

AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



January 1, 2015

Vol. 6 Issue 32

REFLECTIONS by Tripp Martin

Throughout our lives, we wrestle with marking time, trying to write down the correct year following the New Year, purchasing a new calendar and starting to fill it out, or remarking in disbelief that it is 2015. For this reason, as we begin another year, I am always thankful for the light of Epiphany. Growing up, Epiphany was not part of my vocabulary. I did not know about the day of Epiphany in the life of the Church.

Epiphany is the last day of the Christmas season, as in the twelve days of Christmas, celebrating the birth of Jesus, the Messiah. The day of Epiphany falls on January 6, twelve days after December 25. Epiphany is the last story of Christmas, where we open the gospel of Matthew and read about the Magi traveling from the East by the light of the mysterious star in the sky. Epiphany is where the Magi come from the East, representing the remainder of the world and recognizing the grace-filled event of the birth of Jesus.

I am grateful for the light of Epiphany at the beginning of another year, as it calls us to look wider and broader for the presence of God. The Magi, who lived in the East, miles and miles away from Bethlehem, had to look wider and broader in order to follow that mysterious star in the sky. They traveled to discover what they had not known before. It was a journey with turns and twists, for which we are unaware, but it brought them to a place where we have also stood recently, standing beside Jesus, and then leaving with new expectations of hope and peace, joy and love.

It is difficult to look wider and broader at the beginning of another year, where our calendars begin to dictate the pace of our days again. The renewal and the rest of the holidays are finally over, and the work of each day begins again. The light of Epiphany, though, helps lead our way, where we look wider and broader than we might not have otherwise. It is the discovery of the presence of God in ways where we can bolster the community of the church and where we can serve others in the community around us, widening the circle of our lives and broadening the boundaries of our faith.

As we look at our new calendars, let us look at their edges, or margins, remembering what is not there and allowing the light of Epiphany to widen and broaden our vision, while adding to our lives and enriching our faith. Epiphany illuminates the opportunities before us, the people near us, and the presence of God around us. We begin another year, another journey, by the Light that leads us along the way.

Tripp

Sunday, January 11th

Deacon Ordination

11:00 a.m. Worship Service

Committee Night

6:00 p.m.

**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.

Reminders:

Thursday Night Activities
resume January 8th
Sunday Evening Activities
resume January 11th
No Sunday Evening Activities
on January 18th

Thursday Evening Bible Study

Fellowship Hall, 6:00 p.m.
Resumes Thursday, January 8th
The Church Year: Keeping Time with the Life of Jesus
(Four conversations about the Church Year)

With the beginning of a new year and discussions about the passing of time, we reflect on the role of time in our faith. Time can feel like a gift and a burden, as we try to keep pace with the world around us, but as we also find time as part of the practice of our faith, keeping the Sabbath or remembering the life of Jesus.

Claude H. Moore Lecture Series

On Sunday, February 8th, 2015, we will enjoy an engaging day in the life of Auburn First Baptist Church. We will have our first inaugural Claude H. Moore Lecture Series. This lecture series is made possible by the family of Claude H. Moore, for which we are deeply grateful, and these lectures will celebrate his memory and many years of dedicated membership.

Our first guest in the lecture series will be Dr. Bill Leonard. Many in our family of faith will remember Dr. Leonard's presence here as interim pastor years ago. Bill currently serves as the James and Marilyn Dunn Professor of Baptist Studies and Professor of Church History at Wake Forest University in the School of Divinity.

During the Sunday school hour on February 8th, all youth, college and adult classes will be invited to join together to hear Dr. Leonard teach. Bill will also join us during the worship service as the guest preacher.

Sunday Evenings, Beginning January

11th
Renewing What is Old:

**The Testimony of the Old Testament
J-Term Class, by Tripp Martin
Sundays at 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall**

The Discipleship Training as well as the Connecting Faith and Family groups are gathering for a joint class, beginning in January. We will look at reading the Old Testament, listening to the themes and stories throughout those books. Many of the stories of the Old Testament are difficult to interpret, as we wrestle with their meaning, while reading the New Testament alongside the Old Testament can also be challenging. We will explore these questions and others. The entire congregation is invited to join these five conversations, looking anew at what is called old.

Financial Class

**Begins Sunday, January 11th at 5:00
p.m.**

Nine Week Course

Financial Peace University (FPU) is a class about financial management and is taught by Dave Ramsey through video presentations, class discussions, and small group activities. It discusses practical money management based on lessons of stewardship. Registration is required and each family will need to purchase materials. Church members and visitors are welcome to attend. You will never be asked to share your financial information.

If you would like to participate or have any questions, please contact Alison Crosby at suttali@gmail.com or Brian Ledbetter at brianledbetter@yahoo.com.

Mark Your Calendar

Brotherhood Breakfast

Sunday, January 11th, 8:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

Caring Hands

Tuesday, January 13th, 5:15 p.m., Fellowship hall

CDC Committee Meeting

Tuesday, January 13th, 5:30 p.m., Library

Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 15th, 5:00 p.m., Library

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, January 20th, 6:30 p.m., Seekers' Classroom

Business Meeting

Thursday, January 22nd, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall



Missions Monthly
December 6th @ 11:30 a.m.
Community Market

Reminder: No Youth Evening Activities
Sunday, January 4th, 11th, and 18th

Coming up: Youth Sunday on February 22nd!

Youth Summit
January 16th-18th
FBC of Huntsville

Passport Camp
July 12th-17th
at Greensboro College, NC
Deposit of \$100 due by
February 1st

Committee Night

January 11th, 6:00 p.m.

All committee members are asked to participate in this kick-off event for a new committee year.

Committee rosters and locations for each committee will be posted January 11.
(Childcare will be provided.)



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Verb your life!

TNBS begins Jan. 20

Supper begins @7:00 p.m., followed by music, prayer, and Bible study

transformed

Now Serving ATL

CBF college ministry weekend
February 6th-7th
\$20 includes t shirt
Register soon!

Church members — sign up now to reserve your week to provide supper for Tuesday Night Bible Study! Slots are available from January through April! Contact Leigh Anne Armstrong at leighannearmstrong@gmail.com to sign up or for more info!

ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!!!

Congratulations, AFBC Family!!!

For the past six weeks, members of our church family have been working hard to make our project of packing Christmas boxes for inmates at Lee County Jail a success, and it was a very great success!

You have brought in and wrapped shoe boxes and contributed \$15 for the cost of the contents of one box. These Sunday School classes wrapped boxes: Seekers, Sojourners, Students, Fishers, and Mary Marthas. The Fishers had their annual supper/box wrapping party. Several classes gave money for stamps. Among the families who contributed greatly were those of Kellie Wilson, Cindy Cleveland, Beth Smith, Charlotte Sutton, and Gwynne Lovelady.

Many, many, many thanks to the Jail Ministry Team (Ann and Johnnie Crance, Mary Virginia Moore, Mary Joe Howard, Julia Morgan, Vikki Miller, Charles Segrest, Somchai Segrest, and Helen Brown).

We had a great turnout for the production. Other than the Jail Ministry Committee: Dan Morgan, Jesse Cauley, Nancy Webster, Bill Webster, Katharine Martin, Hunter Martin, Tripp Martin, Gwynne Lovelady, Hudson Draghton, Parker Draghton, Laney Draghton, Cynthia Draghton, Betty Tatum, Shirley Brown, Donna Bennett, Danny Sue Conner, and Jada Butler.

As always, members of the staff were encouraging and helpful: Tripp Martin, Leigh Anne Armstrong, Cindy Cleveland, Camber Hudson, Trista Slaughter, and Jada Butler.

Lavaughn Johnson took the Christmas boxes to the jail in his truck.

In the future, the Christmas Box Project will be in the capable hands of Mary Joe Howard and Vikki Miller. Many genuine thanks to everyone who has ever helped with this work! And may you have a real blessing in having helped!

Helen Brown



Sunday Evening, January 11th

Children's Choirs @ 5:00 p.m.
Education Building
Bible Encounter @ 6:00 p.m.
Activities Building

Spark adventure
Start \$ back up
January 8th @ 5:50 p.m.





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

Every Sunday

Sunday School 9:45 a.m.
Morning Worship 11:00 a.m.

Every Thursday

Brown Bag Meal Time 5:15 p.m.
Prayer & Bible Study 6:00 p.m.

Thursday-1st

New Year's Day- Church Office Closed

Sunday-4th

Sanctuary Choir Choir Room 3:15 p.m.

No Evening Activities

Thursday-8th

Youth Hang Out Time Youth Room 5:45 p.m.

Spark Adventure Education Building 5:50 p.m.

Sunday-11th

Brotherhood Breakfast Fellowship Hall 8:00 a.m.

Sanctuary Choir Choir Room 3:15 p.m.

Financial Peace Class TBA 5:00 p.m.

JTerm Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.

Children's Choirs Education Building 5:00 p.m.

Committee Night TBA 6:00 p.m.

Bible Encounter Activities Building 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday-13th

Caring Hands Fellowship Hall 5:15 p.m.

CDC Committee Meeting Library 5:30 p.m.

Wednesday-14th

Conversational English Education Building 9:00 a.m.

Thursday-15th

First Bells Handbell Room 12:45 p.m.

Stewardship Committee Meeting .. Library 5:00 p.m.

Youth Hang Out Time Youth Room 5:45 p.m.

Spark Adventure Education Building 5:50 p.m.

Serving the Month of January

Loaves & Fishes: Seekers

Greeters: Sharlene McDaniel, Hazel Johnston Lee, Randy West, Todd Miller, Brenda McCord

Offering: Adult 4

Serving January 4th

Counters: Dwayne Beckett, Lois Graves, Lavaughn Johnson

Sound & Light: Gary Cantini

Extended Session: Marcie Smith, Cynthia Smithart, Victoria Eden, Suzanne Parish, Terri Wood

Serving January 11th

Counters: Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Gladys Thomas

Sound & Light: Claude Conn

Extended Session: Alison Crosby, Sue Walker, Benjamin Wilson, Amy Zhong, Leah Duzy

Ministerial Staff

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