

# AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

*December, 2013*

*Vol. 6 Issue 8*

## *A Special Day of Celebration and Worship December 8<sup>th</sup>*



### *Kneeling in Bethlehem*

(The music of Christmas)

11:00 am Worship

Presented by our Sanctuary Choir

### *Family Night at Christmas*

(Music by our Youth and Children's Choirs)

6:15 pm

Followed by our renown...*Cookie Fellowship*

***Auburn First Baptist Church • 128 E Glenn Avenue • Auburn, AL • auburnfbc.org  
334.887.8506 • auburnfbc@mindspring.com***

**Our Mission:** Believing the Spirit of God is alive in each one of us and in the world, we affirm that the mission of Auburn First Baptist Church is: to glorify God as the Creator, Sustainer, and Redeemer of life; to call all people to God through Christ as Savior and Lord; to enable all people to be more like Jesus.

# REFLECTIONS from Tripp Martin

As we enter into the last month of the year, we also enter into the season of Advent. In the midst of our comings and goings, gathering at church and with friends or family over the next several weeks for the holidays, Advent calls us to focus on the "coming" of Christ Jesus. Advent is the long pause of the Church, beckoning us to slow down and to listen for the whispers of God's grace in the birth of Jesus.

Advent is the time of preparation before we celebrate Christmas, as Advent means "coming" or "arrival." Beneath the surface of worship during this season of waiting is a budding hope, as our anticipation expands and deepens, finally becoming a reality at Christmas. Before the joy, there is waiting, but because of the waiting, we have a deeper understanding of the joy.

Along with the Church around the world, we will be waiting for Jesus, which on the surface seems like empty time; but rather, it is the fullness of time. We pause and we wait, so we can ponder, wonder, imagine, discover, and listen. As we live into this waiting, we let go of some of the busyness around us, allowing ourselves more room for the arrival of Jesus.

Throughout Advent, we will light the candles of hope, peace, joy, and love. Inherent in hope, peace, joy, and love is the practice of waiting, for these attributes or blessings need time to develop. They invite us to spend time listening, to spend time discerning, to spend time fostering community. We also learn during this season of waiting that these attributes and blessings invite us into communion with God. The waiting draws us into communion, where we discover the presence of God in our midst.

The practice of waiting is difficult, especially during a time of year when waiting feels like a hazard because of everything demanded of us. As we are stretched thin, though, we can recover some of our depth in the practice of waiting. We might pause long enough to hear the whispers of hope, peace, joy, and love around us, leading us to the stillness of the nativity, where we find Jesus, the Light of the World, whom we await.

Tripp

## Churchwide Christmas Meal

Thursday, December 12th, 5:15 pm  
provided by Edzard van Santen

### WMU Christmas Jail Ministry Project 2013

Prepare a box with your family or donate \$15, and come help put the shoe boxes together!

Assembly line: Tuesday, Dec 17, 9:00 am, Fellowship Hall  
Christmas Program at the Jail: Wednesday, Dec 18

### Reading Revelation

A January/February "J-Session" on Reading Revelation  
January 5 - February 9, Led by Tripp Martin

Everyone in the church is invited to participate!  
5:00 p.m. on Sunday evenings in the Coleman Fellowship Hall

The Discipleship Training and Connecting Faith and Families groups will combine for this study. Reading Revelation carefully in the midst of many misconceptions is difficult and important, as we gain constructive insight into this book.

## Poinsettias

The poinsettias placed in our sanctuary and throughout the church for Christmas are placed in Memory or Honor of those listed.

### In Honor of:

Our Children  
Our Grandchildren  
J.D. & Hunter Martin  
Teresa Vest  
The Church Staff  
Our Choirs & Choir Leaders  
Our Ministers & Church Staff  
Jackie Hundley  
Gerald Johnson & Seekers Class  
Katharine & Tripp Martin  
Gerald & Nadine Johnson  
Jo Randall  
Rev. Jim & Brenda Evans  
Laura O'Brien  
Emily, Bradley, Meredith  
Personnel & Pastor Search Coms

### Given by:

James & Sarah Nichols  
James & Sarah Nichols  
Pops & Kaki  
Marcie Smith  
Marcie Smith  
Dale & Libby  
The Personnel Committee  
Flarcie Hopkins  
Phyllis & Oxford Smith  
Phyllis & Oxford Smith  
Peggy Holloway  
Neda & Carl Hill  
Neda & Carl Hill  
Her Family  
Stephanie Renuart  
Eden Family

### In Memory of:

Our Parents  
John & Jeanette Jeffers  
Paul Shoffeitt  
Clois Shoffeitt  
Ralph L. Sherer  
Charles Potter  
Louise & Charles Peterson  
Louise Green Potts  
Agee Wiggins  
Our Parents  
My Parents  
Haskell Lumpkin  
Fred O'Brien  
JW Bearden  
Inez & Walter Sowell  
My Husband, W.G. Jones  
My daughter, Wandra Jones DeVall  
Clarke Holloway  
Fred O'Brien  
Grace Casey  
Virgil Starks

### Given by:

James & Sarah Nichols  
Jo Randall & Mary Virginia Moore  
Jean, Paul, & Mary  
Jean, Paul, & Mary  
Vetra Sherer  
Mary Ann Potter, Cliff & Charlann  
Libby & Dale Peterson  
Dale Peterson & Libby Potts  
Sarah M. Wiggins  
Steve & Dee Williams  
Mary Ann Dell  
Alice & Family  
Laura O'Brien & Children  
His Family  
Their Family  
Helen P. Jones  
Helen P. Jones  
The Holloway Family  
His Family  
Candy Curenton  
Open Hands Sunday School Class

### The Sanctuary Choir and The First Bells

are invited to a Christmas reception at  
the home of Dale and Libby Peterson  
on December 16th at 7:00 pm.

### The Senior Adults of Auburn First Baptist Church

Are cordially invited to attend an Open House on  
Wednesday, December 18<sup>th</sup> from 2-4 PM

At the home of Dale and Libby Peterson  
2514 Middlebrook Lane

## Carols, Candles, and Communion

December 24<sup>th</sup>, 6 PM

Our traditional Christmas Eve Service.  
A nursery is provided for preschool children.



# YOUTH MINISTRY

Youth Choir  
Choir Room  
Sundays @ 5:00  
Last on 12/8

Prayer Breakfast  
McDonalds on Magnolia  
Tuesdays, 6:45 am

Angel Tree Christmas Party  
December 1, 6-8 pm  
Youth Room

Youth Christmas Party  
Dec 15, 6-8 pm, Eden's Home  
1240 Cottonwood Circle  
Bring a \$5 wrapped gift  
for Dirty Santa!

Ski Trip Meeting  
(youth, parents, chaperones)  
Dec 15, Noon, Youth Rm

Passport deposit (\$75) due by December 1!



Tuesday Night  
Bible Study  
Dec 3 - Communication,  
Communion, Commitment  
Dinner: Nancy Webster &  
Brenda Chambliss

College Christmas Party!  
Friday, Dec 6, Leigh Anne's Home  
(1200 Ferndale Dr.)  
Bring a \$5 wrapped gift for the Dirty Santa Game!

Home for the Holidays Gathering  
Soup, S'mores, and Hot Chocolate  
Wednesday, Dec 18, 6 pm, Leigh Anne's Home

## Family Christmas Movie Night

Friday, December 13 @ 6pm, Pizza Dinner

Bring your quilts, sleeping bags, and pillows to settle in on the floor of the Fellowship Hall to enjoy an evening together. Everyone is invited from our youngest to our oldest member. We will watch the Polar Express!



## Special Called Business Meeting

December 5, 6:00 pm, Coleman Fellowship Hall

The Following items will be discussed:

A report from the Committee on Committees, a report from the Stewardship Committee (2014 budget), election of deacons, and a recommendation from the Personnel Committee to form an ad hoc committee that will research the need for a new ministerial position and write a job description.

## Deacon Bios

Deacon Elections will be held at the Special Called Business Meeting on December 5 at 6:00 p.m.

**Tim Meeks** has been a member of Auburn First Baptist since 2001. He currently serves as Director of Youth Sunday School and has taught in that department for 10 years. He has previously served as a Deacon and on several church committees. He is a native of Indianapolis and currently teaches physical education at JF Drake Middle School in Auburn. Tim is married to Kelly Meeks and they have a 13 year old daughter, Addison.

**Charlotte Sutton** has been active in Auburn First Baptist since moving to Auburn from Texas in 1986. She has taught various Sunday School classes for more than 20 years and is a member of the Sanctuary and Handbell Choirs. She has served on numerous committees, including the Board of Trustees and the Stewardship Committee, and has previously served as chair of the Board of Deacons. She is a professor in the AU Department of Management.

**Oxford Smith** has been a member of AFBC four different times since 1953-as a single student, then as a married student, as associate director of the Baptist Student Union, and beginning in 1990 as a layperson. He attended A.P.I and graduated from Auburn University and New Orleans Seminary. Oxford worked for 35 years in collegiate ministry in movie, Auburn, and State Convention in Montgomery. His service at Auburn First Baptist has included: Deacon, director of the college department, committee on committees, stewardship committee, committee to select our most recent college/youth minister, and a member of the Seekers' Sunday School Class. His family includes his wife Phyllis, son Drew and his family of Beth, Andrew and Katherine, and Andrea and her 3 children who live in Alabaster.

**Suzanne Parish** has been active at Auburn First Baptist since college. She and her husband, Chad, met in the College Choir, and joined AFBC in 1997. They have three daughters: Anna (11), Olivia (7), and Emma Kate (4). Suzanne is the computer teacher at Pick Elementary School. She serves on the Children's Committee and directs the Preschool Music Activity Group. Her parents, Ned and Delaine Dendy, are also active members of Auburn First Baptist.

**Mark Wilson** and his wife Kellie joined AFBC in 2000, and they are the parents of Benjamin, 11, and Elizabeth, 8. He is Director of Civic Learning Initiatives in the College of Liberal Arts at Auburn University. He is a graduate of McAfee School of Theology and co-teaches the Serendipity Sunday School Class. He has previously served as a deacon, co-chaired the recent pastor search committee, and serves on various other committees at AFBC, including ordinance, college, and missions.

**Neda Hill**, a native of the Mississippi delta was reared in a conservative Christian home. Although she received her early education in the delta, she attended high school outside Jackson. Afterward, she received a B.A. from Blue Mountain College. At Blue Mountain she taught three-year-olds in Church Training and worked on Sunday afternoons at an off-campus mission church. Soon after graduation, she married Carl, a long-time acquaintance. As teachers, they pursued their master's degrees at Mississippi State during the summers. In 1959, they moved to Palm Beach County, Florida, with their young son Chuck. There, they continued their own education and taught until retirement. In 1964 Neda joined the community college faculty in Fort Lauderdale. The "Macedonian call" eventually brought them to Auburn to help care for their GRANDson, Ethan, now a college junior.

**Sue Walker** has been a member of AFBC since 2009. She is currently attending the Open Hands Sunday School class. Sue has served on the flower and visitation committees. Her family includes husband Alan, son Johnny, step-daughter Morgan and twin boys - Jackson and Matthew.

**George Crandell** has been a member of AFBC since 1988. He currently serves as an usher and a greeter. He has previously served as a deacon and as a trustee. He is married to Carolyn Crandell and works as Associate Dean of the Graduate School at Auburn University.

**Donna Starks** has been a member of AFBC since 2000. She has served on the Social and Children's Committees. Donna has also taught Youth Sunday School and is currently a teacher in the Infants Sunday School Class. She has three daughters, Carolyn, Victoria and Anastasia.



**AUBURN  
FIRST  
BAPTIST**  
128 E. Glenn  
Auburn, AL  
36830-4702

**Every Sunday**

Sunday School 9:45 am  
Morning Worship 11:00 am

**Every Thursday**

Brown Bag Meal Time 5:15 pm  
Prayer & Bible Study 6:00 pm

**Sunday - 1st**

Children's/Youth Choirs ..... Ed. Bldg/Choir Room 5:00 pm  
Discipleship Training ..... Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm  
Connecting Faith & Family ..... Activities Building 5:00 pm  
Angel Tree Party (youth) ..... Youth Room 6:00 pm

**Tuesday-3rd**

Youth Prayer Breakfast ..... McDonald's 6:45 am  
College Bible Study ..... College Room 7:00 pm

**Wednesday-4th**

Conversational English ..... Education Building 9:00 am

**Thursday-5th**

First Bells ..... Choir Room 12:30 pm  
Spark Adventure ..... Education Building 5:50 pm  
Called Business Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm  
Sanctuary Choir ..... Choir Room 6:45 pm

**Friday-6th**

College Christmas Party ..... 1200 Ferndale Dr. 7:00 pm

**Sunday-8th**

Brotherhood Breakfast ..... Fellowship Hall 8:00 am  
Children's/Youth Choirs ..... Ed. Bldg/Choir Room 5:00 pm  
Discipleship Training ..... Fellowship Hall 5:00 pm  
Connecting Faith & Family ..... Activities Building 5:00 pm  
Family Night at Christmas ..... Sanctuary 6:15 pm

**Tuesday-10th**

Youth Prayer Breakfast ..... McDonald's 6:45 am  
DayFriends ..... Chappy's 11:45 am  
Deacon's Meeting ..... Seeker's Classroom 6:30 pm

**Thursday-12th**

Christmas Meal ..... Fellowship Hall 5:15 pm  
Youth DevoPlay ..... Youth Room 5:45 pm  
Sanctuary Choir ..... Choir Room 6:45 pm

**Friday-13th**

Family Movie Night ..... Fellowship Hall 6:00 pm

**Sunday-15th**

Youth Ski Trip Meeting ..... Youth Room Noon  
Youth Christmas Party ..... Eden's Home 6:00 pm

**Monday-16th**

Sanctuary Choir Reception ..... Dale's Home 7:00 pm

**Tuesday - 17th**

Youth Prayer Breakfast ..... McDonald's 6:45 am  
Jail Ministry Assembly Line ..... Fellowship Hall 9:00 am

**Wednesday-18th**

Sr. Adult Reception ..... Dale's Home 2:00 pm  
College Home Christmas Party ..... 1200 Ferndale Dr. 6:00 pm

**December 24th**

Christmas Eve Service ..... Sanctuary 6:00 pm

**December 29th**

No Sunday School

The Church Office will be closed December 24-26, 31 & January 1

**Serving the Month of December**

**Loaves & Fishes:** Pilgrims

**Greeters:** Dee Williams, Chris Boylen, Sharlene McDaniel, Dick Graves

**Offering:** Volunteer Families

**Serving December 1**

**Counters:** Carl Hill, Wallace Baldwin, James Nichols

**Sound & Light:** Chad Parish

**Extended Session:** Kitty Boyer, Rebecca Coan, Alan Walker, Katherine Smith

**Serving December 8**

**Counters:** Lavaughn Johnson, Dwayne Beckett, Lois Graves, Aaron Greene

**Sound & Light:** Alison Crosby

**Extended Session:** Katharine Martin, Delaine Dendy, Suzanne Parish, Addison Meeks

**Serving December 15**

**Counters:** Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Gladys Thomas

**Sound & Light:** Gary Cantini

**Extended Session:** Kellie Wilson, Cindy Cleveland, Brad Smithart, Sue Walker

**Serving December 22**

**Counters:** Bill Faurot, Donna Bennett, Hazel Lee

**Sound & Light:** Claude Conn

**Extended Session:** Kelly Meeks, Beth L. Smith, Ruthie Spiers, Mark Wilson

**Serving December 29**

**Counters:** Carl Hill, Wallace Baldwin, James Nichols

**Sound & Light:** Andrew Yohn

**Extended Session:** Cynthia Smithart, Marcie Smith, Lynn Eden, Holly Smithart

**Ministerial Staff**

Dr. Tripp Martin  
Pastor  
trippmartin@mindspring.com  
334-332-4100

Dale Peterson  
Minister of Music  
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Leigh Anne Armstrong  
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Meagan Smith  
Interim Minister of Youth  
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**Support Staff**

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Bryan King  
Organist  
kingbry@auburn.edu

Trista Slaughter  
Office Manager  
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Milissa Clowers  
CDC Director  
milissaclowers@mindspring.com

**18<sup>th</sup> annual Cookie Walk**

Saturday, December 7<sup>th</sup>, 8:00 am - 1:00 pm

Grace United Methodist Church

**Listen to the service Sunday mornings  
at 11 am on WAUD 1230 AM**