

AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH



August 1, 2017

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REFLECTIONS by Tripp Martin

Each year at the beginning of the month of August, we have Promotion Sunday, which coincides with the beginning of the school year, marking the transition for our children and youth, as they promote to the next grade in Sunday School. It is a time for the entire church to celebrate, gathering around this transition, as we have breakfast at 9:00 a.m. on August 13 in the Fellowship Hall and then recognize these milestones during worship. We give our first graders a Bible, our sixth graders a tree, and for everyone, we bless their backpacks.

We mark milestones in worship because they are significant moments in each of our lives as well as in the life of the congregation. For our first graders, they receive a Bible, which they can use as they grow up, learning how to read, forming important questions, and thinking about the meaning of the stories of our faith. For our sixth graders, they enter the youth group, deepening their maturity and widening their understanding of faith. As everyone embarks on a new school year, we recognize the blessing we receive in offering our support to each other during life's transitions.

One other reason we mark milestones with a gesture of recognition, whether it is on Promotion Sunday or at baptism, baby dedication, or the last Sunday a Lay Worship Leader participates in worship, is because we are recognizing the presence of God. When we speak of the incarnation, or the presence of God in the presence of Jesus Christ, we say something significant about God's presence in our daily lives. We mark milestones because we recognize God's presence with us, shaping us, throughout our lives.

It is as Kathleen Norris writes in her book, *Amazing Grace: A Vocabulary of Grace*, "For me, the Incarnation is the place, if you will, where hope contends with fear. Not an antique doctrine at all, but reality—as ordinary as my everyday struggles with fears great and small, as exalted as the hope that allows me some measure of peace when I soldier on in the daily round." We recognize milestones because God is with us in our everyday struggles, celebrating what is good and redeeming what is broken.

As we gather around our first graders, sixth graders, and everyone's backpacks, we remember the presence of God with us. We are able to contend with fears great and small because we have a holy companion for the journey. We also have each other for the journey, for the grace of God binds us together.

-Tripp

Looking Ahead...
Promotion Sunday
August 13th

Pancake Breakfast
9:00 a.m., Fellowship Hall
Bibles, Trees, & Backpacks
11:00 a.m., Worship Service

**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.



The first day of school is fast approaching, and during these days of preparation, one of the necessary items on everyone's to-do list is to buy school supplies. There will be notebooks lining the shelves at every store, along with number two pencils, crayons, glue sticks, erasers, and folders.

Walking into school with the necessary school supplies empowers us to engage our education. They help us to learn, and they assure us we can learn. We feel prepared and ready! We might even feel excited, or as excited as we can feel for the start of school.

Over the course of the last several years, Auburn First Baptist Church has developed a friendship with the Sparkman Neighborhood of Auburn Housing Authority. The friendship has included multiple events and an ongoing relationship, getting to know the neighbors in the community. One way the church has fostered this friendship is by providing school supplies for the children in the neighborhood. There are about twenty-five children, who live in the neighborhood, getting ready for school to start. Through the benevolence fund, we are able to provide school supplies for each child.

On the first day of school as well as in the days following, we can support and celebrate the hard work of teachers' lessons and students' homework, as those school supplies are put to use. We are grateful for such friendships, which enrich our lives. Through them, we are connected to more of our community, participating in the goodness and grace of God around us.

Discipleship Training Fall Bible Study

"The Letter to the Romans: A Vision for Peace"

Five-week study

Beginning Sunday, August 13

A quick review of history reveals that we have always lived in a world full of division and debate. The church has always pursued the peace of God in such a world. As we navigate the world in which we live and the fractures around us, we can take notes from Paul on how he addressed the divisions and debates in front of the Romans.

Paul faced the steepest division the church has ever faced, the tension between Jews and Gentiles, by relying on scripture, tradition, and experience. The vision Paul had for the church, and the world, was the peace of God, which remains our hope today. We yearn for the peace of God, healing our wounds and redeeming the world's brokenness. Through these words in Romans, we can discover the seeds of peace, as we navigate turbulent waters around us.

JAIL MINISTRY CHRISTMAS PROJECT 2017

It's time to turn our attention to our church's involvement in the Lee County Detention Center's Christmas boxes. Please survey your home for empty shoe boxes you might contribute. Boxes must be at least 6 inches wide and have removable tops (please, no fold over tops this year.)

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. This is the 3rd year that Central Baptist Church will join us with our 150 boxes. Please bring them to the table in the church library.

Mary Joe Howard and Teresa Vest
Christmas Boxes Project Chair and Co-Chair

**Sanctuary Choir rehearsal will resume on
August 3rd.**

AFBC Parking

On April 27, the church approved a towing policy to help maintain the use of our parking lots. The trustees have entered into an agreement with a local towing company to provide assistance with towing cars from the church lots between 2:00-5:00 a.m. on Sunday mornings. The agreement will not affect anyone attending or visiting our church, since it will only affect those persons who leave their cars overnight on Saturday night. We have posted the tow away zone signs in our Gay Street parking lot. The signs for the College Street parking lot will be placed on the posts, where the city has its signs related to our lease agreement with them. The city will post our signs on their posts for us. We will begin to implement the towing policy of the church once all of the signs are in place.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Children's Committee Meeting

Sunday, August 6th, 12:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

College Committee Meeting

Sunday, August 6th, 12:00 p.m., Library

CDC Committee Meeting

Wednesday, August 9th, 5:30 p.m., Library

Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday, August 10th, 5:00 p.m., Library

Senior Adult Luncheon

Tuesday, August 15th, 11:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Deacons' Meeting

Tuesday, August 15th, 6:30 p.m., Seekers' Room



Thursday Nights

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

Passport Report

August 10

Launch Lunch

August 13
Activities Building

Brotherhood Project

Saturday, August 5 at 8:00 a.m.

On Saturday, August 5 at 8:00 a.m., members from the church will gather at 131 Wayne Avenue to complete a renovation project. The Brotherhood is rebuilding a deck for a person's house that has become problematic. Anyone interested in helping with this project is invited to come.

Meals for Tuesday Night Bible Study

The fall semester at Auburn University is fast approaching, and that means college Tuesday night Bible study will be starting soon! Please support our college ministry by providing a meal for our students. Help us welcome students to our church and invest in their lives by signing up to bring supper this semester. Thank you!

If you are interested in preparing a home cooked meal for our College Tuesday Night Bible Study this fall, please email Laura at lauraedgar@mindspring.com or contact the church office at 334-887-8506.



Welcome Retreat

Saturday, August 26

Welcome Lunch

Sunday, August 27

Bible Study & Breakfast

*Sundays, 9:45 a.m.
College Room (Activities Building)*

College Tuesday Night Bible Study

Begins August 22

7:00 p.m., Activities Building

Fellowship. Service. Special Activities.

Cross Road Baptist Church

Sunday, August 20

After our potluck supper following Vacation Bible School with Cross Road Baptist Church, Dr. Johnny Green, the pastor of the congregation, suggested that their congregation might come and join us for worship one Sunday. Out of our collaboration and friendship with Cross Road, they will join us for worship on Sunday, August 20. Dr. Johnny Green will join us in leadership during the worship service. We will have a gathering moment after worship, coordinated by the Social Committee. We look forward to this opportunity to worship together.

Thursday Evening Activities

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

August 3 - Tripp Martin

August 10 - Brasil Mission Trip Report

August 17 - Passport Report

"Public Theology: Reading Bumper Stickers in Traffic"

Beginning Thursday, August 24

Public theology is how our faith engages the world around us. It is how we live or talk about our faith, interacting with others. It calls for dialogue and discernment, conviction and humility. In the public square, we can share our convictions, and we can learn from listening to others.

One place we encounter theology in the public square is when we are sitting in traffic, reading the bumper stickers around us. They are usually short quips or brief responses to people's questions about God. They usually do not adequately examine the convictions of our faith in the face of life's real challenges, but perhaps we can consider the questions behind them. We can consider these questions, talking about them with more breadth and depth, as we think about how we talk about our faith in the public square.



Spark Adventure

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

Helpers:

August 3rd: Cathy Summers

August 10th: Sola & Adeola Ogundele





Serving the Month of August

Greeters: Dean Myrick, Brenda McCord

Visitors: Fred and Sherry Weaver

Offering: Adult 4

Loaves & Fishes: Pilgrims

Serving August 6, 2017

Counters: Aaron Greene, Bill Webster

Sound & Light: Andrew Yohn

Extended Session: Jo Jones, Pat Wade, Carole Zugazaga, Anna Coxwell, Joan Layne, Ella Boone

Serving August 13, 2017

Counters: Dwayne Beckett, Lois Graves, Bill Faurot

Sound & Light: David Sutton

Extended Session: Leah Duzy, Denise Stoeckel, Brain Ledbetter, Katharine Martin, Addison Meeks, Cynthia Smithart, Sue Walker

<i>Every Sunday</i>		<i>Every Thursday</i>	
Sunday School	9:45 a.m.	Brown Bag Meal Time	5:15 p.m.
Morning Worship	11:00 a.m.	Prayer & Bible Study	6:00 p.m.

Thursday - 3rd

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.

Saturday - 5th

Brotherhood Project 131 Wayne Avenue 8:00 a.m.

Sunday - 6th

College Committee Meeting Library 12:00 p.m.
 Children’s Commitee Mtg Fellowship Hall 12:00 p.m.
 Ladies Lunch Bunch Newk’s 12:30 p.m.

Wednesday - 9th

CDC Committee Meeting Library 5:30 p.m.

Thursday - 10th

Stewardship Committee Mtg ... Library 5:00 p.m.
 Passport Report Fellowship Hall 6:00 p.m.

Saturday - 12th

Youth Retreat Gay Street Lot 9:00 a.m.

Sunday - 13th

Pancake Breakfast Fellowship Hall 9:00 p.m.
 Youth Launch Lunch Activities Building 12:00 p.m.
 Children’s Choir Education Building 5:00 p.m.
 Youth Choir Choir Room 5:00 p.m.
 Discipleship Training Fellowship Hall 5:00 p.m.
 Connecting Faith & Family Fishers’ Room 5:00 p.m.
 Bible Encounter Education Building 6:00 p.m.

Tuesday - 15th

Senior Adult Luncheon Fellowship Hall 11:00 p.m.
 Deacons’ Meeting Seekers’ Room 6:30 p.m.

Ministerial Staff

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