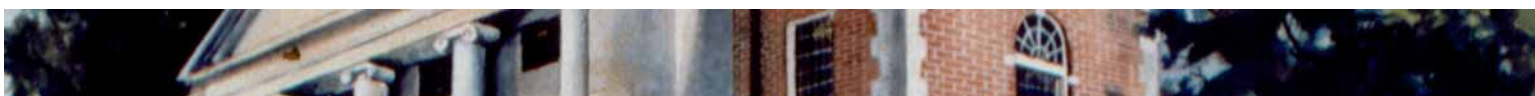


# AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



January 1, 2017

Vol. 6 Issue 74

## **R**EFLECTIONS by Tripp Martin

It seems like more than seven days have passed since we gathered on Christmas Eve, passing the Light of Christ from hand to hand, candle to candle, and then holding them together, as we gave witness to the coming of Christ. It is an extraordinary moment, standing there with everyone, singing *Silent Night*, *Holy Night*, and joining our hearts in worship. It is a striking moment, which changes how we see our ordinary moments.

As we passed the light from one hand to the next throughout the sanctuary, I wondered how often this actually takes place through the life of a congregation. How often do we offer the love of God to one another in the flesh without even realizing it? Is it monthly, weekly, daily? We are unable to quantify it, but it certainly happens more than we realize.

I wondered about taking that extraordinary moment and looking through it as a lens at our ordinary moments. The church's weekly schedule revolves around gathering and sending, whether it is for worship, committee meeting, or service project. Each and every time we gather, we pass the Light of Christ to one another in small ways. In the same way that Jesus traveled with his disciples, teaching, discussing, questioning, eating, laughing, crying and sharing with them, we see the Light of Christ in our ordinary moments.

As we begin this new year, we might look at the life of the congregation through this lens. We might specifically read the church newsletter through this lens. The newsletter is a calendar, reminder list, and source of information; but it might also be a place for ministry opportunities, shared study and prayer, and source of renewal. In these pages, we might witness the places where the Light of Christ is passed from hand to hand.

I understand this is not the usual way we read a newsletter, but perhaps it is a good exercise for looking at our ordinary moments, our gathering and sending, differently. It might help us imagine the presence of God around us and the sacred work of the church, which is often times disguised as a committee meeting or Sunday School lesson. As we watched the Light of Christ pass from hand to hand, we were reminded that we discover the presence of the love of God in the flesh through our interactions with others. We discover the love of God in our practice of the love of neighbor.

-Tripp

## Sunday, January 8th

### Deacon Ordination

11:00 a.m. *Worship Service*

### Committee Night

6:15 p.m., *Locations TBA*

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.)*

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

## **ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR!!!!**

### **Congratulations, AFBC Family!!!**

During quite a number of weeks, members of our church family have been working hard to make our project of Christmas boxes for inmates at Lee County Jail a success, and it was most successful!

You have supplied and wrapped shoe boxes, contributed \$15 for the cost of the contents of a box and contributed more than enough for the 750 stamps for the mailing of the five Christmas cards in each box. Many thanks for valiant work from all the Sunday School classes and others who wrapped boxes. Thanks is also due to Laura Edgar and our youth who helped package candy for the boxes.

Many, many thanks to the Jail Ministry Team: Helen Brown, Ann Crance, Mary Joe Howard, Vikki Miller, Mary Virginia Moore, and Julia Morgan. Other valiant helpers on Monday and/or Tuesday, December 12<sup>th</sup> and 13<sup>th</sup>, were Shirley Brown, Brenda Cantini, Jesse Cauley, Dan Morgan, Susan Hafner, Tripp Martin, Mary Virginia Moore, Ginny Radford, Charles Segrest and Ronda West.

Thanks to Lavaughn Johnson and Bill McIntyre for delivering the completed 150 Christmas boxes to Lee County Detention Center on Tuesday, December 20<sup>th</sup> and to Ray Brown, Jada Butler and Benjamin Driggers for helping to load the trucks. Jada Butler was invaluable help all three days. This wonderful person has helped in this project in so many ways throughout the year that there would not be space should we attempt to list them all. The same can be said of our fine office manager, Trista Slaughter.

We are also indebted to the Women's Missionary Union of Central Baptist Church, Opelika and to their leader Peggy Carroll for supplying, wrapping and delivering many of the boxes for us. This is their second year to do so.

Mary Joe Howard and Vikki Miller, co-chairs for the second year, declare this year's project a great success, indeed. They are greatly indebted to Helen Brown for her magnificent training through the years!

We are so grateful to every one of you who has ever helped with this work! May you continue to receive many blessing in having done so!

### **Advent De-decorating**

*Tuesday, January 3, 4:00 p.m.*

The Flower Committee will take down and put away all of the Advent decorations and need as many helpers as possible. Please plan to join them if you can.

## **New Year's Day**

On January 1, we will be able to take our first steps into 2017 by gathering to give thanks to God. We will gather around the Lord's Table for communion, marking the first day of the year by the everlasting and always new grace of God. We are thankful for the sacred rhythms and routines of the church, as they shape and form our lives.

### **2017 Thursday Evening Activities**

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

6:00 p.m. - Prayer and Bible Study

*Begins 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, Joanna, Martha of Bethany, and Andrew. Through their eyes, we will take a look and see what we discover.

### **MARK YOUR CALENDARS**

#### **Church Office Closed**

*Monday, January 2nd*

#### **Youth Committee Meeting**

*Sunday, January 8th, 12:00 p.m., Youth Room*

#### **Ladies Lunch Bunch**

*Sunday, January 8th, 12:30 p.m., The Depot*

#### **Committee Night**

*Sunday, January 8th, 6:15 p.m., Locations TBA*

#### **CDC Committee Meeting**

*Wednesday, January 11th, 5:30 p.m., Library*

#### **No Evening Activities**

*Sunday, January 15th*

#### **Church Office Closed**

*January 16th*

#### **Stewardship Committee Meeting**

*Thursday, January 19th, 5:00 p.m., Library*

#### **Deacons' Meeting**

*Tuesday, January 24th, 6:30 p.m., Seekers' Classroom*

#### **Business Meeting**

*Thursday, January 26th, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*



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

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

**Sunday Nights**  
**Youth Choir** 5:00 p.m., Choir Room  
 Resumes January 8th  
**Bible Study** 6:00 p.m., Youth Room  
 Resumes January 22nd

**BYPTC is coming!**

*Sunday, January 8th, 5:00 p.m.*

Parents: do you ever wonder *exactly* what your children and their friends do between 5:00 and 6:00pm on Sunday evenings when you bring them to choir? It's not ALL music (although it is that); nor is it ALL fun and games (although it is that as well).

Do you ever hear your teenagers singing something silly that blames you for compelling them to destroy a certain candy (the one that melts in your mouth and not in your hand), or singing numbers in strange orders for no apparent reason and wonder what's going on?

Well it's high time you knew! BYPTC stands for Bring Your Parents To Choir, and it's your opportunity to see (and perhaps participate in) choir with your child(ren) and/or teenager(s). What do you need to do? Just show up with your young-un(s) on Sunday afternoon, January 8<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m., and we'll take care of the rest!

**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.

**Meals for Tuesday Night Bible Study**

Thank you to all who volunteered to bring supper for the college students during the Fall semester! Your acts of service and caring made each Tuesday night a wonderful time for our college group. It's hard to believe, but it's already time to sign up for the Spring semester. Please support our college ministry by signing up to bring a meal for our students one Tuesday night this Spring.

*If you are interested in preparing a home cooked meal for our College Tuesday Night Bible Study this Spring, please email Laura at [lauraedgar@mindspring.com](mailto:lauraedgar@mindspring.com).*



**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)*

*Resumes January 17th*

**Fellowship. Service. Special Activities.**

**Lunch On Campus**

*Wednesdays, 11:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.*

*Resumes January 18<sup>th</sup>*



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

*Resumes January 8th*

*Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Education Building*

*\*We ask that all attendees be potty trained.*

**Bible Encounter (1st – 5th graders)**

*Resumes in January 22nd*

**Spark Adventure**

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

*January 5th: Kelly Meeks*

*January 12th: Julie McClanahan*





**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 - 1st**

*No Sunday School  
No Evening Activities*

**Tuesday - 3rd**

Advent De-decorating ..... Sanctuary 4:00 p.m.

**Thursday - 5th**

Youth Hangout Time ..... Youth Room 5:45 p.m.  
Spark ..... Education Building 5:50 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room 6:45 p.m.

**Sunday - 8th**

Deacon Ordination ..... Sanctuary 11:00 a.m.  
Children's Committee Meeting ..... Fellowship Hall 12:00 p.m.  
Youth Committee Meeting ..... Youth Room 12:00 p.m.  
Ladies Lunch Bunch ..... The Depot 12:30 p.m.  
Children's Choir ..... Education Building 5:00 p.m.  
Youth Choir ..... Choir Room 5:00 p.m.  
Committee Night ..... Fellowship Hall 6:15 p.m.

**Wednesday - 11th**

Conversational English ..... Education Building 9:00 a.m.  
CDC Committee Meeting ..... Library 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday - 12th**

Youth Hangout Time ..... Youth Room 5:45 p.m.  
Spark ..... Education Building 5:50 p.m.  
Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room 6:45 p.m.

**Friday - 13th**

Youth Depart for Faith in 3D

**Serving the Month of January**

**Greeters:** Nancy Roberts, Brenda McCord, Ted Little

**Visitors:** Carolyn Grimes, Nancy Roberts

**Loaves & Fishes:** Seekers

**Offering:** Adult 4

**Serving January 1, 2017**

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

**Sound & Light:** Lindsay Crosby

**Extended Session:** Carole Zugazaga, Ruthie Spiers, Sue Walker, Tiffany Myrick, Jason Summers

**Serving January 8, 2017**

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

**Sound & Light:** Andrew Yohn

**Extended Session:** Cindy Cleveland, Dean Myrick, Kathleen Sabo, Lynn Eden, Katharine Martin

**Ministerial Staff**

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Pastor  
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334-332-4100

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College and Young Adults  
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Associate Pastor for Music  
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Dale Peterson  
Minister of Music Emeritus/  
Composer in Residence

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