

# Alpha South Carolina

## May 2018 Newsletter

Volume 1

Issue 5

Alpha

### On a Personal Note...

Many of you have probably already heard about the devastating fire at St. Andrew's Church in the Old Village of Mt Pleasant. Early Sunday morning, April 22nd, the Ministry Center caught fire. Fire fighters were there quickly but it was quite bad. Virtually all of the building is destroyed, but you will see from these pictures that in all the rubble, the cross stands untouched – and it was located in the epicenter of the fire! Adjacent to the Ministry Center is the Historic Church, built in 1857. That church has withstood wars, hurricanes and earthquakes. Fortunately because of the quick work of the fire department, this historic church was saved!

St Andrew's is my home church. I first came to St Andrew's after the death of my husband. I was overwhelmed with grief and when I walked in – alone and so sad – to that church, I was welcomed so warmly! After attending a few months, it was suggested that I take Alpha. I had the most incredible and transforming experience in Alpha and that is why I have such a passion working in this ministry now.

So many people have come to faith at St. Andrew's. There are so many memories of baptisms, weddings and funerals. It is so hard to see the Ministry Center in ruins, but we know that the building is not the church. We are the church and we know that the Lord has a plan and will bring beauty out of the ashes. St. Andrew's will rebuild and continue to be a beacon of light in spreading the gospel. We so appreciate your prayers.



## **Partner Profile...**

### **An Interview with Rose S.**

#### **Tell me a little bit about your background and how you came to faith.**

I was raised in an un-churched family. My parents were hard working good people but they had not been raised in the church nor their parents. To the best of my recall there was not a Bible in our house nor any discussion of God nor Jesus nor faith.

As a teenager I attended a few youth activities with friends and even attended a few church services, but found the sermons boring and tedious.

In college as a history major I found religion interesting on an intellectual level but nothing more. I was exposed to a book that convinced me that Jesus studied the prophecies of the Old Testament then sought to fulfill them as a charlatan.

Of course I had never actually read the Bible myself so that was fairly easy to buy into. With that I began calling myself an atheist. Only years later did I hear something that questioned the arrogance of being an atheist. Because who can really know for sure if there is or isn't a God, right? At that point I began to have some doubts so I decided to soften my stand. I became an agnostic. I thought I was a good person, relatively happy, getting along: Married, teaching, with a baby girl and living in Italy. Later years brought change: divorce, relocation, remarriage, the teenage years of a child of divorce and the death of a dear loved one.

I was brought to my knees and knew something was missing in my life. I began a slow process of searching and seeking. Thankfully with my husband along side we started by finding a church and I actually cracked open the Bible. My conversion did not happen overnight. I had to learn and accept on an intellectual level first. That took a year or more. Once it was in my head moving to my heart took the Alpha course. There I began to understand how the Holy Spirit fills and refills me. I was able to learn about a loving God and His purpose for me. It has been the most exciting journey of my life. I have seen the transformation in my husband, my daughter and myself. We are new creations, children of God. Thanks be to God, Alpha and small groups.

That was in 1992. My husband and I have been Alpha Coordinators in churches in Tennessee and South Carolina since.

#### **What prompted you to start supporting Alpha South Carolina financially and in other ways?**

We consider the Alpha course one of the most effective evangelism tools available and are blessed to be able to financially support Christian Ministries/Alpha SC. We have seen many lives changed over the years. For anyone wishing to see His Kingdom grow, your support will see it happen.

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

For anyone considering Alpha at their church, I would advise (time permitting) to form a team and attend an Alpha at another church. If time does not permit, Margaret is available for training. We have seen success both ways.

#### **What would be your advice to someone who is considering taking an Alpha course?**

For anyone who is considering an Alpha course, I would advise just COME. Check it out.

## **Featured Church...**

### **St. Michael's Church, Charleston**

The Rev. Al Zadig, Jr., Rector

#### **How and when did you first encounter Alpha?**

I first encountered Alpha in 1997 when I came to St. Michaels Church from seminary as a young assistant. It was the perfect course coming out of seminary as it put theological foundations back where they belonged.

#### **How many years has STM run Alpha?**

Twenty two years!





### **The Fruit of Alpha?**

There are too many fruits of Alpha to name here at St. Michael's. But the first fruit is that we have a congregation that celebrates the power of the Holy Spirit. A congregation that loves Jesus and is hungry for more. Alpha has also helped make sure that our ministry of small groups is healthy because you can't get in one if you have not taken Alpha, this prevents theological dry rot where groups become unhinged from Biblical faith.

### **Other Alpha Resources?**

Over time, we have used the Marriage Course and the Youth Alpha. Both wonderfully received!

### **Advice for other Churches offering Alpha?**

Make sure you have folks take Alpha before going into small groups or life groups. Make sure facilitators are all trained up. Also commit to requiring Alpha for all board (vestry) candidates, new members, engaged couples, baptismal and confirmation candidates etc. This will help ensure healthy theological leadership.

### **Personal effect of Alpha**

As a Rector of a church with many hats, I love teaching Alpha because it takes me right back into why I became a priest in the first place! The talks reignite my soul and keep me centered and balanced. It would be frankly difficult to imagine my life and ministry without Alpha.



**Pastor Al, Daughter Wimberly, Wife Libby and Sons Hudson and Christian**

## **How Can You Help?**

### **PRAY • SERVE • GIVE**

#### **Pray:**

- You are invited to join our monthly prayer call on the first Monday of each month.
- Our call in number is **(515) 739-1034**, then enter access code **656709#**

#### **Serve:**

- We need volunteers to serve in various avenues of ministry: prisons, training, and technology
- Please contact me if prison ministry is an area in which you feel called to serve. We provide special training for prison volunteers.

#### **Give:**

- You can donate to the work of Alpha South Carolina via PayPal: [www.paypal.me/ALPHASC](http://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
- 100% of our funding comes from individual donors, churches, and foundations who support our mission of sharing the Gospel through Alpha.

**Your gift is tax deductible, and yields eternal rewards!**