

AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

August 15, 2014

Vol. 6 Issue 24

MISSION MOMENTS: AFBC'S MINISTRY TO INTERNATIONALS

HALF A CENTURY OF WORLD FRIENDSHIP

IN THE 1960s Auburn University began to attract students from around the world, especially to its agriculture and fisheries programs and newly approved graduate programs in the sciences. Many of the men who enrolled in these studies brought their families. These student wives were suddenly thrust into a very different environment, and Jeanette Jeffers saw a way to help. AFBC's outreach to internationals began in Jeanette's kitchen in 1963 when some internationals were included in a group of student wives who met there regularly for fellowship. It was a great way for the newcomers to learn American ways, and it soon outgrew the Jeffers house.

The group began meeting at the church with Ruth Alford and Ada Ware as leaders. Weekly programs introduced the women to American customs, holidays, cooking, shopping, etc. Many other women in the church participated, regularly or occasionally, especially Jay Deese, Mary Zade Bussell, Dot Geiger, and Frances Stevenson. (Jay invited me to join the group when I retired.)

When Jo Randall joined the program after twenty years as a missionary teacher in Japan, she saw that a real need was structured language study. So a group of us took the training course Southern Baptists had developed and began the current classes in conversational English. The original faculty consisted of Anne Crance, Jay Deese, Dot Geiger, Neda Hill, Charlotte Ward, and Billie Ruth Wood. Jo Randall was coordinator. Mary Virginia Moore and Dartie Flynt have from the start been in charge of testing incoming students and assigning them to the appropriate class, ranging from beginners who can barely say "hello" to people preparing to take the University's proficiency exam.

The English program is not all "noses to the grindstone." Each week lessons are split by a half hour of learning about each other's customs and holidays as well as how to cope with such things as tornados and Christmas shopping. The annual tasting party is not to be missed. On that occasion, everyone brings a finger food from her or his homeland, and if recipes are available I even make a cookbook! At Christmas, the teachers provide traditional holiday treats, and we go to the sanctuary to sing carols. Frances Stevenson, Leigh Anne Armstrong, and Mary Joe Howard help us with the music on special occasions. And every week, Ruth Alford and Merle Bass provide goodies for the fellowship period.

Over the nearly two decades of English classes, a large fraction of the nations of the world have been represented in them, and include men as well as women. They are students in Auburn University graduate programs and/or their spouses, visiting scholars, and parents of students visiting for only a short time. (We'll never forget the Chinese gentleman who sang us love songs in his native tongue.) Others are people settling in Auburn to work. Today, a majority of our students are Korean, members of families here for several years as part of East Alabama's growing auto industry

Additional faculty have joined us over the years. This fall, Alice Martin, a twenty-year veteran of ESL teaching, will have the beginners class. Katharine Martin will replace Ann Crance at the second level, Neda Hill has level three, and Peggy Johnson and Angie Conway have level four. The highest level has been taught for several years by Betsy Jordan and Fran Cronenberg, but Fran will be unavailable this year. Jo has had to retire, and asked me to take over her role in keeping the "show on the road."

Jo, along with Frances Stevenson, has been teaching a Sunday School class which is the other key part of our international ministry. Gwynne Lovelady is working with Frances Stevenson in this endeavor.

For those who have participated in the program, both students and teachers, it has been a blessed opportunity to learn and make new friends. But more of us may need to be replaced in the foreseeable future. If you can spare Wednesday mornings during the school year, consider volunteering for this ministry. Training is offered at least once a year at Shocco Springs.

Charlotte Ward

***Auburn First Baptist Church • 128 E Glenn Avenue • Auburn, AL • auburnfbc.org
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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

Within this season of *Sundays after Pentecost*, which focus on the life of the church and the journey of faith, we give thanks for new beginnings. One characteristic of the life of the church is the chance to make a new beginning, and quite practically. The rhythm of the church, including its worship and meetings, programs and gatherings, includes chances to begin again.

Beginnings are part of the natural seams that connect the life of the church, as we consider the seasons of the Church Year, beginning again in Advent, as we wait for the birth of Jesus, or in the preparation of Lent, as we wait for the celebration of new life at Easter. We also begin again on the day of Epiphany, as the magi arrive in Bethlehem, recognizing the birth of Jesus, or as we rejoice at Pentecost, where Easter unfolds into the birth of the Church. The gathering of the Church around the world leans towards new beginnings, but so does the life of the local church.

In the rhythms of the congregation, we stand at another beginning, as the travel and leisure of the summer unfolds into the beginning of school for students, from kindergarten to college. With the beginning of school, the life of the church begins again as well. Children's choirs will start to rehearse, and the youth will gather on Sunday nights. Committees, who have not met during the summer, will meet again and begin planning for the fall. Discipleship Training will meet to study and ponder on Sunday evening, and Connecting Faith and Family will gather as well at the same time. College students will come together on Tuesdays, and Conversational English classes will begin on Wednesdays. These and other groups will start to gather again.

There will be new energy and opportunities to serve in ministry as a community and to our community. There will be visitors to welcome and friendships to foster. We will engage in new ways, and we will feel the hope of a new beginning. This will not come without the need for resilience, for new beginnings call us to engage in a steady course. We know this when we look at the beginning of school, buying notebooks for homework and getting textbooks to study, but our steady course begins with the grace of a new beginning.

As we begin this season in the life of the church, we do so grateful for one another. We give thanks for the shared journey, and the hope of the next season. God is an expert at new beginnings, which we see in the act of creation and the hope of redemption, and it is why the church has so many of them, so we are thankful for how the life of the church instills in us the chance to begin again.

Tripp

SANCTUARY CHOIR REHEARSAL

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.

Mark Your Calendar

DayFriends

*Tuesday, August 19, 11:45 a.m., Chappy's Deli
Please call the church office by noon
on Monday to reserve childcare.*

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, August 19, 6:30 p.m., Seekers' Classroom

Senior Adult Dinner Out

Wednesday, August 27, 5:00 p.m., Good Ol' Boys

Special Called Business Meeting

Thursday, August 28th, 6:00 p.m.

Recommending two Members for Deacon Nominating Committee

Connecting Faith and Family

Parents are invited to join this group on Sundays from 5:00 p.m.—6:30 p.m., beginning August 17. Although we read and discuss parenting books, the primary focus is support and encouragement in the crucial and challenging task of raising our children well.

Children's choirs meet during this time, and child care is provided for the smaller children. For more information, please contact Gwynne Lovelady at 502-6450 or gslovelady@bellsouth.net.

Discipleship Training

Begins Sunday, August 17th, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall. *Great Figures of the New Testament* will be the focus of fall Discipleship Training. We will be using a DVD series narrated by Professor Amy-Jill Levine as she paints vivid literary portraits of the cast of characters in the New Testament. While most of the figures treated are real, historical people, at least two (the Prodigal Son and the Good Samaritan) are fictional protagonists in stories told by Jesus within Luke's Gospel. Some figures are famous. Others, such as the Syro-Phoenician woman who must turn Jesus' own words back upon him to gain the healing of her daughter, are not so famous but deserve to be better remembered. Amy-Jill Levine is the E. Rhodes and Leona B. Carpenter Professor of New Testament Studies at Vanderbilt University Divinity School, Department of Religious Studies, and Graduate Department of Religion. Join us on Sundays as we view Dr. Levine's 30 minute lectures and then open the floor for discussion.

Thursday Evening Bible Study
Coleman Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m.
Thursday, August 21st
Brazil Mission Team Report



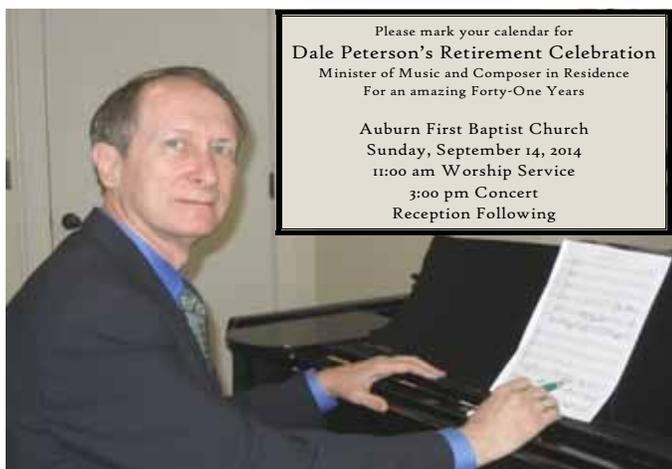
Thursday Nights
Brown Bag Meal Time
 @ 5:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Youth Hang Out Time
 @ 5:45 p.m., Youth Room

Sunday Night Activities Resume August 17th
Youth Choir @ 5:00 p.m.

Dinner and Devo "B2S" @ 6:00 p.m.

** Activities will end at 7:30 p.m. instead of 8:00 p.m.*

*Reminder: No Evening Activities for August 31st
 (Labor Day Weekend)*



Please mark your calendar for
Dale Peterson's Retirement Celebration
 Minister of Music and Composer in Residence
 For an amazing Forty-One Years

Auburn First Baptist Church
 Sunday, September 14, 2014
 11:00 am Worship Service
 3:00 pm Concert
 Reception Following

We are compiling a book of "Letters to Dale" and would like to include your letter of remembrance, appreciation, and tribute. Please use paper that is 8.5x11 or smaller, and send or email it to the church office by September 1.



College Welcome Breakfasts:
 August 17th & 24th @ 9:45 a.m.
 in the College Room

Tuesday Night Bible Study
'Wandering and the God Quest'
 beginning August 19th @ 7:00 p.m.
 Supper and Bible study
(contact Leigh Anne to provide supper!)

Pool n' Grill Hang Out Afternoon
 Friday, August 22nd @ 4:00-7:00 p.m.
 Home of Bliss and Christine Shumock Bailey
 735 Hollon Ave., Auburn 36830
Bring chips or cookies to share.

MUSIC NOTES

With September 14 rapidly approaching, I find myself frequently reflecting on the past forty one years. These reflections bring with them a multitude of emotions. Perhaps you have heard me say, "I have been paid to do that for which I would pay to do!" And there is a GREAT deal of truth in that. What a joy to plan and lead in worship; to visit you; to share in joy and sorrows with you; and to lead our choirs. It has been a wonderful forty one years of worshipping together, ministering together, and being family together. In our church family the "professional" ministers not only minister . . . they are "ministered to" by YOU, the members of Auburn First Baptist.

What an honor and privilege to have worked with outstanding pastors and dedicated staff members. It made (and makes) coming to "work" a joy! I will miss that a lot. How fortunate I have been (and our church has been) to work with wonderfully talented and committed organists/accompanists such as Bryan King. And our church is blessed with dedicated, talented and creative choir workers. Our graded choir program could not exist without their capable leadership. And how I will miss our choirs. No church, regardless of size, has a more faithful and dedicated Sanctuary Choir than ours! I always anticipate each rehearsal and each worship service. My successor will be fortunate indeed to work with this choir. And although I am trying not to list individuals in my farewells, for there are far too many individuals who deserve special mention, I must recognize two people-Walter Porter and Wally Ridgway, for they have been singing with me for all forty-one years! Thank you guys!

Perhaps most of all, I will miss Sunday mornings at 11:00 a.m. when we gather for worship. I will miss the hush that falls over our sanctuary when the hour is chimed. I will miss the participation in our litanies and responses. I will miss the enthusiastic congregational singing. I will miss the choral worship which frequently moved me "to a more profound Alleluia!" I will miss the sermons which always challenged me. And I will miss looking out and seeing your face! And even though I will not be present for a while, please know that my heart, spirit, and prayers are with you when you gather each week for worship!

During the last interim period when we did not have a pastor, I wrote articles for First Connections which I called Looking Ahead. We were looking toward that time when a pastor would be called by our church. On, September 1, I would like to write one last Looking Ahead in which I share with you my prayers and wishes for Auburn First Baptist in the years ahead.

Dear Auburn First Baptist . . . Thank you for being you!

Dale

Spark Adventure
 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.
Sunday-17th			
Children's Choirs	Education Building	5:00 p.m.	
Youth Choir	Choir Room	5:00 p.m.	
Discipleship Training	Fellowship Hall	5:00 p.m.	
Connecting Faith and Family	Activities Building	5:00 p.m.	
Bible Encounter	Activities Building	6:00 p.m.	
Dinner & Devo "B2S"	Youth Room	6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday-19th			
Missions Committee Meeting	Library	5:15 p.m.	
Deacons' Meeting	Seekers' Classroom	6:30 p.m.	
College TNBS	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday-20th			
Conversational English Resumes ..	Education Building	9:00 a.m.	
Thursday-21st			
Youth Hang Out Time	Youth Room	5:45 p.m.	
Spark Adventure	Education Bld.	5:50 p.m.	
Brazil Mission Team Report	Fellowship Hall	6:00 p.m.	
Sanctuary Choir	Choir Room	6:45 p.m.	
Sunday-24th			
Children's Choirs	Education Building	5:00 p.m.	
Youth Choir	Choir Room	5:00 p.m.	
Discipleship Training	Fellowship Hall	5:00 p.m.	
Connecting Faith and Family	Activities Building	5:00 p.m.	
Bible Encounter	Activities Building	6:00 p.m.	
Dinner & Devo "B2S"	Youth Room	6:00 p.m.	
Tuesday-26th			
College TNBS	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday-27th			
Conversational English Resumes ..	Education Building	9:00 a.m.	
Sr. Adult Dinner Out	Good Ol' Boys	5:00 p.m.	
Thursday-28th			
Youth Hang Out Time	Youth Room	5:45 p.m.	
Spark Adventure	Education Bld.	5:50 p.m.	
Special Called Business Meeting ..	Fellowship Hall	6:00 p.m.	
Sanctuary Choir	Choir Room	6:45 p.m.	
Sunday-31st			
<i>No Evening Activities</i>			

Serving the Month of August

Loaves & Fishes: Mary Martha's
Greeters: Lois Graves, Dee Williams, Nancy Hill Roberts, Delaine Dendy
Offering: Adult 4

Serving August 17

Counters: Dwayne Beckett, Dick Graves, Lavaughn Johnson
Sound & Light:
Extended Session: Genesee Cook, Denise Stoeckel

Serving August 24

Counters: Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Gladys Thomas
Sound & Light: Alison Crosby
Extended Session: Ruthie Spiers, Suzanne Parish

Serving August 31

Counters: Donna Bennett, Bill Faurot, Hazel Lee
Sound & Light: Gary Cantini
Extended Session: Jeannine Eddins, Amy Zhong

Financials as of June 30, 2014:

Budget	384,555.54
Contributions	303,173.38
Expenditures	318,336.12
Year-to-date	-15,162.74

Ministerial Staff	Support Staff
Dr. Tripp Martin Pastor trippmartin@mindspring.com 334-332-4100	Bryan King Organist kingbry@auburn.edu
Dale Peterson Minister of Music dalepeterson@mindspring.com 334-332-9432	Trista Slaughter Office Manager tristaslaughter@mindspring.com
Leigh Anne Armstrong Interim Minister of Students leighannearmstrong@gmail.com	Milissa Clowers CDC Director milissaclowers@mindspring.com
Cindy Cleveland Youth Coordinator cindycleveland@mindspring.com	Camber Hudson Administrative Assistant auburnfbc@mindspring.com

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