

# AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



February 1, 2017

Vol. 6 Issue 75

## **REFLECTIONS** by Tripp Martin

It is as simple as joining hands before a meal in order to “say grace,” as we give thanks for the food the ground has produced, recognizing God’s presence in our lives. We “return thanks” as a way to express our gratitude for the grace of God. It helps us describe the goodness of God we experience and to verbalize the gratitude, which is the ground of our faith.

In the fourth century, St. Ambrose was the bishop of Milan and a leader of the early church. In the early centuries of the church, St. Ambrose said, “No duty is more urgent than the returning of thanks.” We feel the urgency of those words, as we look back on the previous year, thinking about the commitment and generosity of this congregation. We return thanks for the stewardship of the church.

Due to the commitment of this congregation, we were able to finish the year financially with a surplus, receiving more contributions than our expenses. We finished the year with a surplus of \$39, 859. We return thanks for how this enables the church to minister and to serve. It also enables the church to ensure its long-term financial health.

The Stewardship Committee and the Deacons made a recommendation to the congregation at its Business Meeting on January 26 to commit this surplus to the ongoing *Building Sanctuary* campaign. Last year, the congregation began a capital campaign, which has two parts. The first part was to replace the ceiling in the sanctuary, which approximately costs \$150,000. The second part of the campaign was to begin repaying funds borrowed from the church’s trust funds for a previous renovation project. The total goal for the *Building Sanctuary* campaign remains \$300,000.

Over the past year, the church has been able to contribute about \$160,000 to *Building Sanctuary*. On January 26, the church voted to commit the surplus of 2016 to this effort, which brings the total to about \$200,000. We are grateful for the commitment and generosity of the congregation.

We are also grateful for the ongoing gifts to *Building Sanctuary*, fulfilling the pledges that have been made or making other contributions through April 2017 when the campaign ends. As we pause at the beginning of this year, we return thanks for the stewardship of the congregation, which goes well beyond our financial gifts. We return thanks for all the ways in which we lean into our faith together!

-Tripp

## **BLOOD DRIVE**

*Sunday, February 5th  
8:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m.  
Fellowship Hall*

**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.



## Telling Our Story

Many times the most profound acts of grace are the unassuming, small acts of service, which are sifted into the daily tasks of our routine. It is like the words of Martin Luther King, Jr., reminding us, “Everybody can be great . . . because anybody can serve.” The life of a congregation is seasoned by small acts of kindness and service. It is not necessarily exciting, but it is profoundly meaningful.

Early on the first day of the year, which fell on a Sunday, the vestibule of the church was full of energy. We were gathering for worship at 11:00 a.m. The worship service had been planned and the bulletins had been printed, but final preparations were taking place. A couple of church members had arrived early and were sweeping the floors of the vestibule, like putting out a brand new welcome mat. It was genuine hospitality.

Preparing a place with hospitality, where no act of service is too small, prepares our lives as well. It is an act of worship, blurring the secular and the sacred. It is the practical side of ministry, and when we wander through the church, we often discover others serving in a small, but profound way!

## Looking Ahead...

### Thursday Evening Guest Speaker: Terri Byrd

*February 23rd, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship*

The Reverend Terri Byrd is the Coordinator of the Alabama Cooperative Baptist Fellowship, and she will come and share about the work and mission of Alabama CBF, as our partner in ministry. We look forward to hearing from Terri because she is a long-term friend of AFBC.

### Sunday Evening Guest Speaker: Loyd Allen

*February 26th, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

Dr. Loyd Allen is the Sylvan Hills Baptist Church Professor of Church History and Spiritual Formation at the McAfee School of Theology at Mercer University. Dr. Allen will come and talk about the 500<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the Protestant Reformation, which takes place this year. He has been to AFBC before, and we look forward to him discussing the relevance of the Reformation today. He will teach on the Sunday evenings of February 26, March 5, and March 19.

### Fat Tuesday Pancake Meal

*Sponsored by The College Ministry*

*February 28th, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

Celebrating Fat Tuesday is an old tradition of penitence and celebration as we prepare for the season of Lent. Our church family will celebrate with a Pancake Supper, and everyone is invited to join in this night of fellowship.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Children’s Committee Meeting

*February 5th, 12:00 p.m., Seekers’ Classroom*

### College Committee Meeting

*Sunday, February 5th, 12:00 p.m., Library*

### Ladies Lunch Bunch

*Sunday, February 5th, 12:30 p.m., Laredo*

### DayFriends

*Tuesday, February 7th, 11:45 p.m., Chappy’s*

### CDC Committee Meeting

*Wednesday, February 8th, 5:30 p.m., Library*

### Stewardship Committee Meeting

*Thursday, February 9th, 5:00 p.m., Library*

### Youth Committee Meeting

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

### Senior Adult Luncheon

*Tuesday, February 21st, 11:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall*  
*Fish Fry Hosted by Charles Segrest & Dwayne Beckett*  
*Dessert by Hazel Lee*

## 2017 Thursday Evening Activities

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

6:00 p.m. - Prayer and Bible Study - “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 closer look and see what we discover.



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

**Sunday Nights**  
**Youth Choir**  
 5:00 p.m., Choir Room  
**Bible Study**  
 6:00 p.m., Youth Room

**Prayer Breakfast**

February 7th, 6:45 a.m.,  
 Chick-Fil-A on Magnolia



**July 2-7, 2017**

**Greensboro College, Greensboro, NC**

**Total Cost \$425.00**

**J-Term Class, by Tripp Martin**

*Sundays, 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 (Activities Building)*

**College Tuesday Night Bible Study**

*Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m.*

*College Room (Activities Building)*

**Fellowship. Service. Special Activities.**

**Lunch On Campus**

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

**Brasil Mission Trip**

It is time to start thinking BRASIL. Plans are beginning for the 2017 Brasil Volunteer Mission Trip. This will be the 30th annual trip to Brasil for members of Auburn First Baptist, people from surrounding churches, and other states. We hope you are interested in being a member of this team.

The dates for the trip are July 8-22. Total cost has not yet been determined, but the best estimate is about \$2200.

The activities of the team will remain 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, Bob Stevenson or Mike Bumgardner.



**Preschool Music & Play**

**Saturday, February 11th, 10:00 a.m.**

*We will gather on the 2nd Floor of the Education Building for music fun led by Leigh Anne.*

*Snacks and play afterward!*

*RSVP: kathleen3d@gmail.com*



**PASSPORTkids!**

**July 9th-12th, Converse College**

**Total Cost \$275**

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

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

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

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

*Sundays, 6:00 p.m., Education Building*

**Spark Adventure**

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

*February 2nd: Sola & Adeola Ogundele*

*February 9th: 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.

**Wednesday - 1st**

Conversational English ..... Education Building 9:00 a.m.

**Thursday - 2nd**

Handbells ..... Choir Room 12:30 p.m.  
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 - 5th**

Blood Drive ..... Fellowship Hall 8:00 a.m.  
Children's Committee Meeting ..... Seekers' Room 12:00 p.m.  
College Committee Meeting ..... Library 12:00 p.m.  
Ladies Lunch Bunch ..... Laredo's 12:30 p.m.  
Children's Choir ..... Education Building 5:00 p.m.  
Youth Choir ..... Choir Room 5:00 p.m.  
J-Term ..... Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.  
Bible Encounter ..... Education Building 6:00 p.m.  
YSN ..... Youth Room 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday - 7th**

DayFriends ..... Chappy's 11:45 a.m.  
TNBS ..... College Room 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday - 8th**

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

**Thursday - 9th**

Handbells ..... Choir Room 12:30 p.m.  
Stewardship Committee Mtg ..... Library 5:00 p.m.  
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 - 12th**

Youth Committee Meeting ..... Youth Room 12:00 p.m.  
Children's Choir ..... Education Building 5:00 p.m.  
Youth Choir ..... Choir Room 5:00 p.m.  
J-Term ..... Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.  
Bible Encounter ..... Education Building 6:00 p.m.  
YSN ..... Youth Room 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday - 14th**

TNBS ..... College Room 7:00 p.m.

**Serving the Month of February**

**Greeters:** Ted Little, Todd Miller, and Nancy Roberts

**Visitors:** Alan and Sue Walker

**Loaves & Fishes:** Adult IV

**Offering:** Pilgrims

**Serving February 5th, 2017**

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

**Sound & Light:** Gary Cantini

**Extended Session:** Beth Smith, Kelly Meeks, Carolyn Thompson, Joan Layne, Anna Parish, Terri Wood, Mary Lynn Porter

**Serving February 12th, 2017**

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

**Sound & Light:** Lindsay Crosby

**Extended Session:** Merle Bass, Stephen Lundy, Mark Wilson

**Ministerial Staff**

Dr. Tripp Martin  
Pastor  
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Associate Pastor for Youth,  
College and Young Adults  
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Minister of Music Emeritus/  
Composer in Residence

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