

# AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

March 1, 2015

Vol. 6 Issue 36

## *REFLECTIONS* by Tripp Martin

On Sunday, March 15, we will gather around our Global Ministries Offering, which is our annual special offering in addition to our general budget, supporting local and global ministries. The congregation approved this offering at its recent business meeting, and through this offering we are able to partner with others in order to address needs we cannot normally reach by ourselves.

In reading about the GMO for this year, we find ministries within Auburn as well as those across oceans. Through this offering, we support local ministry through our AFBC Jail Ministry and Brotherhood projects, along with the Community Market, feeding the hungry; the WeHelp Coalition, working alongside Habitat for Humanity; and the Christian Women's Job Corp, supporting individuals making significant changes in their lives.

Our partnerships do not stop at the boundaries of Auburn, though, reaching throughout Alabama and beyond. We partner with Sowing Seeds of Hope, relieving suffering in Perry County; Alabama Possible, supporting initiatives that address poverty statewide; and the Community Care network, caring for people with health concerns. We also support missions throughout this country through the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, serving various needs in many places; the Alabama Baptist Disaster Relief Team, responding to all sorts of crises; and the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University, educating future ministers.

Finally, our partnerships reach beyond all geographical boundaries, supporting Project Hope and the Brazil Mission Team from AFBC, Watering Malawi, creating clean water projects in Africa; and World Hunger, feeding people in a multitude of countries. We also partner with the Baptist World Alliance, including Baptists from all around the world, on needs like disaster relief, church planting, and poverty. Our partnership with the Cooperative Baptist Fellowship also supports field personnel, or missionaries, around the world, as the hands and feet of Christ.

If we read through the GMO, we find all of this on one list, which cannot begin tell the full story of everything that happens through this offering. As a church, we are grateful for this opportunity, combining both compassion and stewardship. As we give to this offering, we also remain aware of giving to our general budget. We continue to have the opportunity to maximize our gifts, while minimizing our expenses, before we hire two new staff members, which we will celebrate when they arrive.

For the opportunities in front of us, sharing in both compassion and stewardship with one another, we are thankful; and we continue to be deeply thankful for the commitment and generosity of the congregation in a multitude of ways, serving the needs of others, while embodying the love of Christ.

*Tripp*

**Stop Hunger Now**

March 8th, 5:00 p.m.

Fellowship Hall

**Global Missions  
Offering Sunday**

March 15th

**Auburn First Baptist Church • 128 E Glenn Avenue • Auburn, AL • [auburnfbc.org](http://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.

## Stop Hunger Now

Sunday, March 8th at 5:00 p.m.

### Fellowship Hall

The youth group has planned a meal-packaging event through Stop Hunger Now, using about \$3000 of their parking lot fund for missions, and has invited the church to join them in assembling these meals. Stop Hunger Now was established in 1998 and coordinates the distribution of food to crisis-burdened areas around the world. The assembly process combines rice, soy, dehydrated vegetables and a flavoring mix that includes 23 essential vitamins and minerals into small meal packages. The meals are shipped throughout the world to support school feeding programs, orphanages and crisis relief. The youth group, with the help of the congregation, has committed to packaging 10,000 meals together. With about forty volunteers, this is accomplished in about two hours.

## AFBC's JAIL MINISTRY: A YEAR-ROUND SERVICE TO WOMEN IN NEED

Nearly everybody who reads this article will be familiar with AFBC's church-wide Christmas box project for prisoners in the Lee County Jail. Along with seven other area churches, we make sure every man and woman – often about 400 people – gets a box of gifts.

But the jail ministry of AFBC's WMU is much broader than annual Christmas boxes. It involves a weekly service for the women who are incarcerated at any time, all year long.

It all began in 1989, when Helen Brown attended a breakout session during Missions Week at Shocco Springs, the session on prison ministries, led by a woman who was working in Phenix City, Alabama, under the auspices of the Prison Fellowship, an organization begun by Charles Colson in 1976 and now working in 16 countries. Helen attended the training course held in Montgomery, learned to use the materials written specifically to teach the Christian message to people in prisons, and by the fall of 1989, was ready to go.

Not only did the WMU, the ministerial staff, and the congregation of AFBC enthusiastically welcome the possibilities of this new ministry and support it, so did then Sheriff Herman Chapman, and his successors have continued to endorse the program. The WMU began by furnishing Bibles for the participants and continues to do so. For more than a decade, Helen did the rest of the work.

In recent years, other women in the church have joined her, beginning with Ann Crance and Mary Virginia Moore, then the musical team of Julia Morgan and Mary Joe Howard, and later, Vikki Miller. Ann manages the materials, Mary V. is the Bible teacher, Mary Joe leads the singing, and Julia plays the keyboard accompaniment, Vikki tells the story of the Prison Fellowship, and Helen is still the main teacher. When AFBC got new hymnals, 50 copies of the Baptist Hymnal were given to the Jail Ministry. Attendance is voluntary at the Thursday afternoon sessions, but there are usually 20 – 30 women who come to the service.

A couple of years ago, Helen saw the need for reading materials for the women, and collected paperback books for the jail's circulating library, now named in her honor.

Women are jailed for a lot of reasons, from minor matters such as failure to pay fines to serious crimes. But every one of them needs the message of God's love and forgiveness and a chance to do better. The love and care shown by the Jail Ministry Team can make a real difference in their lives, in jail and after they get out.

## Mark Your Calendar

### DayFriends

Tuesday, March 3rd, 11:45 a.m., Veggies to Go

### Brotherhood Breakfast

Sunday, March 8th, 8:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

### Caring Hands

Tuesday, March 10th, 5:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

### CDC Committee Meeting

Tuesday, March 10th, 5:30 p.m., Library

### Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday, March 12th, 5:00 p.m., Library

## Sunday Evening Adult Classes - 5:00 p.m.

Meeting March 1st & 15th

March 8th - Join the youth for

Stop Hunger Now

## Financial Peace Class

Seekers' Classroom

## Connecting Faith and Family

Activities Building

*What On Earth Am I Here For?*

A group for parents to share wisdom and support.

## Discipleship Training

Fellowship Hall

*Convictions: How I Learned What Matters Most* by Marcus J. Borg  
A six-week series of both lecture and discussion to process Borg's manifesto for progressive Christians who seek the path for following Jesus. When and where is salvation? Can the Bible be true without being literally true? What does God have to say about justice and the poor? It is recommended that participants have access to the book, but it is not required.

## Thursday Evening Bible Study

Thursdays, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

### PicturingLent

Lent is the season of the Church Year, where we prepare for the celebration of Easter, having first walked through significant events in the life of Jesus. As we enter into the season of Lent, which spans from Ash Wednesday to Easter morning, we will reflect on the symbols of this season. We are accustomed to the symbols of Advent and Christmas, but there are images throughout scripture that are indicative of this time of year as well, helping us reflect on the life of Jesus and preparing us for the joy of Easter morning.

### Financials as of January 31, 2015:

Budget	63,093.07
Contributions	40,987.14
Expenditures	43,664.05
<b>Year-to-date</b>	<b>-2,676.91</b>



### Thursday Nights

Brown Bag Meal Time, 5:15 p.m.  
Youth Hang Out Time, 5:45 p.m.

### Sunday nights

Youth Choir @ 5:00 p.m., Choir Room  
Youth Sunday Nights @ 6:00 p.m., Youth Room  
"Jesus and Relationships"

Stop Hunger Now  
meal packaging  
March 8th, 5:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall



### Passport Camp

July 12th-17th at Greensboro College, NC  
For info, go to [www.passportcamps.org](http://www.passportcamps.org)  
and click on Youth Camps

## 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Brasil Mission Trip

Plans are beginning for the 2015 Brasil Volunteer Mission Trip. The dates for the trip are July 11th through July 26th. Total cost has not yet been determined, but the best estimate is about \$2300. The activities of the team will be essentially the same as in recent years: construction work of a church building, Vacation Bible School, ESL classes, eye clinics for glasses fittings, worship and evangelistic efforts with a local congregation.

If you are interested in being a part of the team, contact Wallace Baldwin or Bob Stevenson. *The last date to commit is April 5th.*

### Blood Drive in the bloodmobile

Sunday, March 8th  
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.

All donors will receive a Recognition Item!

*Many thanks to our church family for coming out on Fat Tuesday to help us celebrate with a pancake supper and good fellowship! Thanks to your generosity, we will send a contribution of \$212 through ALCBF to Sowing Seeds of Hope for our shared ministry!*

**With thankful hearts, AFBC College Ministry**



Come join us for **Stop Hunger Now** on Sunday, March 8th at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

**Bible Study  
& Breakfast  
Sundays  
9:45 a.m.  
College Room**



Coming up:  
**College  
Sunday  
April 19th!**

*'Hear the word, then act on it!'*  
- James 1:22

Tuesday Night Bible Study  
Tuesdays 7:00 p.m.  
Free home-cooked meal  
followed by Bible study & music

### TNBS Meal Sign-Ups

March 3rd: Katharine Martin & Kellie Wilson  
March 10th: Melissa & Kyle Willian



### Church-wide SpudFest March 1<sup>st</sup>

Potato, Salad and Dessert Luncheon  
following worship in Fellowship Hall.

*The children will serve lunch to the congregation and earn tips to give to the mission organization that they choose collectively.*

### Sunday Evenings

Children's Choirs @ 5:00 p.m.  
Bible Encounter @ 6:00 p.m.  
Choir will not meet 3/8

Children are encouraged to participate in the Stop Hunger Now Event at 5:00 p.m. in Fellowship Hall

Spark adventure  
thursdays @ 5:50 p.m.  
education Building



**June 8th-12th? Coming to VBS!**

Save the date and join us to learn about serving God through providing clean water for Malawi, Africa.



**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.
<b>Sunday-1st</b>			
SpudFest .....	Fellowship Hall	12:00 p.m.	
Sanctuary Choir .....	Choir Room	3:15 p.m.	
Youth Choir .....	Choir Room	5:00 p.m.	
Children's Choirs .....	Education Building	5:00 p.m.	
Financial Peace Class .....	Seekers Classroom	5:00 p.m.	
Discipleship Training .....	Fellowship Hall	5:00 p.m.	
Connecting Faith and Family .....	Activities Building	5:00 p.m.	
Bible Encounter .....	Education Building	6:00 p.m.	
Youth Sunday Nights .....	Youth Room	6:00 p.m.	
<b>Tuesday-3rd</b>			
DayFriends .....	Veggies to Go	11:45 a.m.	
College TNBS .....	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
<b>Wednesday-4th</b>			
Conversational English .....	Education Building	9:00 a.m.	
<b>Thursday-5th</b>			
First Bells .....	Hanbell Room	12:45 p.m.	
Youth Hang Out Time .....	Youth Room	5:45 p.m.	
Spark Adventure .....	Education Building	5:50 p.m.	
<b>Saturday-7th</b>			
Youth Missions Monthly .....	Community Market	11:30 a.m.	
<b>Sunday-8th</b>			
Blood Drive .....	Parking Lot	8:00 a.m.	
Brotherhood Breakfast .....	Fellowship Hall	8:00 a.m.	
Sanctuary Choir .....	Choir Room	3:15 p.m.	
Stop Hunger Now .....	Fellowship Hall	5:00 p.m.	
<b>Tuesday-10th</b>			
Caring Hands .....	Fellowship Hall	5:15 p.m.	
CDC Committee Meeting .....	Library	5:30 p.m.	
College TNBS .....	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
<b>Wednesday-11th</b>			
Converational English .....	Education Building	9:00 a.m.	
<b>Thursday-12th</b>			
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 March**

**Loaves & Fishes:** Mary Marthas  
**Greeters:** Todd Miller, Sharlene McDaniel  
**Offering:** Youth  
**Visitors:** McClanahans

**Serving March 1st**

**Counters:** Dwayne Beckett, Lois Graves, Bill Faurot  
**Sound & Light:** Andrew Yohn  
**Extended Session:** Alison Crosby, Lynn Eden, Cynthia Smithart, Jeannie Eddins, Denise Stoeckel

**Serving March 8th**

**Counters:** Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Gladys Thomas  
**Sound & Light:** David Sutton  
**Extended Session:** Amber Berry-Moore, Ronda West, Steffany Arce, Suzanne Parish, Kathleen Sabo

**Ministerial Staff**

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