

# AUBURN FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH

November 15, 2017

Vol. 6 Issue 93

## REFLECTIONS by Tripp Martin

The days with family and annual traditions are fast approaching, where we look forward to sweet potato casserole and caramel cake. The decorations will come out of the closet, and we will listen to holiday songs. We will gather around the table, perhaps more than once, for special meals with loved ones. Sitting at the table before we eat, we will “say grace.”

We speak of God’s grace often in the church, not only on special occasions, but also each Lord’s Day. We speak of it each week in order to keep it at the center of our faith. Anytime we mention God’s grace, the next thought that follows is our gratitude for it. It might be the simplest way to define our faith—God’s grace and our gratitude. It can become so meaningful in our lives that it gives shape to our prayers, voice to our hopes, joy for our days, and comfort for our tears. Our gratitude for God’s grace exposes all of the goodness around us.

As we “say grace” around the table, our prayers might echo the poem by George Herbert, which begins, “Thou that hast giv’ n so much to me, Give one thing more, a grateful heart.” A grateful heart helps us see the mundane and the routine differently. As an expression of our gratitude, routine gestures of kindness can reflect the beauty of a rare piece of art. The rhythms of worship or even the mundane work of a committee can embody the craftsmanship of handmade pottery. The daily routine of a family, caring for each other’s needs, can imitate the splendor of music. Gratitude can take what seems strenuous and help us to see God’s grace within it.

Gratitude is more than an emotion. It is also a practice, which is shaped by grace. We can practice gratitude individually and collectively as a church, helping us see more of God’s grace around us. As Abraham Heschel once wrote, “Mankind will not perish for want of information, but only for want of appreciation. The beginning of our happiness lies in the understanding that life without wonder is not worth living.”

We can practice gratitude together in a way that recaptures our wonder for God’s grace.

-Tripp

### Annual Church-wide Thanksgiving Meal

November 16th, 5:15 p.m.

Come and join us for our annual Thanksgiving meal.  
(No charge for this meal.)

### Christmas Potluck & Special Called Business Meeting

December 7th, 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 (2018 budgets), election of deacons, and recommendation from the ad hoc Accessibility Committee for the Sanctuary (seating).

### Advent Decorating

Sunday, November 26th, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary

The Flower Committee will begin decorating the Sanctuary for Advent and needs as many helpers as possible. Please join them if you can!

### Advent Workshop

Sunday, November 26th, 6:15 p.m.,  
Fellowship Hall

Come enjoy dinner and make a craft with your family that you can take home and enjoy during the Advent season.

(More details in newsletter)

**Auburn First Baptist Church • 128 E Glenn Avenue • Auburn, AL • auburnfbc.org**  
**334.887.8506 • 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.

# A Season of Music

## Sunday evening, December 3, 6:15 p.m. – **Family Night at Christmas**

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

Followed by our renowned *Cookie Fellowship*  
**Bring your favorite cookies to share!**

## Sunday morning, December 10, 11:00 a.m. – **The World Born Anew**

led by our Sanctuary Choir with First Bells, Youth Choir,  
and Brass Ensemble

### Cookie Walk

*Saturday, December 2nd, 8:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m., Grace UMC*  
We are invited to bake cookies to be sold, supporting the WeHelp Coalition and Habitat for Humanity. Cookies can be delivered to Grace UMC on Friday, December 1st from 2:00-7:00 p.m.

## **It Is Not Too Late To Donate! JAIL MINISTRY PROJECT 2017**

A \$15 donation covers the cost of one box for an inmate. That box includes: "The Joy of Christmas," a devotional book, inspirational book, 10 envelopes, 2 pens, a pad of paper, 5 stamps, 5 Christmas cards (to send), a game book, a deck of playing cards and candy.

Checks should be made to AFBC (notation: Jail Ministry Christmas Project.)

### PRODUCTION LINE

*9:00 a.m., Tuesday, December 12th  
Fellowship Hall*

**VOLUNTEERS ARE VERY, VERY WELCOME!**

### CHRISTMAS PROGRAM AT THE JAIL

*Wednesday, December 20th*

The program is repeated all day for groups of prisoners. For a real Christmas blessing, please plan to attend. Seating is limited. If you wish to attend, give your name to Mary Joe Howard.

*If you still have shoe boxes you are wrapping for the Jail Ministry project, please return those to the church office as soon as possible. We are preparing final counts for our Production Line in December.*

## Youth Christmas Party

On Sunday, December 17, our youth will host a Christmas party at the Sparkman neighborhood of the Auburn Housing Authority. Our church enjoys partnering with our friends at Sparkman throughout the year, and our youth have had a great time celebrating Christmas at Sparkman in recent years. We'll play games, make crafts, decorate a tree, and eat snacks together as we enjoy the holiday season.

## Family Advent Workshop

*Sunday, November 26<sup>th</sup>, 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall*  
RSVP by November 21st

Please RSVP by signing up to bring a food item by clicking on the link below:

<http://evite.me/7Xy2eQyr9Q>

Our theme for Advent this year is "A Time of Renewal." Come enjoy dinner and then create an Advent wreath with your family that you can take home and enjoy during the Advent season. See you there!

## Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve

As we look forward to the season of Advent, we note that Christmas Eve and New Year's Eve both take place on a Sunday, so Sunday School will not meet on those days. On Sunday morning, December 24, we will gather at 11:00 a.m., recognizing the fourth and final Sunday in Advent by lighting the Candle of Love as our final preparation for the journey of Advent. In the evening, we will gather at 6:00 p.m. for our Carols, Candlelight, and Communion service, celebrating the birth of Jesus and lighting the Christ Candle. It will mark the end of our Advent journey and the beginning of the season of Christmas. On Sunday morning, December 31, we will gather for worship as we continue to celebrate the joy of Christmas and anticipate the first days of another calendar year. We look forward to these opportunities to mark our lives by the seasons and routines of the church.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### AFBC Thanksgiving Meal

*Thursday, November 16th, 5:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

### Church Office Closed

*Wednesday, November 22nd  
Thursday, November 23rd  
Friday, November 24th*

### Advent Decorating

*Sunday, November 26th, 2:00 p.m., Sanctuary*

### Advent Family Worship

*Sunday, November 26th, 6:15 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

### Day Friends

*Tuesday, November 28th, 11:45 p.m., Veggies to Go*



### Thursday Nights

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

### Youth Sunday Nights

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

### Youth Choir

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

## PASSPORTchoices

July 8-13, 2018  
\$50 deposit due now

## Personnel Committee Update

In the recent weeks, Bryan King came to the Personnel Committee with a request. Bryan has been the organist and accompanist for the Sanctuary Choir and Youth Choir, but he has requested to focus his work solely as the organist, which is part of broader changes in his life. Along with his work at Auburn First Baptist Church, Bryan has taught at Auburn University. He retired from teaching this fall, which has been a welcomed change in his life. He is scaling back in many ways, so he sought the input of the Personnel Committee.

In discussion with the Music Committee, the Personnel Committee wants to support Bryan's request because we are grateful for all he has done for our congregation. After making various contacts throughout the community and considering possible candidates for an accompanist, the Personnel Committee consulted with the Music Committee and decided to start a conversation with Dawn Driggers, who has agreed to serve in this position. The recommendation was presented to the Deacons, which affirmed this decision.

Dawn is a collaborative pianist at Auburn University, and she has also served as a Staff Accompanist at Newberry College and Presbyterian College before moving to Auburn. We are grateful Dawn has agreed to accept this position as well as for Bryan's continued work as our organist.



## Bible Study & Breakfast

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

## College Tuesday Night Bible Study

Tuesdays, 7:00 p.m., Activities Building  
Fellowship. Service. Special Activities.

## Mission Committee

### Community Market - Baby Items

One of the important needs of the Community Market is for babies. At the Community Market, the baby closet offers *infant dry cereal, baby food (jars), baby wipes, and diapers or pull-ups (all sizes)*. These are needs that are ongoing. The Mission Committee would like to focus on collecting these items for the Community Market. There is a basket outside of the church office, where these items can be placed. Then they will be delivered to the Community Market. Thank you for caring for the youngest amongst us and supporting families in our community, as they care for their children.

### Discipleship Training "The Round Table"

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

On Sunday, **November 19th**, we will have a group discussion about this topic.

### Sunday, November 26th

Geoff Evans, Rector at Holy Trinity Episcopal Church  
"Recovering the Cross: A Look at Fleming Rutledge's Crucifixion."  
(Final Meeting, November 26)

### 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.

(Final Meeting, November 26)



### Passport Kids Camp

July 7-10, 2018

Converse College, Spartanburg, South Carolina

Students 3rd-5th grade, Deposit:\$75

Total: \$275 (includes deposit)

Email church office to sign up!

kristinahickman@mindspring.com

### 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:

November 16th: Thanksgiving Meal -

Will not meet

November 23rd: No Evening Activities

November 30th: Kelly Meeks







Auburn First Baptist Church  
 128 E Glenn Ave.  
 Auburn, AL 36830

**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 - 15th**

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

**Thursday - 16th**

Handbell Rehearsal ..... Choir Room 12:30 p.m.  
 Thanksgiving Meal ..... Fellowship Hall 5:15 p.m.  
 Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room 6:45 p.m.

**Friday - 17th**

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room 5:30 p.m.

**Sunday - 19th**

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.  
 YSN ..... Activities Building 6:00 p.m.

**Tuesday - 21st**

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

**Wednesday - 22nd**

*Office Closed*

**Thursday - 23rd**

*Office Closed*

**Friday - 24th**

*Office Closed*

**Sunday - 26th**

Advent Decorating ..... Sanctuary 2:00 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.  
 Advent Workshop ..... Fellowship 6:15 p.m.

**Tuesday - 28th**

DayFriends ..... Veggies to Go 11:45 p.m.  
 TNBS ..... College Room 7:00 p.m.

**Wednesday - 29th**

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

**Thursday - 30th**

Handbell Rehearsal ..... 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.

**Serving the Month of November**

**Greeters:** Brenda Greene & Aaron Greene

**Visitors:** Chad Eastman

**Offering:** Seekers/Sojourners/Young Adults

**Loaves & Fishes:** Pilgrims

**Serving November 19, 2017**

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

**Sound & Light:** Addison Meeks

**Extended Session:** Mark Wilson, Chad Parish, Amber Berry-Moore, Denise Stoeckel, Brian Ledbetter, Amanda Oliver, Benjamin Wilson

**Serving November 26, 2017**

**Counters:** Aaron Greene, Bill Webster, James Nichols

**Sound & Light:** Gary Cantini

**Extended Session:** Katharine Martin, Julie McClanahan, Cindy Cleveland, Lesley Odom, Dean Myrick, Mark Wilson, Lynli Cantrell Wright

**Ministerial Staff**

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 Pastor  
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Laura Edgar  
 Associate Pastor for Youth,  
 College and Young Adults  
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**Support Staff**

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