

AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

October 15, 2015

Vol. 6 Issue 49

REFLECTIONS by Tripp Martin

I recently heard Tom Long, Bandy Professor Emeritus of Preaching at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, talk about the practice of squinting. It is a spiritual practice, which has always been vital to the church. I immediately thought about what it feels like to take off my glasses or to take out my contacts, and try to squint in order to see just a little bit clearer. It gives us slightly more focus.

The church has always learned how to squint, whether we are looking out at the world, discovering the kingdom of God in our midst, or we are looking in the mirror at ourselves, seeing the body of Christ. When we look in the mirror, we must learn how to squint in order to notice what is happening before us. We squint, so we can see the Spirit of God, which resists the spotlight, making the Spirit hard to notice.

When we squint and look at Auburn First Baptist, there is so much to see and to discover. We see our children, standing at the front of the sanctuary and serving communion on Children's Sabbath; but then we squint, and we also see deep faith formation, learning the practice of service and worship, which shapes their lives and souls. We watch the Committee on Committees do its work, asking someone to join a committee for a three-year term; but then we squint, and we also see how people truly invest in a community that means a great deal to them, sharing their time and talents in a way that is life-giving to everyone.

We look at a college student, clutching a bulletin and listening to the choir sing its anthem; but then we squint, and we also see how this congregation impacts his or her life now as well as in a lasting way. We look out at Sunday school classes, seeing open Bibles and lively discussions; but then we squint, and we also see how asking important questions gives energy and hope to people's faith, making the inroads of faith deeper in their lives.

We look at the communion table in the sanctuary, and we see the breaking of bread and the pouring of the cup; but then we squint, and we also see a feast of grace, gathering people together in ways that are rare and holy. We look and see people in the congregation, reaching out and inviting others; but then we squint, and we also see people generously sharing what they have received in this place. The practice of squinting helps us to see more clearly, discovering the abundance around us, while we discover again how the church is the body of Christ.

-Tripp

Pledge Sunday
October 25th

Pledge Sunday is a time for our church to prepare for the ministries and missions of our church in 2016. You will receive by email or post mail an Estimate of Giving card. We hope each of you will prayerfully consider how your financial support will enable our continued service to the church family, community, and world in the name of Christ.

**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.

WMU CHRISTMAS JAIL MINISTRY PROJECT 2015

Starting now on the annual project to offer kindness at Christmas to the inmates of Lee County Jail will make sure we have the Christmas boxes ready for their Christmas program.

For the past few years, members of our congregation have shown a preference for donating \$15 and letting the Jail Ministry Committee shop for the contents of the boxes. Checks should be made to AFBC (notation: Jail Ministry Christmas Project.) Early checks would be appreciated!

The \$15 check covers the cost of "The Gospel of John", a devotional book, 10 envelopes, 4 pens, 5 stamps, 5 Christmas cards (to send), a game book, a deck of playing cards and candy.

Several churches share the work of preparing 400 boxes (total inmates). Auburn First Baptist and Opelika United Methodist each prepare 150 boxes; several small churches in Auburn and Opelika prepare the rest.

PRODUCTION LINE

9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 15th, Fellowship Hall
VOLUNTEERS ARE VERY, VERY WELCOME!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT THE JAIL

Wednesday, December 16th

The program is repeated all day for groups of prisoners. Usually, our church is the focus of the one o'clock program. For a real Christmas blessing, please plan to attend.

Co-chairs for the shoe box program are Mary Joe Howard and Vikki Miller. Other Jail Ministry team members are Helen Brown, leader, Ann Crance, Mary Virginia Moore and Julia Morgan.

Loaves and Fishes - 1 week Opportunities

After rearranging the Loaves and Fishes schedule for the holidays, we are in need of volunteers to prepare meals for the following weeks: Nov 10th and Nov 17th. Perhaps your class or group is already participating, but you would like to sign up for just one additional week. Or perhaps, you have not participated in Loaves and Fishes before and this would be an opportunity for a smaller commitment of just one meal. If your group could arrange to prepare the meal, but do not have the time available on Tuesday morning to put the meal together, Teresa Vest, Loaves and Fishes Coordinator, would be available to package the meal in the containers.

Flu Shot Clinic Rescheduled

October 22nd, 4-6 p.m., Fishers' Classroom
BCBS, PHIP and Medicare cards will be accepted. The cost for others is \$25.

Senior Adult Trip

Friday, October 16 - The Biblical History Center

The Senior Adults will make a one-day trip to LaGrange, Georgia to visit The Biblical History Center (formerly the Explorations in Antiquity Center.) Church vans will leave the Gay Street parking lot at 8:00 a.m. Friday, October 16 and return around 4:30 p.m. They will tour the museum and all its archeological replicas and outdoor exhibits, have a four-course biblical meal consisting of 15 different foods and enjoy admission to the Biblical Life Artifacts Gallery, which houses 250 biblical artifacts.

Cookie Walk

Saturday, December 5, 8:00a.m. - 1:00p.m.

Grace United Methodist Church

25,000+ homemade cookies! Plan to bake and donate cookies! Come walk through and buy cookies as well. Proceeds benefit Habitat for Humanity through Auburn's WeHELP Coalition.

Mark Your Calendars

Senior Adult Luncheon

October 20, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall

DayFriends

October 20, 11:45 a.m., Acapulco's

Deacons' Meeting

October 20, 6:30 p.m., Seeker's Classroom

Business Meeting

October 22, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Caring Hands

October 27, 5:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Sr. Adult Dinner Out

October 28, 5:00 p.m., Good Ol' Boys

Poinsettia Orders

Poinsettias will be placed in the sanctuary for the Christmas season. You may order these flowers in memory or in honor of a loved one by completing the information below and returning it to the church office with your check by November 15th. The cost per plant is \$15.00. Poinsettias may be picked up after the December 27th morning worship service.

In Memory of: _____

In Honor of: _____

By: _____



Youth Choir

Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Choir Rm

Youth Sunday Nights

6:00 p.m., Youth Room

Parent Volunteers:

18th: Brad Cook

25th: Kellie Wilson

Thursday Nights

Brown Bag Meal Time

5:15 p.m., F. H.

Youth Hang Out Time

5:45 p.m., Youth Rm

No Evening Activities 10/29

Winter Youth Summit

Deadline to sign up: October 25

Cost: \$150



BIG HOUSE DONATIONS

Big House is in need of the following donations. You can drop these items in the bucket located in the hallway outside of the church office. New packages of underwear (girls and boys, 2T – adult sizes), toiletries (deodorants, shampoos, tooth brushes), brushes, combs, pony tail holders.



Bible Study & Breakfast

Sundays, 9:45 a.m.

College Room (Activities Building)

College Tuesday Night Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.

College Room (Activities Building)

Fellowship. Service. Special Activities.

Downtown Trick or Treat

All college students are invited to help pass out candy in downtown Auburn on Thursday, October 29th. Wear your Halloween costume and get ready for a fun night! We'll meet in the AFBC College Room at 4:30 p.m. to get our candy, and we'll be stationed at our table downtown from 5:00-8:00 p.m. Join us as we participate in the life of our community!

Adult Sunday Evening Activities

Connecting Faith and Family

Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Fisher's classroom (new location)
Discussion and support about parenting and intentional spiritual growth, based on "What On Earth Am I Here For."

Discipleship Training

Not Meeting October 18

Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Mike McClanahan continues the study entitled "Embracing Spiritual Awakening." This is a 5 DVD session and group discussion featuring Dr. Diana Butler Bass.

Thursday Evening Bible Study

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

Years ago, I learned the coined-phrase, which is not uncommon, "third-verse theology." In some traditions, it is routine to skip the third verse of a hymn, as in singing verses one, two, and four. On occasion at AFBC, we might skip a verse due to limited time left in worship, but we regularly sing all of the verses of each hymn. The practice of skipping the third verse prompted people to ask, "What do we miss without the third verse?" Our hymns communicate theology, so over the next several weeks, we will look at the theology of many of our third verses.

October 15th: No Evening Activities

October 22nd: Business Meeting

October 29th: No Evening Activities

November 5th: Where Cross the Crowded Ways of Life



A Trip to the Pumpkin Patch!

Lazenby's Farm - Saturday, October 24, 10:00 a.m.

Hayride and pumpkin- \$8 (hayride only, \$4)

Children's Choirs 5:00 p.m.

Bible Encounter 6:00 p.m.

Sundays, Education Building

Spark Adventure

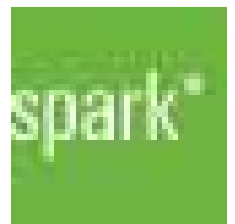
Thursdays @ 5:50 P.M., Ed. Bldg.

Adult Helpers:

Oct. 15: No Evening Activities

Oct. 22: Katharine Martin

Oct. 29: No Evening Activities





**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- 15th

First Bells Choir Room 12:30 p.m.
No Evening Activities

Sunday- 18th

Sanctuary Choir Choir Room 3:15 p.m.
Children's Choirs Education Building 5:00 p.m.
Connecting Faith and Family Fishers' Classroom 5:00 p.m.
Youth Choir Choir Room 5:00 p.m.
Bible Encounter Education Building 6:00 p.m.
YSN Youth Room 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday- 20th

Senior Adult Luncheon Fellowship Hall 11:00 a.m.
DayFriends Acapulco's 11:45 a.m.
Deacons' Meeting Seekers' Classroom 6:30 p.m.
TNBS College Room 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday- 21st

Conversational English Education Building 9:00 a.m.

Thursday- 22nd

First Bells Choir Room 12:30 p.m.
Youth Hang Out Time Youth Room 5:45 p.m.
Spark Adventure Education Building 5:50 p.m.
Business Meeting Fellowship Hall 5:45 p.m.

Saturday- 24th

Children's Pumpkin Patch Trip Lazenby's Farm 10:00 a.m.

Sunday- 25th

Sanctuary Choir Choir Room 3:15 p.m.
Children's Choirs Education Building 5:00 p.m.
Connecting Faith and Family Fishers' Classroom 5:00 p.m.
Discipleship Training Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.
Youth Choir Choir Room 5:00 p.m.
Bible Encounter Education Building 6:00 p.m.
YSN Youth Room 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday- 27th

Caring Hands Fellowship Hall 5:15 p.m.
TNBS College Room 7:00 p.m.

Wednesday- 28th

Conversational English Education Building 9:00 a.m.
Senior Adult Dinner Out Good Ol' Boys 5:00 p.m.

Thursday- 29th

First Bells Choir Room 12:30 p.m.
No Evening Activities

Serving the Month of October

Loaves & Fishes: Pilgrims

Greeters: Nancy Roberts, Hazel Lee, Danae Sandusky

Offering: College

Visitors: Grimes and N. Roberts

Serving October 18th

Counters: Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Gladys Thomas

Sound & Light: Lindsay Crosby

Extended Session: Alison Crosby, Alan Walker, Kellie Wilson, Anna Coxwell, Addison Meeks, Terri Wood, Mary Lynn Porter

Serving October 25th

Counters: Wallace Baldwin, Donna Bennett, Hazel Lee

Sound & Light: Andrew Yohn

Extended Session: Beth Smith, Carolyn Thompson, Suzanne Parish, Paula Turnham, Victoria Eden, Leah Duzy, Katharine Martin

Ministerial Staff

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