the end, it’s only the beginning. The adventure is just getting started. God has a job for you to do. His will for you life is never for you to just sit on the bench – he wants you to get in the game. He’s handing you the ball and saying “*Run with it, head for the end zone.*” God has an assignment for each one of us that includes a life of adventure and fulfillment. Jesus calls it an “Abundant Life.”

There are five major specific things that God clearly tells us to do. We are to: 1) Learn to Love God, 2) Learn to love others, 3) Serve God, 4) Grow in our relationship with Him, 5) Share with others the Good News of Jesus Christ. These are the top 5 Purposes of your existence. These are the things that should consume our hearts and minds as we live our every day lives. This is what we call “Living a Purpose Driven Life.”

Learning to **LOVE GOD** means that we live a life that brings Him honor and glory. We call this **Worship**. Worship is how we express our love and devotion to God. When we come together as a Church on a Sunday morning and sing our praises to God, that is an important expression of our worship. But real biblical worship is much more than Sunday morning, it’s every moment of every day of your life – it’s a Lifestyle. We love God with all of our heart, soul, mind, and strength. We express that love in how we live our lives.

The next thing we do is learn to **LOVE OTHERS**. Life is all about love – loving God, loving people. When we get to heaven we will love each other perfectly, but until then we are in the process of learning how to really love each other. Jesus said that our love for each other will be proof to the world of our love for God. Our goal then should be to develop real and authentic relationships with each other as believers. We call this **Fellowship**. Our small groups are designed with this purpose in mind - to intentionally structure relationships as a laboratory to learn how to love each other. They are a vital part of ALC. We’ll talk more about this in the weeks to come. Until then, I encourage you to get into one, or maybe even get one started.

The next thing we are to do is to **SERVE GOD**. How do we serve God here on this earth? By serving other people. In heaven we will serve God directly, until then we serve each other. Jesus said that when we do something to meet the needs of another person, it’s as if we are doing it to Him. Over and over in the New Testament we are told to use our lives to “Do good works.” God has given each of us talents and gifts that we are to use to serve Him. We call this **Ministry**. There’s plenty of work for all of us to do, just start doing something. This includes ministry in the church, in the community, and in the world.

Then we are to **GROW** in our relationship with God. We are to move toward spiritual maturity. We call this process **Discipleship**. God wants us to keep learning from His Word, and putting those things into practice. We should never be content in where we are spiritually – thinking that we’ve arrived. We will need to keep growing and learning as long as we are on this earth. We need to develop habits into our lives that help us to learn and grow –things like the studying the Bible, prayer, quiet time with God, etc.

Then the last and maybe the most crucial is **SHARING THE GOOD NEWS** with others. We need to be actively telling people about our faith in Jesus Christ and explaining to others how they can do the same. After all, someone told you about the Good News in some form, now you get to share it with others. This is one of the most important things you can do with your life here on this earth – help others get to heaven. God puts people into your life for this specific reason – for you to open up your mouth and tell them about your faith in Jesus Christ.

Here at ALC we intentionally design our Sunday Celebration Services to partner with you in reaching your friends for Jesus Christ. As you being to share with them we encourage you to invite them with you to a Sunday Service where our goal is to reinforce the message you are trying to communicate with them. We also give them an opportunity to respond. In this way, as we partner together, we can reach more people in our community with the Good News of Jesus Christ and soon begin to see a radical change in the culture of our community. That is the purpose God has you here for this time and this place!

Together as a Church, God tells us to work at these 5 purposes together. With God’s help we will do our best to be able to say as Jesus did, **John 17:4** “*I have brought you glory on earth by completing the work you gave me to do.*” Will you be able to say that when you come to the end of your life? My job as your Pastor is to help prepare you for the right answer.

Serving God Together, **VERN**