

# AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



July 15, 2016

Vol. 6 Issue 64

## **REFLECTIONS** by Tripp Martin

As the weeks of summer continue to come and go and the work on the ceiling of the sanctuary continues at a good pace, we are getting closer to moving back into the sanctuary. In the next couple weeks, we will be able to identify the first Sunday we will be back in the sanctuary for worship. The construction crew has worked diligently and meticulously. Right now, we estimate moving back into the sanctuary around the first of August, which is good timing because it is before the beginning of classes for the city schools as well as for Auburn University.

During these weeks, as we have been displaced, we have also gained much. We have been reminded of the changing seasons of life and faith, and what it means to keep the faith “in season and out of season.” Even in our displacement, feeling “out of season,” we have found latent gifts in our experience. Many times disorientation points us in a good direction.

We have gained the gift of new perspective. From time to time, we can forget all that we hear and see in worship. The routine of worship is essential, but occasionally, experiencing worship out of our normal routine is also helpful. We have sat in different seats, looking from a different point of view, and listening from a different place in the room. Different people have even surrounded us. All of this has enriched the meaning of worship.

We have also been reminded of something that is always true, but we rarely notice. We are accustomed to sitting in the same room for worship, so we can forget that wherever we are, we find God. If two or three gather in the name of God, joining their lives together, worship takes place. We have seen this again, as we have gathered in a different place on the Lord’s Day.

We are aware yet again that no room binds the gifts of our choir. They have continued to lead us in song, bringing to life our faith through the hymns of the Church. We are also reminded that our worship is marked by our coming and going, wherever we gather. We come together in order to share the journey of faith and then we are sent forth in order to love God and to love our neighbor throughout this world.

Lastly, we are grateful. Our gratitude for our beautiful sanctuary has been renewed because we have been away from it. Its stained glass windows, its history, its prayer-soaked walls, its reverence, its organ, and its strength are gifts for which we are thankful. Our gratitude is at the forefront of our minds and hearts, as we look forward to returning to our place of worship.

### **Looking Ahead...**

**Promotion Sunday**  
*August 14th*

#### **Pancake Breakfast**

*9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall*

#### **Bibles, Trees, & Backpacks**

*11:00 a.m. Worship Service*

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334.887.8506 • [auburnfbc@mindspring.com](mailto: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.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### **Deacons' Meeting**

*Tuesday, July 19th, 6:30 p.m.  
Seekers' Classroom*

### **Quarterly Business Meeting**

*Thursday, July 21st, 5:45 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall*

### **Youth Committee Meeting**

*Sunday, July 24th, 12:00 p.m.  
Library*

## **Thursday Evening Activities**

*5:15 p.m. Brown Bag Meal Time*

*6:00 p.m. Bible Study*

*July 21: Business Meeting*

*July 28: Led by Laura Edgar*

*August 4: Led by Tripp Martin*

*August 11: Brazil Mission Team Report*

*August 18: Passport Campers' Reports*

*August 25: James Blay*

James Blay is from Liberia and is a graduate of the McAfee School of Theology. When James came from Liberia, he had worked at the Ricks Institute, and now upon graduation, he is returning to work there again. Ricks is a school started by Baptists, but it was partially destroyed during the Civil War in Liberia. It provides a quality education for children who need it. James is coming to share his story with us as well as the work of The Ricks Institute. He has several connections to Auburn First Baptist because he has worked at Passport for years.

## **REACH**

REACH is a Respite Care Ministry for the community, which will be located at AUMC. Reach will be offered on the third Tuesday of each month this summer (July 15 & August 16) from 10:00 - 2:00 p.m. with lunch provided. The cost is \$30/day and is for persons with early to moderate memory issues. Please contact Rev. Julie Hare at 334-826-8800 ext. 232 or [julie.hare@aumc.net](mailto:julie.hare@aumc.net) with questions or to sign up.

## **International Language Ministry** *By Charlotte Ward*

On May 11, the International English Conversation program completed its twentieth year of helping international residents and visitors to our community improve their English conversational skills.

The English program grew out of a "cultural exchange" begun in the 1960s by Jeannette Jeffers. Most international women in those days were wives of graduate students at Auburn University. Jeannette saw the need to help these women far from home acclimate to life in America. The program soon outgrew her kitchen and moved to the church, where Ada Ware and Ruth Alford, along with many others, helped young women from around the world learn how to live comfortably in American society.

By the 1990s, there were not only students and student's wives, but also members of a growing Asian community as well as men and women from Latin America and Europe coming here to work.

When Jo Randall joined the program, she realized the greatest need of the international community was instruction in conversational English. She launched our current program, welcoming both men and women, in September of 1996.

I began working with the International program shortly after I retired in 1994, so I have been associated with the English classes since the beginning, teaching both advanced and beginner's classes. As Jo's successor, I try to present an interesting twenty minutes each Wednesday on current holidays; local, state, and national lore; and American heroes.

Mary Virginia Moore has also been with the program from the start, as our record-keeper and assistant director. Neda Hill is our longest-serving teacher, followed by Peggy Johnson, who started teaching when she retired as church secretary. Angie Conway, from AUMC, is Peggy's teaching partner.

Over the years, we have mourned the deaths of Jay Deese, Dot Geiger, and Billie Ruth Wood, who were there from the beginning. Now we have lost Jo. Anne Crance, a teacher; Frances Stevenson, our music maker; Ruth Alford, our gracious hostess from the beginning; and Alice Martin have retired. The staff now includes Nancy Webster, hostess; Merle Bass, cookie lady; and teachers; Betsy Jordan, Ginny McIntyre, and Leigh Anne Armstrong.

We have five teaching levels, and really need a sixth, as the beginner class has a wider range of abilities than optimum. So in spite of our glorious history, this is a plea for help.

We need a teacher for the very beginning level of competency. We really need a partner for Leigh Anne, whose work schedule sometimes includes Wednesdays. We also need people we can call on to fill in when someone has an emergency. And some of us are well past retirement age.

So if you are a woman OR man with two hours (9 to 11 a.m.) free on Wednesday mornings, please consider spending them with us. We have two 45-minute teaching sessions with a snack break group time in between. You can learn on the job by partnering with a current teacher. The Alabama Baptist Convention also offers weekend training sessions once or twice a year.

Classes need to be small to be effective, so with a typical annual enrollment of about fifty students, the need for new classes is always a possibility.

This is a very successful ministry of our church to the growing international community in Auburn and Opelika. Come and be a part of it.



**Thursday Nights**  
 5:15 p.m. Brown Bag  
 5:45 Youth Hang Out

## YOUTH S

July 17 - The Martins

July 24 - The Meeks

July 31 - The Edens

## Launch Retreat

Saturday July 30th

Join us as we kick off a new year in youth ministry! This will be a formational time for our group as we work, learn, pray, and grow

**T O G E T H E R**



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



Whether you are coming to Auburn as a first time student or coming back for a new semester, we want to welcome you. Come meet new friends and experience what it means to be welcomed into this place.

Enjoy games, the Auburn University Challenge Course, devotions, eating together, and more.

Cost includes all meals, ropes course fees, and t-shirt.  
 Register at [www.auburnfbc.org](http://www.auburnfbc.org)



# Building Sanctuary

*We are grateful for the commitment and generosity of the congregation. It's not too late to give to Building Sanctuary. Gifts can be placed in the offering plate or brought to the church office.*

The work on the sanctuary continues to go well. The new ceiling is in place, painting is complete and light fixtures are installed. We now enter the cleanup phase.

**Sanctuary Choir will not meet for rehearsal during July.**

*Practice will resume on August 4th.*

## Fall Bible Study

The Book of Ruth  
 Led by Tripp Martin

Begins August 14, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

We will discuss the story of Ruth, and how her story helps us understand the story of the people of God and the ways in which we discover God at work. The short story of Ruth speaks of struggle and faithfulness, commitment and redemption. It deals with life in real terms without reducing faith to something that is simplistic. In the story of Ruth, faith is the unexpected journey, the endurance of devotion, and the surprise of grace. We will also discover what the story of Ruth says about the history of Israel and the broader story of the Old Testament as well as the hope of Jesus the Christ.



**Spark Adventure**  
 Thursdays @ 5:50 P.M., Ed. Bldg.

**Helpers:**

July 21st: Gwynne Lovelady  
 July 28th: Katharine Martin





**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.

**Sunday- 17th**

Youth SOS ..... The Martin's 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday - 19th**

Deacons' Meeting ..... Seekers' Classroom 6:30 p.m.

**Thursday- 21st**

Business Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall 5:45 p.m.

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

Spark Adventure ..... Education Building 5:50 p.m.

*No Sanctuary Choir*

**Sunday- 24th**

Youth Committee Meeting ..... Library 12:00 p.m.

Youth SOS ..... The Meeks' 6:00 p.m.

**Wednesday- 27th**

Senior Adults' Dinner Out ..... Good Ol' Boys 5:00 p.m.

**Thursday- 28th**

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

Spark Adventure ..... Education Building 5:50 p.m.

*No Sanctuary Choir*

**Saturday- 30th**

Youth Launch Retreat ..... Meet in Gay St Lot 9:00 a.m.

**Sunday- 31st**

Youth SOS ..... The Eden's 6:00 p.m.

**Serving the Month of July**

**Greeters:** Brenda McCord, Nancy Roberts, Dee Williams, Dick Graves

**Offering:** Pilgrims

**Visitors:** Oyette & Brenda Chambliss

**Serving July 17th**

**Counters:** Dwayne Beckett, Lois Graves, Bill Faurot

**Sound & Light:** Lindsay Crosby

**Extended Session:** Ruthie Spiers, Lynn Eden, Lynli Cantrell-Wright, Kellie Wilson, Cynthia Smithart, Beth Smith, Terri Wood, Mary Lynn Porter

**Loaves & Fishes:** Intergenerational Women

**Serving July 24th**

**Counters:** Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Lavaughn Johnson

**Sound & Light:** Andrew Yohn

**Extended Session:** Suzanne Parish, Victoria Eden, Alan Walker, Leah Duzy, Terri Wood, Mary Lynn Porter

**Loaves & Fishes:** Cindy Cleveland

**Serving July 31st**

**Counters:** Wallace Baldwin, Donna Bennett, Hazel Lee

**Sound & Light:** David Sutton

**Extended Session:** Marcie Smith, Kelly Meeks, Amber Berry-Moore, Steven Eden, Suzanne Parish, Ruthie Spiers

**Ministerial Staff**

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