



On Your Mark!

Connecting in prayer at the AVC

“Let us run with perseverance the race marked out for us” (Hebrews 12:1)

January 2004

Connect

*** NEW *** Adopt-a-youth (page 2)

*** NEW *** Just for kids (page 2)

Every Sunday, 9:30am – Pre-service prayer (Wedge Room)

Every Sunday, 5:30pm – VSN Pre-service prayer (Wedge Room)

Every Tuesday, 7:00am – Father’s Heart men’s prayer (Café)

Every Wednesday, 1:30pm—Pray with AVC staff (upstairs)

Every Thursday, 9:00pm – Frank & Sandra’s weekly prayer (Duluth)

Fri, Jan 16th, 7:30pm – Unveiled (Great Room)

Wed, Feb 4th, 7:00pm – Phil & Lu’s missions prayer (Lithia Springs)

Fri, Feb 6th, 7:30pm – Unveiled (Great Room)

If you feel called by God to pray for the AVC for at least one hour per week, please join the PLOW team (Pray, Listen, Overcome, Watch). You can email us or let us know via the website. See page 2 for more details.

If you know of other places to connect in prayer at the AVC, please let us know and we’ll spread the word!

Website

Visit us on the web at
www.atlantavineyard.com/prayer

Exploring Prayer *by Jane Joiner (AVC staff)* jane.joiner@atlantavineyard.com

It is often observed by pastors of churches that the prayer meeting in their church is the least attended meeting. Why is this? Why do the majority of Christians seem relatively uninterested in participating in one of the highest calls of ministry known to man?

Could it be that many of us have been involved in dry, boring meetings where the participants seem to offer repetitive monologue, mini sermons, and veiled political agendas instead of the James 5 “effectual fervent prayer”. Could it be that we are often detached and unengaged instead of coming to the passionate revelation that prayer is an unprecedented opportunity for dialogue and communion with our Holy God.

When we examine the prayer lives of the men and women in the pages of the scripture we see people filled with passion and emotion. From the broken desperate groans of Hannah in 1 Samuel, to the poured out complaints of King David in the Psalms, to the ecstatic joy and deep pain of the praying men and women in the Acts we can see a pattern of uncalculated abandonment.

As we search the scriptures for prayer models we find many different and varied ways to approach prayer. In his book, *Prayer: Finding the Heart’s True Home*, Richard Foster covers twenty-one different forms of prayer. Similarly, Wesley Duewell in the excellent book, *Prevailing Prayer*, encourages us to enter into all manner of types of prayer. Just as we shouldn’t narrowly define the infinite character of God, neither should we limit the ways of communication with Him that He has given us. Ephesians 6:18 tells us to “pray with all types of prayer”.

One often overlooked type of prayer that we see in the Bible is Identification Repentance. Daniel, chapter nine is a good example of this. Daniel was moved with godly sorrow to stand before God and repent, not only for his own sins, but also for the sins of others. Verse five says, “We have sinned and done wrong. We have been wicked and rebelled; we have turned away from your commands and laws...” (italics mine).

Another example of this type of prayer is found in Nehemiah 1:4-10. Nehemiah even repented for the sins of his ancestors. We can do the same. We can stand in identification repentance and ask forgiveness for the committed sins around us both present and past. We can repent for sins committed by both Christians and non-Christians! We can repent for the blood shed on the land, the atrocity of abortion, and the racism that is still so prevalent today. These types of prayers are often used by God to break curses set in motion by sin.

In Isaiah 21, it seems like Isaiah was kept up most of the night seeing visions, praying prayers, and proclaiming prophecies concerning the country that had taken his people captive. He engaged in such deep intercession that both his body and mind experienced unusual manifestations. He stood as a watchman for the Lord all night long. He might have been short on sleep but you can bet he wasn’t bored!

My point is that if we will plunge the depths of the scriptures and explore the different types of prayer modeled for us: our prayer lives, both corporate and private will rise to a new level of excitement and fulfillment. If we will lay aside our modern day decorum and practice greater levels of abandonment in prayer we will enter into a mysterious connection with the Lord that will cause us to experience a satisfying, productive, co-laboring with God. We will be engaged with Him concerning the burdens of His heart. Perhaps then we will go beyond the dry, repetitious, experiences in prayer that Mike Bickle of the International House of Prayer calls “rock-pile praying”. As we boldly approach the throne of God according to Hebrews 4:16 let us lay aside the fleshly concern of how we sound or what others think of us and let us allow the Holy Spirit to lead us into genuine, passionate agreement with The Lord!

Adopt-a-youth (NEW)

Ongoing prayer initiative

Adopt-a-youth is about praying for the youth in our midst. If you feel a burden for youth, why not adopt a youth in prayer? You will be assigned a youth to pray for regularly for 3 months. This will be done anonymously, though you will be given their first names. You will be praying for, but not with, the youth you adopt (no personal contact).

You can begin any time. This is a way you can connect in prayer wherever you are. Our youth need our prayers!

Contact: Karen Sculley, 770-279-9379,
karen.sculley@atlantavineyard.com

(let me know if you'd like to administrate this—it's easy!)

Unveiled

1st & 3rd Fridays, 7:30pm, Great Room

Unveiled is the centerpiece of prayer ministry at the AVC. It's a time when we gather to worship and pray together. We desire to touch the heart of the Father, seek the face of Jesus, and hear the voice of the Spirit.

The name "Unveiled" comes from 2 Corinthians 3:18—"And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit." The "Message" translation puts it this way—"nothing between us and God"!

Everyone is welcome! Childcare is provided.

Contact: Kathy Smith, 770-274-1010, kathy.smith@atlantavineyard.com

Father's Heart

Every Tuesday, 7:00am, Café Vineyard

The Father's Heart men's prayer group meets every Tuesday morning to lift up prayer needs of the AVC. Johnny Crist leads the men in a group prayer time for others.

Contact: Johnny Crist, 770-274-1010, johnny.crist@atlantavineyard.com

Believe it or not!

"If you believe, you will receive whatever you ask for in prayer." Matthew 21:22

Just for Kids (NEW)

There's a new section on the prayer ministry website just for kids! Click on any of the links to read fabulous color articles on agreement, confession, fasting, forgiveness, hearing God, intercession, petition, praise, prayerwalking, seeking God, spiritual warfare, thankfulness, and time with Jesus. There's also a link to the Pray Kids! Website—they publish these as 8 page magazines.

I'm planning to add these tools to our family's devotional toolbox. Let me know how these work in your family or in the lives of kids you reach out to.

Contact: Karen Sculley, 770-279-9379,
karen.sculley@atlantavineyard.com

Pre-service prayer

Every Sunday, 9:30am & 5:30pm, Wedge Room

Pre-service prayer is a crucial part of each Sunday service at the AVC. We have two times of pre-service prayer: 9:30am for the morning service; 5:30pm for VSN. Both are held in the Wedge Room, which is across the hallway from the Great Room. We pray for all aspects of Sunday services and ministries, and lay hands on those who will be leading services. Everyone is welcome!

Contact: Karen Sculley, 770-279-9379,
karen.sculley@atlantavineyard.com

PLOW team

The PLOW team is comprised of those who feel that God has called them to pray for the AVC for at least one hour per week. (PLOW stands for Pray, Listen, Overcome, Watch). PLOW team members will receive a weekly email newsletter, *Set!*

If you would like to make a 6-month commitment to pray in this way, please email me or sign up on the website. We encourage (but do not require) you to choose a day or days of the week when you will commit to pray for one hour for the AVC. Initially, the PLOW team will be forming a prayer shield for the pastoral lead team (Johnny, Joel, Todd, Jon), and for general prayer requests that come in to the church. See the website for more information.

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