

AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

December 1, 2016

Vol. 6 Issue 73

REFLECTIONS by Tripp Martin

We gathered in the sanctuary about a week ago on a Tuesday afternoon in order to put together the Chrismon trees and to hang wreaths outside the church. Members of the Flower Committee and of the congregation gathered to decorate for Advent and Christmas, adorning the sanctuary with signs of the season. The nativity scene was carefully placed in the vestibule, and greenery was hung in the balcony and choir loft.

The hands of the church were busy decorating our sanctuary, where we would celebrate the birth of Jesus. They decorated the sanctuary, so it would invite us to remember. It was one of those behind-the-scene moments of congregational care and preparation. It was setting the stage for singing the carols of this season and sharing the light of Christ on Christmas Eve, as we hold up candles together in the dusk of the evening.

It was indicative of the beauty of this season, as congregations worship, families gather to eat, people serve others, and voices sing about the love of God. On the First Sunday in Advent, we sang, "Christians all, your Lord is coming, drawing near in holy birth. Ring the bells and sound the trumpets, let your music fill the earth." The decorations of the sanctuary help us fill the earth with our music, as we anticipate the coming of Christ into the world.

Potluck & Special Called Business Meeting

December 1st, 5:15 p.m., Coleman Fellowship Hall

Please bring a dish to share (meat, side, or dessert) for this potluck meal. The drinks and paper products will be provided.

The Following items will be on the agenda:

A report from the Committee on Committees, a report from the Stewardship Committee (2017 budgets), & election of deacons.

A Season of Music

Sunday Evening, December 4, 6:15 p.m.

Family Night at Christmas

with music from our
*Preschool Choir, Children's Choirs,
Youth Choir, and First Bells*

Followed by our renowned
Cookie Fellowship

Bring your favorite cookies to share.

Sunday morning, December 11, 11:00 a.m.

Comin' Is a Glorious Light!

*a choral celebration of God's gift in Jesus
led by our Sanctuary Choir and instrumentalists*

The hands of the church set the stage for our singing during this time of year, but also throughout the year. In many behind-the-scene actions of congregational care and preparation, the stage is set for us to gather and to remember the love of God. It happens not only in the sanctuary, but also throughout the church, where people create space for community and grace.

Every time we worship, we give thanks for the many hands of the church. As we depart from worship, we carry with us the community and grace we have received. We enlarge the circle of our lives by taking the love of God with us. We share it with others in many behind-the-scenes moments. We take the church with us, where it is needed, for the beauty we witness in worship is needed by the world.

-Tripp

***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.

Christmas and New Year's Day

Every so many years, December 25 and January 1 fall on a Sunday, which is the case this year. As we do every year, we will look forward to gathering on Christmas Eve at 6:00 p.m. for Carols, Candles, and Communion. After the busy weeks of December, we are able to gather in the stillness of these moments to reflect and to remember the birth of Jesus. On Sundays, December 25 and January 1, we will not have Sunday School, but we will gather for worship at 11:00 a.m. For Christmas Day, it will be a time to celebrate the hope, peace, joy, and love of Christmas, as we come to worship with the fullness of our Advent expectations finally complete. On January 1, we will be able to take our first steps into 2017 by gathering to give thanks to God. We are thankful for the sacred rhythms and routines of the church, as they shape and form our lives. On Sunday, December 25, casual attire is welcome.

The Art of Advent



On the Second Sunday in Advent, December 4, we will welcome Lisle Gwynn Garrity to help lead in worship through art. During the service, Lisle will create a painting based on the theme of the service as well as Advent. Lisle is a graduate of Davidson College, where she majored in English (and unofficially minored in visual art). After being offered a fellowship to attend seminary, Lisle completed Master's degrees in Divinity and Practical Theology (with a concentration in worship) at Columbia Theological Seminary in Atlanta. Lisle is an artist, retreat leader, and worship consultant, working primarily within the Presbyterian Church (USA). As an artist, she loves to get her hands messy using just about any medium, including paint, clay, charcoal, pastel, fabric, and film. Serving the church at-large, Lisle travels widely to share her gifts as an artist and pastor. Learn more about her work by visiting lislegwynngarrity.com and sanctifiedart.org.



Committee Night

January 8th, 6:15 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 Sunday morning, January 8. (Childcare will be provided.)

Poinsettias

The poinsettias placed in our sanctuary and throughout the church for Christmas are placed in Memory or Honor of those listed.

In Honor of:

Choir Leaders & Workers
Laura Edgar & Seth Kochera
Tripp & Katharine Martin
J.D. & Hunter Martin
Jackie Hundley
The Church Staff
The Sojourners Sunday School
Ruth & Bill Alford
Camry, Alexis, & Nick
Tripp & Katharine Martin
Mark & Kellie Wilson
Trista Slaughter
Driggers Family
The Church Staff

Given by:

The Popwells
Oxford & Phyllis Smith
Milton & Kathy Matrin
Pops & Kaki
Flarcie Hopkins
Marcie Smith
Cathy & Jason Summers
Brenda & Warren McCord
Stephanie Renuart
Friends
Friends
Friends
Mary Joe Howard
Dale & Libby Peterson

In Memory of:

Paul & Clois Shoffeitt
David & Lamena Browning
Charles Potter

Gene Stevenson
Curtis Ward
J.W. Bearden
Robert Earl & Eden F. Christmas
Inez & Walter Sowell
My Husband, Tom Conner Brown
Bruce & Valencia Carr
My Parents & Brother
Jo Randall &
John & Jeanette Jeffers
Claude H. Moore
Our Parents
Agee M. Wiggins
Lorene Burlison
Fran & Gil Rollins
Doug Rollins
Ruth Marie Stevenson
Our Parents
Jonnie Dee Riley Little
Our Parents
John & Jeanette Jeffers

Given by:

Jean, Paul, & Mary
Oxford & Phyllis Smith
Mary Ann Potter,
Cliff & Charlann
Mavis Stevenson & Family
Charlotte Ward & Children
His Family
Edna Earl Christmas
Their Family
Helen Brown
Amber & Charlie Moore
Mary Ann Dell

Mary Virginia Moore
Mary Virginia Moore
Peggy & Lavaughn Johnson
Sarah and Family
Bill & Ruth Alford
Their Family
His Family
Bob & Frances Stevenson
Jo & John K. Jones
The Ted Little Family
Dale & Libby Peterson
Dale & Libby Peterson

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

DayFriends

Tuesday, December 13th, 11:45 a.m., Chappy's

Church Office Closed

December 23rd, 26th, 27th, 30th & January 2nd



Faith in 3D
January 13-16
Orlando, FL
Total Cost: \$430



Youth Sunday Nights
Last Meeting for 2016:
December 4
Youth Choir
5:00 p.m., Choir Room
Bible Study
Resumes in January

Thursday Nights
Last Meeting for 2016:
December 1
5:15 p.m. Brown Bag
5:45 p.m. Hang Out Time

Christmas Party
December 11th
6:00-8:00 p.m.
Hosted by the Eden's
Food, fun, and games!
Bring a gift of no more than
\$10 for Dirty Santa.

**Christmas Gathering for
Sparkman Community**
December 11th
4:00-5:30 p.m.

Be there at 3:30 p.m. to help
set up. Rides provided from
this event to the party.

Sunday Evening Adult Activities

Last Meeting of 2016 is December 4
Connecting Faith and Family
5:00 p.m., Fishers' Classroom
Discipleship Training
5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

J-Term Class, by Tripp Martin

Sundays Beginning January 22nd, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall
Sabbath: More Than A Day

Throughout the history of the church, the practice of Sabbath has shaped the life of faith, but the "shoulds" and the "oughts" of Sabbath have clouded its meaning. During a time when we feel the frustrations of an overcrowded calendar with less gaps and more demands, the gift of Sabbath can help us regain our perspective of each week. We might feel as if multitasking is as natural as breathing, but it can also feel like we are chasing life, instead of receiving each day. The practice of Sabbath is not an easy solution, but it is a deep well, full of guidance. Each week, we face homework and tests, meetings and catch-up work, unwritten demands and unsaid expectations, calendar reminders and forgotten tasks. Reclaiming the meaning of Sabbath, which is more than a day, can restore our posture towards these pressures.



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

College Tuesday Night Bible Study
Resumes January 17th

JAIL MINISTRY PROJECT 2016

PRODUCTION LINE

9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 13th
Fellowship Hall

VOLUNTEERS ARE VERY, VERY WELCOME!

CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT THE JAIL

Wednesday, December 21st

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.

2017 Thursday Evening Activities

5:15 p.m. - Brown Bag Meal Time
6:00 p.m. - Prayer and Bible Study
Begin Thursday, January 5

"What They Saw"

We will begin a series of conversations about several minor characters in scripture. By minor, we do not mean less important, but rather, less examined. We will look at several stories of scripture from their perspective, standing in a different place within the story ourselves and seeing what we discover. We will talk about Bilhah, Miriam, Jonathan, Joanna, Martha of Bethany, and Andrew. Through their eyes, we will take a look and see what we discover.



Preschool Birthday Party for Jesus

December 11th, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

If you would like to participate, we will be donating unwrapped, new toys to Toys for Tots.

Children's Choir (2* year olds - 5th Grade)

Last Meeting for 2016: December 4th
Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Education Building

*We ask that all attendees be potty trained.

Bible Encounter (1st - 5th graders)

Resumes in January

Spark Adventure

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

Helper December 1st: Leigh Anne Armstrong

No other meetings in December

Resumes January 5th, 2017





**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

Handbell Rehearsal Choir Room 12:30 p.m.
Special Called Business Meeting .. Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.
Youth Hangout Time Youth Room 5:45 p.m.
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal Choir Room 6:45 p.m.

Sunday - 4th

Ladies Lunch Bunch Full Moon BBQ 12:00 p.m.
Children's Choir Education Building 5:00 p.m.
Youth Choir Choir Room 5:00 p.m.
Connecting Faith and Family Fishers' Classroom 5:00 p.m.
Discipleship Training Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.
Family Night at Christmas Sanctuary 6:15 p.m.

followed by The Cookie Fellowship

Wednesday - 7th

Conversational English Education Building 9:00 a.m.

Thursday - 8th

No Evening Activities

Sunday - 11th

Youth Hosts Sparkman Party Sparkman 3:30 p.m.
Preschool Birthday Party Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.
Youth Christmas Party Edens' Home 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday - 13th

Jail Ministry Production Line Fellowship Hall 9:00 a.m.

Thursday - 15th

No Evening Activities

Sunday - 18th

No Evening Activities

Thursday - 22nd

No Evening Activities

Saturday - 24th

Christmas Eve Service Sanctuary 6:00 p.m.

Sunday - 25th

No Sunday School

Morning Worship Sanctuary 11:00 a.m.

Casual Attire is Welcome

Thursday - 29th

No Evening Activities

Serving the Month of December 2016

Greeters: Todd Miller, Dick Graves

Serving December 4th, 2016

Counters: Dwayne Beckett, Lois Graves, Bill Faurot **Sound & Light:** David Sutton **Extended Session:** Peggy Johnson, Amber Moore, Kelly Meeks, Joan Layne, Addison Meeks **Loaves & Fishes:** Pilgrims

Serving December 11th, 2016

Counters: Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Lavaughn Johnson **Sound & Light:** Chad Parish **Extended Session:** Beth Smith, Carolyn Thompson, Lee Alice Johnson, Andy Yohn, Anna Parish **Loaves & Fishes:** Pilgrims

Serving December 18th, 2016

Counters: Wallace Baldwin, Donna Bennett, Hazel Lee **Sound & Light:** Addison Meeks **Extended Session:** Marcie Smith, Brad Smithart, Denise Stoeckel, Teresa Vest, Benjamin Wilson **Loaves & Fishes:** Cathy Summers

Serving December 25th, 2016

Counters: Aaron Greene, Bill Webster, James Nichols **Extended Session:** Alison Crosby, Brian Ledbetter, Amelia White, Mark Wilson, Stephen Eden **Loaves & Fishes:** Pilgrims

Ministerial Staff

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