

AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

July 15, 2014

Vol. 6 Issue 22

Mission Moments: Sowing Seeds of Hope

By: Charlotte Ward

Since the 1840s, Marion, in Perry County, has been known as the “Baptist Capital of Alabama.” It is still home to Judson College, was the original site of Howard College (now Samford University), and once both the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board and The Alabama Baptist office were located there.

Somewhat more than half of Perry County’s 10,000 citizens live in Marion. The rest live in Uniontown or in a number of tiny unincorporated communities. Nearly 70% of the people of Perry County are African-American. It is the poorest county in Alabama, with a median household income of \$31,000, putting 27% of the people (and half the children) below the poverty line. In 2000, when the Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship was looking for a place of great need where grassroots missions could make a difference, Perry County was clearly a good place to start. It was realized from the outset that the profound changes needed to improve the lives of the people in Uniontown and its outlying areas would not be brought about in a few months, so the commitment was made for a twenty-five-year project called Sowing Seeds of Hope.

The first efforts were devoted to upgrading housing and providing Uniontown with a new public Library, housed in the building of a former bank. Now SSH, with the help of numerous churches in and beyond Alabama, including student groups from Boston College, a Catholic school, who come almost every summer, and with the active participation of the people of Perry County, is providing not only new and renovated housing, but also programs to improve people’s health, from eye screenings to weight loss and obesity programs, nutrition assistance, and help in signing up for the new health insurance options. There are also food and clothing giveaways, utility and prescription assistance, leadership training classes, and a variety of educational aids that have resulted in a vastly improved graduation rate from the county’s high schools: now 90%!

In the past year, a job training center and a dialysis clinic, the only one in the county, have opened.

A Spiritual and Social Task Force provides Thanksgiving baskets for seniors and Christmas plays for children, as well as books and other gifts.

A weekly wellness clinic helps people manage chronic conditions including diabetes and high blood pressure and prostate screening. Preventive health care is getting to people who never dreamed of having it.

AFBC has had a strong involvement in SSH from the beginning. Dr. Wayne Flynt was one of the guiding founders. A past director, Carol Ann Vaughn, is a former member, and Mark Wilson served as an intern. Students and other church members have contributed many hours of hard work in construction, rehabbing houses, and providing summer activities for children.

The work in Perry County will continue for at least another ten years. There are still lots of jobs for AFBC folks to do. Watch this newsletter for future opportunities to sow seeds of hope.

[More details available at www.sowindseedsofhope-pc.org and www.alabamacbf.org (select “missions.”)]

***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

We are thankful for the “arms of the church,” as they are the arms that embrace us, sustain us, and encourage us. We gather each Sunday, reaching out to shake hands and to greet long-time friends as well as new faces. We meet each other in times of grief, offering a comforting embrace following a memorial service. We use our arms to deliver food or to serve others outside of the church, as we meet the needs around us.

The “arms of the church” are integral to our comings and to our goings. Some of the most significant arms in the church are the arms of those who work in the nursery each week. They are the strong arms that hold and support, as our children enter the church at the earliest age and begin to learn about the love of God. They are the sensitive arms that care for the youngest amongst us. They provide the first welcome and possibly the most enduring care.

The workers in the nursery of the congregation are the “arms of the church,” and we are thankful for them. At the end of July, we will offer our highest gratitude to Sevgi Kucuktas, who has worked in the nursery since 2004, but who is transitioning in order to focus on completing her doctoral dissertation this year. For ten years, Sevgi has held and cared for every child who has come through the nursery of the church. Each Thursday and Sunday, as committees have met, choirs have practiced, people have studied, and groups have prayed, Sevgi has held and prayed for our children.

We are, of course, sad at her departure, for she has ministered to and cared for our children so well, but we are also excited for her, as she continues her academic pursuits and her other important work. Over the next few weeks, we will mark her transition with personal words of gratitude, as we see her and thank her. She has been integral to the ministry of the congregation, as part of us and caring for us, serving as the “arms of the church” in the nursery with strength and sensitivity. We will reach out to shake her hand and to offer a warm embrace upon her departure, letting her know that she will continue to be held by the arms of this congregation.

Tripp

BLOOD DRIVE

July 20th

Fellowship Hall, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

Gathering Moment in honor of

Sevgi Kucuktas

and her 10 years of care and love for the babies and preschoolers of AFBC

Sunday, July 27th

On the Courtyard following Morning Worship

Thursday Evening Bible Study Coleman Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m.

Thursday, July 17

Psalm: A Prayer Book

Led by: Tripp Martin

Thursday, July 24

Passport Report

Thursday, July 31

Quarterly Business Meeting

Agenda Items:

Recommendations from the Personnel Committee:

Employee Health Insurance Policy,
Section 9 - Personnel Policies Manual,
Christian Grievance Policy,
& Minister of Music's Retirement

Recommendation of the

Committee on Committee's Members

Presentation of the Nominating Committee Report

Recommendation of Search Committee Members for the Associate Minister Search Committees as listed below:

Recommendations for Associate Pastor

for Youth, College, and Young Adult Search Committee:

Joe Turnham - Chairperson, Beth L. Smith, Tim Meeks,
Lee Alice Johnson, Andy Yohn, Amber Berry-Moore, Bliss
Bailey, Holly Smithart, Lexie Rasco, Tripp Martin - ex-officio

Recommendations for Associate Pastor

for Music Search Committee:

Ronda West - Co-Chairperson, Shane Dunn - Co-Chairperson,
Julia Morgan, Ben Shell, Wally Ridgeway, Mary Joe
Howard, Belinda Wright, Suzanne Parish, Carolyn Grimes,
Bryan King - ex-officio, Tripp Martin - ex-officio

Christian Women's Job Corp Volunteer Opportunity

Here is an opportunity for AFBC to be more involved in the Christian Women's Job Corps. I hope some individuals or Sunday School classes will respond. Lunch is served five days a week for seven weeks. That's quite a few lunches.

Lunches Needed for the Fall Session - Sept. 8 - Oct. 24. Can you help provide and serve lunch to our participants in the upcoming fall session? • Eagle Center @ 11:45 a.m. • Number to be fed: approx. 10 - 12 • Eat and visit with our ladies • Beverages and eating supplies provided • Daily menu and other details will be provided. • *Contact Sally Sheehan @ 749-0144*

Charlotte Ward

Mark Your Calendar

DayFriends

Tuesday, July 22, 11:45 a.m., Veggies to Go on S. Coll.
Call the Church Office by noon
on Monday to reserve childcare

Senior Adult Dinner Out

Wednesday, July 23, 5:00 p.m., Good Ol' Boys

Church Business Meeting

Thursday, July 31, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL Resumes

The Sanctuary Choir will resume rehearsing Thursday, July 31st at 7:00 p.m. Please note the time change for this week only due to a church business meeting at 6 p.m. that has a very full agenda.

The choir will be rehearsing anthems for Sundays and for our Finale Concert which will take place on Sunday afternoon, September 14th. If you have sung in choirs before and enjoy singing, you are cordially invited to join us. If you have questions, contact Dale Peterson or any member of the Sanctuary Choir.



Theology in the Theatre
Tuesdays at 7:00 p.m.
in the College Room



"Thiiiiiiiis close mission trip!"

There will be a group of college students following the road in July, and that road began way back during AU's exciting football season. This road is paved with Tweets, and second place BCS finishes, and good-natured rivalry. Our college group will head out July 18-20 to Tallahassee, decked out in our orange and blue, for our "Thiiiiiiiis close mission trip!" It marks how close our AU Tigers came to being national champions this year. We will be working with Leon County Special Olympics on Saturday and worshipping with FBC Tallahassee on Sunday, making new friends all along the way. Stay tuned for what happens along our road...

Sign Up Now!

Sign-ups have begun for TNBS dinners and Sunday morning Big Bfasts that will begin in August! Help us get ready to welcome students to our church, and get your preferred date, by signing up today! Email Leigh Anne, leighannearmstrong@gmail.com for sign-up details!



Thursday Nights

Brown Bag Meal Time

@ 5:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Youth Hang Out Time

@ 5:45 p.m., Youth Room

YOUTH SOS

Sundays @ 6:00 p.m.

July 20th-NO SOS

July 27th- The Smithart's House

We need hosts (homes/pools) for Sundays of Summer. Please contact Cindy at cindycleveland@mindspring.com if you can host a Sunday night during the summer.

We Still Need Volunteers for the Church Wide Mission Opportunity

AFBC is working with the Summer Food Service Program on Wednesdays in July. Join together as we provide the children at Sparkman Apartments with lunch, friendships, crafts and games!

Wednesdays (July 16, 23 & 30) from 10:45-12:15

Sparkman Apartments

Located behind Village Mall off of Commerce Drive
Contact Suzanne Parish (suzannedparish@gmail.com,

444-6474) or the church office to sign up for any week(s) you are available!

Celebrating a New Year of Sunday School

Sunday, August 10th, 8:30 a.m.

This year we will kick off our new Sunday School year on August 10 with breakfast prepared by Edzard van Santen. Following breakfast, everyone can then move to their Sunday School Classes. (For those promoting, this will be the time you will go to your new class and meet your new teacher!)

The serving line for breakfast will start at 8:30 a.m. in the Mary Jim Coleman Fellowship Hall.



summersalt

ages 3 - 11

Thursdays at 5:50 p.m.





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

<i>Every Sunday</i>		<i>Every Thursday</i>	
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.	Brown Bag Meal Time	5:15 p.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.	Prayer & Bible Study	6:00 p.m.
Tuesday-15th			
Senior Adult Luncheon	Fellowship Hall	11:00 a.m.	
Deacons' Meeting	Seekers' Classroom	6:30 p.m.	
Theology in the Theatre	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
Thursday-17th			
Youth Hang Out Time	Youth Room	5:45 p.m.	
SummerSalt	Education Bld.	5:50 p.m.	
Sunday-20th			
Blood Drive	Fellowship Hall	8:00 a.m.	
No Youth SOS			
Tuesday-22nd			
DayFriends	Veggies to Go	11:45 a.m.	
Theology in the Theatre	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday-23rd			
Senior Adult Dinner Out	Good Ol' Boys	5:00 p.m.	
Thursday-24th			
Youth Hang Out Time	Youth Room	5:45 p.m.	
SummerSalt	Education Building	5:50 p.m.	
Sunday-27th			
Youth SOS	Smithart's House	6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday-29th			
Theology in the Theatre	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
Thursday-31st			
Youth Hang Out Time	Youth Room	5:45 p.m.	
SummerSalt	Education Bld.	5:50 p.m.	
Business Meeting	Fellowship Hall	6:00 p.m.	
Sanctuary Choir	Choir Room	6:45 p.m.	

Sanctuary Flowers

If you would like to place flowers in the sanctuary in honor or memory of a loved one, please contact the church office.

Serving the Month of July

Loaves & Fishes: Pilgrims
Greeters: Hazel Lee, Brenda McCord, Delaine Dendy, Ruthie Spiers
Offering: Pilgrims

Serving July 20th

Counters: Dwayne Beckett, Lois Graves, Lavaughn Johnson
Sound & Light: Claude Conn
Extended Session: Katharine Martin, Rebecca Coan, Alan Walker, Addison Meeks, Terri Wood

Serving July 27th

Counters: Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Gladys Thomas
Sound & Light: Andrew Yohn

Ministerial Staff

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 Pastor
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 Minister of Music
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Milissa Clowers
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Cindy Cleveland
 Youth Coordinator
 cindcleveland@mindspring.com

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