

ABC NEWSLETTER

Alsbury Baptist Church - Burlison, Texas

Vol. IV N^o. 7

www.alsburybaptist.com

July, 2010

Sunday Schedule:

8:00 - Early Worship
9:15 - Midmorning Worship
10:30 - Late Worship

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Children's Church is offered during the 9:15 hour. Children small groups meet at the 9:15 and 10:30 hours. Youth small groups meet during the 10:30 hour. Adult small group bible studies are offered during the 9:15 and 10:30 hours.

..... Church Staff

Scott Sharman
Senior Pastor

Gene Longley
Pastor of Children

Brian Jennings
Pastor of Youth

Brock DeWald
Pastor of Worship

Marty Strayhorn
Pastor of Discipleship

Brenda Longley
Ministry Assistant

Kendra Cox
Financial Secretary

Summer Garcia
Mother's Day Out Director

Scott's Thoughts

“Living After the Comma” is our theme this summer. Jesus said, “I came so they can have real and eternal life, more and better life than they ever dreamed of” (John 10:10 The Message). He intends and desires for each of us to experience abundant, over-flowing life! Why, then, do so many Christians experience so much less?

We've discovered that abundant life will never be experienced outside of community. Biblical writers presumed that the local church would be a family made up of individuals from every generation who worship, grow, minister, witness and live their lives alongside one another. The healthiest of churches is the one in which all generations are connected in vibrant, Christ-honoring life!

This Sunday we'll shift gears just a bit and take a good look at our personal expectations of what “abundant living” looks like. For many Christians, challenges and difficulties are inconsistent with their understanding of “abundant living.” This Sunday we'll take a look at the Romans 8 promise that God “causes all things to work together for our good.” Read through

the chapter before coming to church on Sunday.

The following Sunday, July 4th, we'll consider how our “bridled independence” is essential to abundant life. As the summer unfolds we'll wrestle through several other aspects of the abundance every Christian should experience. Remember, it's all about “Living After the Comma.”

I want to personally thank you for supporting our upcoming Tanzania mission trip. Three churches, representing three continents and three languages, will serve together to give witness to our “one Master, one faith, one baptism, one God and Father of all, who rules over all, works through all, and is present in all” (Ephesians 4:5-6 The Message). Remember, we will serve in a predominantly Muslim area of Tanzania and covet your prayers as we strive to testify to the living God! A full report of how God provided and worked will be presented in an all-church fellowship on **Sunday evening, August 1.**

Oh, how I love being part of the family called Alsbury! I look forward to seeing you this Sunday, or sooner!

Our July Quarterly Church Conference (July 11) is rescheduled to Sunday evening, August 8, at 6:00, due to calendar conflicts and Scott Sharman's absence while on the Tanzania mission trip.

HIGH SEAS EXPEDITION

Thanks to all the families and volunteers who made Alsbury's High Seas Expedition such an amazing week! We saw nearly 200 kids and over 100 volunteers experience God's true, comforting, surprising, and life-changing Word during VBS. While we focus on kids during VBS, we were reminded that God's Word is for every generation. It was beautiful to watch the family of Alsbury come together to share God's love with a new generation.

CURIOUS ABOUT NEXT YEAR?

If you thought this year's VBS was awesome, next year will be



absolute
PANDAMONIUM!!!
Check out the
Pandamonium
VBS website at
pandamonium.group.
com for more about
VBS 2011!

LIGHTS, CAMERA, ACTION

Mark your calendars for Next Level Kids Camp, Tuesday, July 20 - Saturday, July 24, 2010 at Latham Springs Baptist Camp. This year's worship leader is Brent Weber. The camp speaker is Steve Winger. Cost is \$195. Registration forms are available in the Children's Worship Room (Room 202). A \$50 deposit is due when you turn in your forms. Camp is for students finishing 3rd-6th grades. Questions? Contact Mr. Gene at gene@alsburybaptist.com.

NO MISSION IMPOSSIBLE

There is "NO MISSION IMPOSSIBLE" for those who trust in God's purpose for their lives. This Children's Worship series is based on the theme of going into all the world to tell others about Jesus. We'll follow Craig and his team in the country of Kazakhstan and learn the importance of taking a step of faith to reach out to others on an overseas mission trip. Children's Worship takes place Sunday mornings at 9:15 in Room 202.

HOT STUFF

Help kids go to camp and put some spice in your diet. Back by popular demand, campers are now selling Alsbury Kids Pepper Sauces for \$4 per bottle. Choose from Traditional Pepper Sauce, Pepper Sauce with Chipotle, or our new flavor, Jalapeno Salsa Verde. Catch a camper or stop by Mr. Gene's office to get your bottles before they are gone!

³Praise be to the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! In his great mercy he has given us new birth into a living hope through the resurrection of Jesus Christ from the dead, ⁴and into an inheritance that can never perish, spoil or fade—kept in heaven for you, ⁵who through faith are shielded by God's power until the coming of the salvation that is ready to be revealed in the last time.

¹⁸For you know that it was not with perishable things such as silver or gold that you were redeemed from the empty way of life handed down to you from your forefathers, ¹⁹but with the precious blood of Christ, a lamb without blemish or defect. ²⁰He was chosen before the creation of the world, but was revealed in these last times for your sake. ²¹Through him you believe in God, who raised him from the dead and glorified him, and so your faith and hope are in God.

²²Now that you have purified yourselves by obeying the truth so that you have sincere love for your brothers, love one another deeply, from the heart. ²³For you have been born again, not of perishable seed, but of imperishable, through the living and enduring word of God. ²⁴For,

*"All men are like grass,
and all their glory is like the flowers of the field;
the grass withers and the flowers fall,
²⁵but the word of the Lord stands forever."*

And this is the word that was preached to you.
1Peter 1:3-5,18-25 (NIV)

I have been struck recently with a thought. This thought has grown out of a need I see within the body of Christ. A thought that, when not understood, can lead to feelings of depression, hopelessness, frustration, and dissatisfaction. It really is a simple thought, a truth I have taken for granted at times. Truth taken for granted so often that I see Christ followers get bogged down in details, distraction, performance, success, measurements, and evaluations. This truth is so

often overlooked that many times I see brothers and sisters in the family of God lose sight of their true identity. Are you ready? Then here it is....

What you do, how well you do it, and the amount of praise you receive (or criticism) for doing that something has no impact on your value to our heavenly Father.

Your job does not define you. Your family does not define you. Your service to the body of Christ does not define you. Though these things may be a calling from God on your life to bear good fruit, they do not become who you are. Remember to rejoice in your freedom as one reborn. Once redeemed you are identified with Christ, period. Balance all of those passions for the gifts God has given you with a genuine understanding that your value to God in Christ is immeasurable. You were purchased with the "precious blood of Christ." Pretty humbling price tag, huh?

So, if you feel yourself bogging down in your efforts to serve authentically and selflessly ask yourself a very revealing question. "Who am I?" A Sunday School teacher, worship leader, VBS helper, youth worker, ABC's host, Connect group member? Or an immeasurable portion of God's family, whose identity cannot and will never change!

Be free to love your God, this July, as you understand embracing your identity in Him. May that love define our works as an opportunity to love Him back and not who we are.

Your brother in Christ,
Brock

Songs we worship with:
-Everything Falls (Fee)
-You Are Holy (Micheal W. Smith)
-Until the Whole World Hears (Casting Crowns)

These songs can be found at Christian bookstores,
your favorite mp3 source, and heard on 94.9 KLT.Y.

ALSBURY STUDENTS

Camp was wonderful this year. God did an amazing work in all of our lives and it has definitely come home with us. Some of the decisions didn't happen on the last night of camp. They took place a few days later. This tells me that it was more than a camp high or an emotional experience. It was an encounter with the living God that left us changed. There is a sense of unity and love that is tangible. Thank you to all of the adults that helped to make this possible. Some gave financial support. Others helped drive to keep the cost down and some gave up a week to invest in the lives of teens. Thank you all! This is a wonderful church and I am thankful that I get to serve alongside you.

Burger's Lake

July 6th ~ 9:15 - 4:30
Cost: \$9 + money for lunch/snack

Broomball

Cost: \$10 July 31st ~ 7:15 - 11:30

We will skate from 7:30 to 9:00 and then get the ice to ourselves for some broomball action

Sunday Night Live

July 11th
the Brownings'
7225 Pecan Ct.
Mansfield TX 76063
Guys bring snacks
Girls bring drinks

July 18th
the Pundts'
300 Post Ln
Guys bring snacks
Girls bring drinks

July 25th
the Cadenas'
2312 Sandstone Ct.
Guys bring drinks
Girls bring snacks

Blood Drive – Sunday, July 25

Carter Blood Center will have their mobile donation bus on our church parking lot at the end of the month. Our goal is to raise 30 or more pints of life-saving blood! Recent months have reminded us of just how precious our donations of blood are! Eat a hearty breakfast and donate a pint! Only the Lord knows whose life you will save!

Senior Adult Fellowship

Saturday, August 14, 11:00 a.m.

Baby Shower for Tara and Lawrence Torres

This Sunday, June 27, immediately following morning worship services. (12:00 to 1:30) Tara and Lawrence are expecting their first baby, a boy, in late August. A luncheon will be held this Sunday along with a baby shower to help welcome "Law Torres" into our lives! Phyllis Sharman (phyllissharman@sbcglobal.net) and Lorie Baird (loriebaird@sbcglobal.net) have information. Tara is registered at Target and Babies R Us.



MEN'S MINISTRY
2010 Alsbury Bass Classic!

Summer is here and time on the water for fellowship and fishing with the men of Alsbury is "heating up!" We'll fish Monday, July 5, after work on Lake Alvarado, and Saturday, July 17, on a lake that has yet to be determined. Contact David Baird (fishing@alsburybaptist.com) for information.

Wednesday Evening Connect Group is now meeting!

Parents of Teenagers – Parenting teens in today's culture is difficult. The waters are treacherous and the dangers are many. Walking alongside others is both valuable and wise! Andy & Kellie Beasley host this Connect Group, meeting in their home. Parents of teens will find support and fellowship, providing it for others as well. If you are interested in attending contact Andy at abeasley@fwcds.org

The ABC's of ABC

The next ABC's of ABC, a brief presentation of the basics of Alsbury church membership, will be offered on Sunday, August 1, following morning activities. A complimentary lunch will be served and Scott Sharman will share the history, mission, and vision of Alsbury. Reserve a place for your family by completing a tear-a-way slip from Sunday's worship bulletin.

Support of our church budget continues to be strong, allowing for significant ministry and missions to take place. Our contributions to Unleashing the Vision have also increased, allowing us to press forward toward building much-needed worship and discipleship space.

MONTHLY FACTS AND FIGURES

ATTENDANCE:

Ave. Sunday Small Group: 272
Ave. Weekend Worship: 374



BUDGETS:

Support Required: \$27,000
Support Received: \$29,172

Unleashing the Vision: \$2,422
Compassion International: \$87
Mission Support: \$5,800
Blackberry Fellowship: \$2,127
Iglesia Comunidad: \$1,646
Other Financial Support: \$9,952

ABC

Alsbury Baptist Church

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Encouraging people to know God
through personal faith in Christ.
Equipping people to serve God
in the Spirit's power.

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TANZANIA MISSION TRIP

Ten people from Alsbury will travel to Morogoro, Tanzania, to work in a church-sponsored elementary school, with several indigent churches, and among orphaned children. This is possible because of the sacrificial support of so many people! Our Alsbury group will serve in two weeks of partnership ministry alongside CityChurch in Andernach, Germany and Morogoro Baptist Church in Tanzania.

The ten people making the trip (in alphabetical order) are: Mike and Jessica Crain; Steve and Carolyn Hanke; Amy Russell; Scott and Phyllis Sharman; Kay Shelton; Shawn and Kim Thomas.

Please continue to pray for:

- Unity among Team Members
- Effective Ministry while in Africa
- Physical Safety for Team Members

JULY 9-27