

ABC NEWSLETTER

Alsbury Baptist Church - Burlison, Texas

Vol. V No. 3

www.alsburybaptist.com

March, 2011

Sunday Schedule:

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

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Children's Church and
Children small groups meet
at both 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
Children's Ministry Assistant

Kendra Cox
Administrative Assistant

Summer Garcia
*Mother's Day Out
Director*

Scott's Thoughts

As we complete the second quarter of our church year (Jan-Mar) we are seeing the highest attendance figures in the history of our church family. In March alone we are averaging 300 in Sunday morning small group attendance! Without question, we are making the most of our facilities. Our worship space is full for two of our three Sunday morning services. Classrooms are full, and not just on Sunday mornings. Our buildings are used most days of every week.

During this season of economic downturn, we have essentially put our efforts to build additional space on a back burner. The balance of funds set aside for construction of future buildings (Unleashing the Vision) continues to grow but we have not been active in pressing forward toward an effort to build.

In recent weeks our New Building Development Team has resumed meeting. New members have been added to the team in recent weeks. Serious consideration is being given to every possible answer to our space needs. Our original intention to build a much larger worship facility along with classrooms

seems to be out of our reach, financially speaking. Therefore, we are giving serious consideration of a transitional answer to the challenges.

Please pray for those who are investigating our options. Please prayerfully support the effort with your regular financial contributions. Unleashing the Vision offering envelopes are always available in the racks on the back walls of the worship center. Every dollar we contribute now has the potential of saving us as much as three dollars in interest expense were we forced to finance construction.

There is a strong likelihood that a recommendation concerning construction of additional facilities will be heard in the months ahead. I'm proud of the way we have practiced patience and wise restraint during these challenging days. I am also aware, however, of the very real need to take significant steps in order to allow for growth in our ministry.

I look forward to seeing you Sunday. I also look forward to seeing what God has in store for us this week and beyond.

WE WELCOME OUR NEWEST!

These people connected with
Alsbury in February

Don and Peggy Newman, by Letter
Linda Duke, by Letter
Michael and Christian Torres, by Letter
Lawanda Tower, by Letter
Danny Kennedy, by Baptism and Morgan Kennedy, by Letter

THE LONGLEY ROAD TO CHINA

The day is finally here. Brenda, Bryan and I leave for China on Friday, March 18. We'll arrive in Hong Kong on Saturday, then travel to Xi'an on Sunday. Katie's birthday is Sunday, but her new life will begin on Monday when we finally get to hold her in our arms! While in Xi'an, we will meet with civil affairs officials, notary officers, and public security officers. When those meetings are finished, Katie's adoption will be official and she should have her Chinese passport. On Friday we should travel to Guanzhou where Katie will have a medical exam and we will apply for her visa at the American Consulate General. On Friday, April 1 we will drive to Hong Kong to catch our flight back home, arriving at DFW on Friday at 7:27 pm. Please continue to pray that Katie will make the transition to our family well. We love you all!

-The Longleys

VBS WORSHIP TEAM

Rehearsals have begun for the 2011 VBS Worship Team! Meet in the Children's Worship Room (202) at 3:30 on Sunday afternoons. Kids in 3rd-6th Grades are eligible to be part of the worship team.

JOIN THE ALSBURY KIDS TEAM!

Want to be part of what God is doing through the children of Alsbury? You can join the Alsbury Kids Team by serving in the preschool extended session rotation, leading preschoolers on Wednesday evening, assisting with elementary classes, helping with Parents' Night Out, assisting with children's worship, working with the Alsbury Kids Choir... the possibilities are only limited by your imagination, SHAPE, and availability. As our ministry grows, there are more and more exciting opportunities for you to be part of meaningful ministry. Talk to Mr. Gene about how you fit into the team!

KIDS CAMP PAYMENT

If you are planning on your child going to Kid's Camp, the first payment of \$50.00 is being collected on Sunday. Payments can be given to Kendra Cox or put in the collection plate in an Alsbury envelope. Please write KIDS CAMP on the envelope or in the memo line of your check.

KINGDOM KIDS

A new class will launch on Sunday, April 3 at 10:30 for children with special needs. The class will meet in Room 302 and will be led by Keara Kirk. A rotation schedule will be organized for adults and youth interested in helping with this exciting new class. Contact Keara at kearakirk@sbcglobal.net to get more information.

*⁶By the word of the LORD the heavens were made,
And by the breath of His mouth all their host.
⁷He gathers the waters of the sea together as a heap;
He lays up the deeps in storehouses.
⁸Let all the earth fear the LORD;
Let all the inhabitants of the world stand in awe of Him.
⁹For He spoke, and it was done;
He commanded, and it stood fast.*

Psalms 33:6-9 (NASB)

While I write this month's article I do so missing my family. They have taken a trip to visit other family in Texas and I am working and hanging out with the Germans for a week. I think about a brand new baby girl and an almost three year old. It's AWESOME! Not awesome in the contemporary vernacular sense, mostly used when something is exciting, intriguing, or fun. Rather, this awesome is astounding, awe-inspiring, and humbling. This is a kind of awesomeness that leads one to glorify and honor the greatness of Him who created those tiny hands, feet, voices, and smiles. What an astounding God we serve, a Father who loves us.

Whether it's in the scaly, camouflaging patterns, of your angling catch of choice on a spring day, the changing of leaves around your home or streets in the fall, or that first green grass that pokes out of our dormant Texas fields as winter comes to a

close, does it amaze you? Does He amaze you?

I so often have taken for granted the spectacular detail of God's creation. The rain that refreshes and soothes plants and animals alike, can often be a nuisance when that hall closet umbrella is missing. The snow falling, may be a danger to travelers making their way home after dark. Do my circumstances control how AWESOME God's creation is? As we continue on this journey toward a deeper relationship with our Father in heaven, let us recognize more and more who He is. Our God "spoke, and it was done!"

May we look all around us this April and give God the glory, honor, and praise for the AWESOME things He has made!

Your brother in Christ,
Brock

- Songs we worship with:
-God Is With Us Now (Gateway)
-More Than Amazing(Lincoln Brewster)
-You Are For Me (Kari Jobe)

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

PARENTS, GET IN THE GAME...(VIDEO GAME THAT IS)

Video games are out there and it is likely that your kids play them. If they don't then their friends do. In fact, in recent years, major video game releases have grossed more in sales than any blockbuster movie ever has. They are a part of our culture and it is important that you educate yourself so that you can make wise decisions about what your kids are playing (or potentially playing at a friend's house).

Video games come in a variety of platforms. There are 3 major consoles (PS3, Xbox 360, and Wii) and unless you have been in a coma for the last several years, you already knew this. PC games (games played on a computer) are also very popular and games like World of Warcraft have become a cultural phenomenon. There handheld gaming devices as well. The big ones are Nintendo DS, iPod Touch or iPhone, and Sony's PSP. There are other gaming devices but these are the most popular.

With all of these options, it can be a bit overwhelming to keep up with so let's start at the beginning. Games have a rating system: E (everyone), T (teen), & M (mature). The best way to understand these ratings is to compare them to movie ratings (E=G, E10=PG, T=PG13, and M=R). The rating system is a good starting point to evaluate a game.

Unfortunately, just checking the rating isn't enough. Many of the most popular games out there are M rated games (Call of Duty, Halo, Bioshock, to name a few) and games with this rating are being played by teens everywhere. There is a broad range of content that will warrant an M rating. Some games get the M for violence similar to what you would see in a typical PG13 movie. I personally play video games and many of them have the M rating, but there are several games that I will not play (nor allow my kids to play) no matter how popular they are. Some M rated games feature full nudity, sexual content, over the top violence, gore, and strong language so it is necessary to know what your kids are playing.

The first thing is to sit down with your teen and talk about your standard and what is acceptable to be played in your house. My boys and I like to play military shooters. We have played most of the Call of Duty games including the most recent "Black Ops." If you didn't know,

there is a feature in that game's menu to turn off the extreme content (course language and gore) and that is how we play it. However, not all parents will feel comfortable allowing their kids to play games like this and that is okay. The most important thing is to make sure there is a clear understanding about your house's standard.

Parents, you WILL need to examine the content in the games your teens want to play. If you play games yourself, take it for a test drive. Play the game a while before allowing your teen to get his or her hands on it. Or, you could sit down with your teen while he plays the game. This could be a great way to connect with your child and give you a great opportunity to talk through the content in the game. There is no easy way around the fact that a hands on approach is the only way to be in control of what your teens play.

Here is my short list of games that should send some serious red flags for you as a parent. These are popular current games that are not allowed in the Jennings house and contain extremely questionable content (Bulletstorm, Red Dead Redemption, Fallout 3 or Fallout New Vegas, Fable 3, Dragon Age, any Grand Theft Auto game, God of War, Yakuza 3 or 4). This list contains some new releases and others released in the last year and is in no way exhaustive. If you have a question about an individual game, feel free to contact me.

There are many more things to consider but there isn't enough space here to cover them all but here is another thing to think about. Many gaming devices aren't just gaming devices anymore. They are fully connected to the internet. The Wii, PS3, iPod touch and DSi have full web browsers and built in wi-fi. They all offer parental control of some sort and this is NECESSARY for you be aware of and in control of.

I could write much more but this article has to end somewhere. Remember, the best approach is a hands on approach. Know what they are playing. Play games with them and have open communication about the content in the games. As a gamer myself, I play them and am aware of the games your teens want to play. If you have any questions, give me a call. I'd be happy to engage in some gamer nerd talk with you.

~ Brian Jennings

The 2011 Alsbury Bass Classic

This is a great chance for anglers to get to know one another within the Alsbury family. Our group fishes the third Saturday morning and first Monday evening of each month. We do our best to accommodate everyone but back seats are always limited. Contact David Baird (david.baird@appliedehs.com) or Scott Sharman (scottsharman@sbcglobal.net) for more information.

Our consistent support of our church budget allows for continued ministry and missions through Alsbury Baptist Church. As we give to the Lord through the Alsbury budget we make a difference both today and for generations to come.

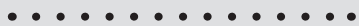
Parents' Night Out
Saturday, April 30, 5 to 8

This respite ministry is for parents of children living with special needs. Our next PNO evening is Saturday, April 30. Contact Keara Kirk (kearakirk@sbcglobal.net) for information on how you can participate.

MONTHLY FACTS AND FIGURES - FEBRUARY

ATTENDANCE:

Ave. Sunday Small Group: 314
Ave. Weekend Worship: 408



BUDGETS:

Support Required: \$39,960
Support Received: \$42,727

Unleashing the Vision: \$4,597
Compassion International: \$197
Various Mission Support: \$805
Blackberry Fellowship: \$4,005
Iglesia Comunidad: \$1,198
Other Designated Support: \$7,490

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.

www.alsburybaptist.com

2011 Ladies Retreat

Register this Sunday!

Don't miss all the fun!

There will be a table in front of the worship center Sunday morning to register for the Women's Retreat. If you are planning on coming, you must register early. The cost is \$65.00 before the 27th. If you register after the 27th the price increases to \$75.00. There is a form that must be filled out but will be available Sunday. You can also find the form online.

For more information you can email Women's Ministry Coordinator Lorie Baird at loriebaird@sbcglobal.net