

# Alpha South Carolina

## August 2018 Newsletter

Volume 1

Issue 8

Alpha

### Upcoming Alpha

Over the next month, churches around South Carolina, our nation, and the world will be faithfully praying and preparing to launch Alpha in their communities.

In [this 2 minute video](#), Nicky Gumbel shares his passion, after all these years, for running Alpha and why it still works. As church leaders are wondering whether to run Alpha in this next season, Nicky expresses our collective desire to serve the Church in its mission and reach people outside of the church.

And because of you, more churches will run Alpha this year and more and more people will encounter Jesus. We love doing this work with you.



### Other Updates from South Carolina



### **Diocesan-wide training!**

Recently around 40 people representing 16 parishes attended a Diocesan-wide Alpha training led by Deacon Steve Mitchell, of Alpha USA, who, for years, has offered his expertise to parishes around the country. I assisted as well. The feedback on the training was excellent. Many of these parishes will start Alpha either this fall or in January!

## Exciting news!

By popular demand, Alpha South Carolina is bringing Brock Morgan, Youth Pastor/Author/Speaker back to the Palmetto State. If you are a youth pastor, leader or work with youth in any capacity, please plan to join us on October 25 at the Metro Y Corporate Conference Center in Greenville for an informative presentation by Brock on the future of Youth Ministry. Those who have attended in the past have raved about his presentation and found it extremely helpful. The event cost is \$12.00 per ticket and the first 20 registrants will receive a free copy of Brock's latest book (a value of \$15.00.) Seating is limited, so you'll want to register early. To register click on the link below:

### [A Morning with Brock Morgan](#)

## Campus Challenge!

We are happy to report that both Clemson and USC will have an Alpha course this fall, in addition to courses for The Citadel, College of Charleston and Coastal Carolina. We have been challenging alumnae to help support these courses and right now, Clemson is leading with the most donations. To donate, please specify which campus and use our [PayPal link](#) or send a check to Alpha South Carolina, 1928 Davant Circle, Mt Pleasant, SC 29464. Your donation to help run these courses is tax deductible!

### It's not too late to help your college!

## Partner Profile

### An interview with Julie and Steve K.

#### How did you first hear about Alpha or get involved with Alpha?

We first heard about Alpha when we joined Church of Our Saviour, Johns Island, approximately 12 years ago. We have been involved now for over ten years and feel it's a lifetime commitment.

#### How has Alpha impacted you personally?

Steve and I gave our life to Christ and experienced (separately) the intervention of the Holy Spirit during Holy Spirit weekend while involved in Alpha. As a result, we have introduced a number of friends and family members to salvation as a result of the Alpha program, both as participants and eventually becoming leaders.

#### What prompted you to start helping Alpha financially or in other ways?

We were led to financially support Alpha after spending a weekend at the Billy Graham Center many years ago at an Alpha Leadership conference. We believe there is no other program that is more warm, welcoming, non-invasive and rewarding from seekers to seasoned Christians who are seeking to know more about Jesus and Christianity than the Alpha program.

#### What would you say to someone who might be considering financially helping Alpha South Carolina?

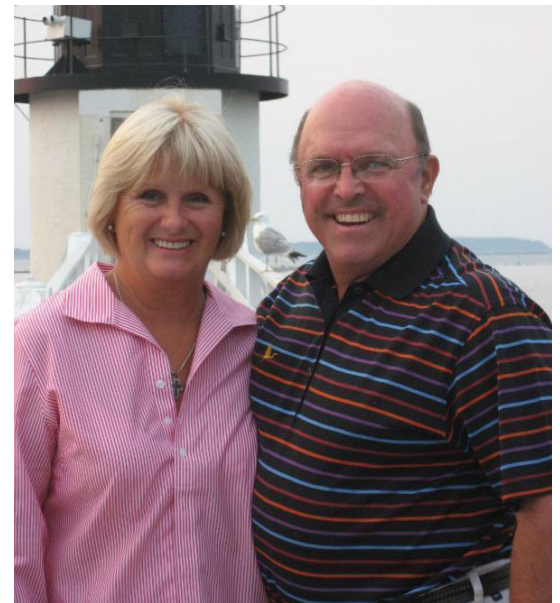
We believe that along with tithing and supporting Missions, financially supporting Alpha represents an opportunity to preserve our God-given-right to "Go and tell Others" the good news of Jesus Christ.

#### What would be your advice to a church which is considering running Alpha?

For any church looking to grow its membership, share the Gospel, attract and keep young/old participants in a non-threatening, non-invasive manner, grow discipleship and leadership, Alpha is a win-win for the Church and the congregation.

#### And what would be your advice to someone is thinking of taking an Alpha course?

For someone considering taking the Alpha Course....you have nothing to lose and EVERYTHING (including eternity) to gain. Jesus paid the price for our salvation. Giving him a few evenings of our life is a small price to pay for the promise of life everlasting.





## Featured Church

### **St. Paul's** **Summerville, SC**

*The Rev. Tyler Prescott*  
*Assistant Rector*

#### **When did you first encounter Alpha?**

I first encountered Alpha at St. Michael's in Charleston back in 2004. It was a great experience for me, both as a participant and then as a small group leader. However, it wasn't until I came to St. Paul's in 2011 that I saw more fully the potential for Alpha to impact the lives of those who take it. The community created by the Alpha Course here and the common language it has provided for St. Paul's has been transformative in the lives of so many people!

#### **St Paul's has offered Alpha for many years. When was your first Alpha and any idea how many Alpha courses you have run over the years?**

I have no idea! I came to St. Paul's as it was running a vibrant Alpha ministry. It began long before I arrived, probably back as early as 2001. I'd say St. Paul's has probably run thirty Alpha courses since then.

#### **What do you see as some of the fruit by having run Alpha?**

The opportunity that Alpha gives to explore the fullness of the Christian faith is tremendous. So many people, Christians and non-Christians alike, come to Alpha with misconceptions about Christianity. However, when people who don't know Jesus are given an opportunity to encounter him authentically and honestly, we've seen lives transformed. We have seen people come to Christ for the first time; others discovering Christ again after leaving the church years ago. We've seen long time, faithful Christians discover the work of the Holy Spirit. We've seen marriages healed and family relationships mended. Alpha, at its core, is about coming into a relationship with Jesus, but the fruit of a new or renewed relationship with Christ manifests itself in so many unexpected ways!

#### **Have you used any of the other Alpha resources? (Alpha Youth, Marriage Course, etc.)**

My wife and I have had the opportunity to teach the Marriage Course on a number of occasions. While there is a plethora of marriage courses out there, the Alpha Marriage Course is unique in that it encourages couples to sit down and talk to one another, not in the general terms of a small group. We've found it to be very effective for our marriage as well as those in the congregation.

#### **What advice would you give to a church considering Alpha?**

Don't give up on it after the initial excitement. We've found Alpha running in cycles, especially at first. There may be high participation as the congregation gets on board and then a lull. However, when the rebound comes, and Alpha is no longer only for church members, but you start to see the community involved, it is very rewarding. Also, don't be afraid of a small Alpha. Some of our most effective ministry has come at some of our most intimate Alphas.

#### **Or to a person considering taking Alpha?**

Stick it out! You can come to every small group and never say a word! I tell the folks at our first Alpha talk each season, "If there is any possibility that Jesus is as important as history suggests he is, certainly he is worth the next few weeks of your life to consider and decide, and we'll even feed you a good meal!" The pilot is really important because that will give you an idea of what your challenges are for your Church.

## Final Thoughts

Prayer is one of the key foundational elements of Alpha. On the first Monday of each month at 4:00 PM we hold a prayer conference call, during which we pray for Alpha South Carolina and the courses being held around the state. You are invited to join us.

**Our call in number is (515) 739-1034 • Access code 656709#**