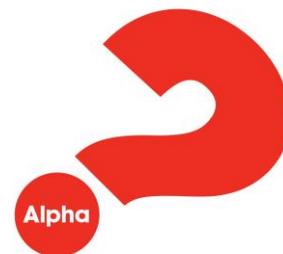


Alpha South Carolina

January 2018 Newsletter



Volume 1

Issue 1

Welcome to the monthly 2018 Alpha South Carolina newsletter!

I hope you will enjoy reading updates on what is happening with Alpha in South Carolina, as well as Alpha nationally and internationally. As most of you know, Alpha is a global ministry offered in 169 countries, and translated into 112 languages. Millions of people world-wide have been involved in an Alpha Course.

The Lord blessed Alpha South Carolina mightily in 2017. *Through introductory meetings, training and coaching we had 18 new churches start Alpha or Alpha Youth!*



Margaret Cotton, Director

Alpha at the Citadel



One of our most exciting developments—which had been years in the making—was launching Alpha through three of the campus ministries at The Citadel (Methodist, Baptist and Catholic). Around 200 cadets participated. Thanks to one of our generous donors, we were able to supply pizzas each week. Our goal in Alpha is to feed young people physically as we try to feed them spiritually.

One of the ministry leaders said, “In the past, we have used a few different materials to engage our incoming freshman, but nothing with the success of Alpha. Ministry is unique here in that we normally see a large number of students at first due to the challenging nature of being a new cadet, but then a gradual attrition throughout the year as they get more established and busier with academics. This year however our numbers have not only maintained, but even grown as students invite their class mates...My staff would love to continue partnering with Alpha as we already begin praying for the Class of 2022.”



A small-group at the Citadel

An Evening with Brock Morgan

Nationally known youth pastor, author, and speaker, Brock Morgan presented our keynote address for an October Myrtle Beach gathering of youth pastors and leaders. Brock's latest book, Youth Ministry 2027 is a fresh take on the future of youth ministry and what it means for us today. The meeting was a wakeup call for us, and also offered encouraging words for the path forward.



We plan to bring Brock back to South Carolina in 2018 for the fifth year. If your church is interested in hosting a gathering, please contact me!

Following the October event one of the youth pastors who attended wrote, "...[Brock] did a phenomenal job talking about where student ministry is headed in the next 10 years and he also talked about how ALPHA played an important part in his life. Margaret, thank you for putting this night of Ministry together. We had about 40 student ministry leaders that heard about ALPHA and had a wonderful time worshipping together. We are always pouring INTO people so, it was great to get the chance to sit back and have someone else speak life into us. We have been using the ALPHA videos in our Middle School Ministry for some time and are now using the adult version for

our college students. It has been well received and the students are learning about JESUS. Thank You for giving so others can hear the Gospel of JESUS through this great video series called ALPHA and for allowing others to speak into church leaders."

Jamie, Youth Pastor

Upcoming Events

- Many churches around the state are offering Alpha or Alpha Youth this January/February; it is not too late to get an Alpha started in your church or workplace!
- Once a quarter, we have a lunch gathering of local Alpha leaders to network and share ideas on how to best run Alpha and how churches can support each other. Currently a quarterly gathering is organized in the Charleston area (next date TBA soon). *If you are interested in helping get one organized in the Greenville, Columbia or Myrtle Beach areas, please contact me!*
- Alpha USA is hosting a National Alpha Conference in Phoenix, February 8-9 at the Mesa campus of Hillsong Church. The conference theme is "Cultivating Kingdom Culture". We will explore what it looks like to share Jesus in an increasingly post-Christian society.¹ Great speakers, a lot of time for prayer and wonderful worship await you at this conference. *It is not a training event for Alpha, but a conversation about what we are facing as churches today in America.* It is open to all – whether you are a pastor, an Alpha leader or even attend a church that doesn't run Alpha, there is something for you at this conference. The fee is only \$89, for more information go to: www.alphausa.org/TAC18
- I will be the speaker at the God in the Workplace meeting on March 15th at The Harbour Club. God in the Workplace provides a platform for local Christian business leaders to educate and motivate people to fulfill God's purpose in the workplace. These meetings are open to all. www.godintheworkplace.com
- Keep updated on our Facebook page: www.facebook.com/alphasouthcarolina

¹ Our culture is shifting; only 2 in 10 Americans under 30 believe attending church is important; 59% of millennials raised in church have dropped out!

How can you help?

PRAY • SERVE • GIVE

You can be our partner in prayer, service, and giving.

Together, with the Lord's help, we can expand the reach of Alpha and spread the Gospel of Jesus Christ throughout the communities of South Carolina.

Pray:

You are invited to join our monthly prayer call on the first Monday of each month from 4-4:30²

- For the Lord to open doors at more college campuses and in schools, so we can introduce more students into a relationship with Jesus
- For volunteers to help us with prison Alphas around the state
- For volunteers to help us with social media development and a local website
- For volunteers to help spread the word about Alpha to more churches or help us with training

Serve:

As mentioned in our prayer request, we need volunteers to help present Alpha in prisons.

Please contact me if this is an area you feel called to serve.

We have special training for prison volunteers.

Give:

100% of our funding comes from individual donors, churches, and foundations who support our mission of sharing the Gospel through Alpha.

You can help fund Alpha South Carolina by donating to our work via PayPal: www.paypal.me/alphasc or by mailing a check made out to Christian Ministries of the Carolinas, with the memo designation "Alpha South Carolina" to 1928 Davant Circle, Mt Pleasant, SC 29464.

Your gift has eternal benefits!!

² Alpha SC Prayer Call, first Monday of each month: call in # (515) 739-1034, a ccess code 656709#