

AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

August 15, 2017

Vol. 6 Issue 88

REFLECTIONS by Tripp Martin

At the beginning of another school year, we are reminded of the value of study, for all of us. Specifically, we can consider the value of study in terms of our faith, which is peculiar because we concede that we cannot know everything about God. Our faith, though, values study because when we learn, we are able to grow in our faith; even though, we will never know everything about God.

Study is the devotion of time to learning, which we do together in this place. It is prayerful work, for its goal is parallel to prayer. We seek a deeper understanding of God, drawing closer to God's presence through study, as we devote ourselves to a life of faithfulness. It is one way we love God with our heart, soul, strength, and *mind*.

We know that a disciple is a devoted student. Each rabbi during Jesus' day had students, learning from them as they gathered in the Temple. Discipleship is a devotion to study, learning from the life of Jesus and trusting in the grace of God.

The goal of study is not to know everything about God, as we acknowledge is impossible, but it is to recognize we always have more to learn. We devote ourselves to study in many ways, like in Sunday School, where we read through scripture together and think about what it means. Study also takes place in Discipleship Training, Connecting Faith and Family, Bible Encounter, Spark Adventure, Youth Group, and Tuesday Night Bible Study (College). It even takes place through our music ministry and missions. It is vital to our faith.

There are many opportunities to engage in study this fall, and we all benefit from those conversations. It is through listening, dialogue, reading, and asking questions that we gain from one another, participating in the prayerful work of study. We devote ourselves to this learning, not for the sole purpose of gathering information, which is important, but so we might learn the ways of patience and kindness, mercy and justice, hope and forgiveness, perseverance and passion, community and service.

Together we devote ourselves to study and then we strive to take this curriculum and put it into practice, which is also another way we learn.

-Tripp

Sunday Evening Activities

Fall Bible Study

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

Five-week study

Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

Connecting Faith and Family

"The Blessing of a Skinned Knee"

Sundays, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m.,

Fishers' Classroom

Children & Youth Choirs

Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

Bible Encounter (1st-5th Grade)

Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

Youth Sunday Night

Sundays at 6:00 p.m.

**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.



Some of the most profound stories are simple. They are straight like an arrow, but they do not sound like much at first. In fact, many times it depends on where we are standing when we hear those stories as to whether we are affected by them.

It is different from listening to a joke. The punch line of a joke is funny every day of the week. It is funny on Monday morning and on Thursday afternoon.

Some stories are not meaningful on Monday morning, but by Thursday afternoon, the same story brings us to tears. The difference is the time between Monday morning and Thursday afternoon, and what has taken place in our lives. On Monday, we might overhear someone say, "I will hold you in my prayers." It does not strike us the same way as it does on Thursday because we have experienced a loss in our lives since then.

When we tell the story of our Crisis Committee, it is a story about simple hospitality and profound kindness. It is a story that is deeply meaningful, especially if we have experienced it. When a death occurs in our family of faith, the Crisis Committee is busy behind the scenes, coordinating a time of fellowship for friends of the family to gather, or a meal for the family as they grieve. Often times, we will gather after a funeral in the fellowship hall, offering the warm embrace of the church. It is a setting made possible by the Crisis Committee. Other times, a family will gather to have a meal, sharing stories about their loved one and finding comfort in each other's presence.

When I think about all of those gatherings and all of those meals throughout the years, it is one of the ways the church has surrounded people with the love of God, comforting grief and redeeming despair. It has been a ministry of community and hope, providing strength whenever we are weary. It is a simple story with profound meaning.

AFBC Parking Lot

All of the towing signs are in place, and we have started to implement the church's towing policy, towing between 2:00 - 5:00 a.m. on Sunday.

Connecting Faith and Family

Sundays, 5:00 - 6:30 p.m., Fishers' Classroom

Discussion and support about parenting and personal spiritual growth. We will use *The Blessing of a Skinned Knee* by Wendy Mogel to facilitate discussion topics.

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

Discipleship Training

"The Round Table"

Fall Bible Study

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

Five-week study

Sundays at 5:00 p.m. in the Fellowship Hall

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.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

Senior Adult Luncheon

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

Deacons' Meeting

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

Brasil Mission Trip Report

Thursday, August 17th, 5:45 p.m. Fellowship Hall

TNBS Begins (College)

Tuesday, August 22nd, 7:00 p.m., Activities Building



Thursday Nights

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

Youth Choir

Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Choir Room

Youth Sunday Nights

Sundays, 6:00 p.m., Youth Room

Looking Ahead...

**September 1st - Deadline to
sign up for Winter Youth
Summit**

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 17 - Brasil Mission Trip 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.

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.



Children's Choirs (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

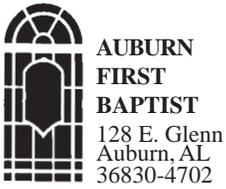
Thursdays @ 5:50 P.M., Ed. Bldg.

Helpers:

August 17th: Sola & Adeola Ogundele

August 24th: Katharine Martin





<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.
Tuesday - 15th			
Senior Adult Luncheon	Fellowship Hall	11:00 p.m.	
Deacons' Meeting	Seekers' Room	6:30 p.m.	
Wednesday - 16th			
Conversational English	Education Building	9:00 a.m.	
Thursday - 17th			
Brasil Mission Trip Report	Fellowship Hall	5:45 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 - 20th			
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 - 22nd			
TNBS	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday - 23rd			
Conversational English	Education Building	9:00 a.m.	
Senior Adult Dinner Out	Good Ol' Boys	5:00 p.m.	
Thursday - 24th			
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 - 26th			
College Retreat	College Room	11:00 a.m.	
Sunday - 27th			
College Welcome Lunch	College Room	12:00 p.m.	
Tuesday - 29th			
TNBS	College Room	7:00 p.m.	
Wednesday - 30th			
Conversational English	Education Building	9:00 a.m.	
Thursday - 31st			
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.	

Serving the Month of August

Greeters: Dean Myrick, Brenda McCord
Visitors: Fred and Sherry Weaver
Offering: Adult 4
Loaves & Fishes: Pilgrims

Serving August 20th, 2017

Counters: Flarcie Hopkins, Alice Lumpkin, Lavaughn Johnson
Sound & Light: Chad Parish
Extended Session: Terri Wood, Mary Lynn Porter, Peggy Johnson, Lesley Odom, Dean Myrick, Tiffany Myrick, Ella Boone

Serving August 27th, 2017

Counters: Wallace Baldwin, Donna Bennett, Hazel Lee
Sound & Light: Addison Meeks
Extended Session: Merle Bass, Stephen Lundy, Mark Wilson, Anna Coxwell, Kathleen Sabo, Patrick White, Joan Layne, Ella Boone

Ministerial Staff

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