



January 1, 2018

Vol. 6 Issue 95

## **REFLECTIONS** by Tripp Martin

As we begin another calendar year, wondering where the time has gone and astonished that it is 2018, we are surrounded by goal setting and resolution making. Pausing to set goals or to make resolutions at the beginning of another year can be a helpful practice when it is empowering. We can take time to write down what we want to accomplish, but perhaps we could focus less on *resolutions* and more on *reflections*.

Since our faith was called “the Way” in the book of Acts, referring to the ways of Jesus, we can reflect on the journey behind us and the journey in front of us. We can focus less on accomplishments, which have a deadline, and more on the journey, which is ongoing. In this shift, we find less disappointment, knowing that we always have another chance to begin again. We can keep growing and learning along the way, retaining the desire to learn from the past as we take the next step into tomorrow.

We can focus our reflections on the ways of Jesus. We could begin with four questions. In reflecting on our lives and on the life of Jesus...

1. What is something we could start doing?
2. What is something we could stop doing?
3. What is something we could emphasize?
4. What is something we could ignore?

These questions can lead us in various directions. They prompt us to reflect on the journey of faith in a given moment. In reflecting on them, we can lean into this new year with purpose and grace, knowing that the journey continues.

For the church, we can lean into this year together, for we reflect on the ways of Jesus collectively. It leads us to build community inside the church and to serve community around the church. We can do this in many ways.

We might decide to learn people’s names in the church we have not known before. We could listen more closely to the prayer concerns or write notes to those on the prayer list. We might look for ways to extend the gift of invitation to others who need a place for community in their lives. We could find ways to serve others by cooking for Loaves and Fishes or teaching at Conversational English. Our options are expansive and varied.

Through our reflections, we can find ways to participate in the ways of Jesus. We can lean into the journey of faith, allowing “the Way” to shape the ways of our lives.

-Tripp

## **Sunday, January 7th**

### **Deacon Ordination**

*11:00 a.m., Worship Service*

### **BYPTC**

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

It is “Bring Your Parent to Choir” Night. Come and see what your child does in choir!

### **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 7. *(Childcare will be provided.)*

## **Quarterly Business Meeting**

*Thursday, January 25th,*

*6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall*

*Agenda Items: 2017 Financials, 2018 Nominating Committee Members*

**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.

## Advent De-decorating

Wednesday, January 3, 4:30 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.

## Thursday Evening Activities

Resume January 11

“Rediscovering the Apostle Paul”

January 11, 18, and February 1

Led by Tripp Martin

Many of the earliest writings about the life of Jesus are the letters of the Apostle Paul. Paul was writing to churches as they strived to follow the ways of Jesus together. We will look at Paul’s life, letters, and theology, which will help us rediscover what the early church experienced.

On **Thursday, January 25**, we will have our first quarterly Business Meeting at 6:00 p.m.

## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

### Church Office Closed

Monday, January 1st

### Senior Adult Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 7th, 12:00 p.m., Library

### Youth Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 7th, 12:00 p.m., Youth Room

### Ladies Lunch Bunch

Sunday, January 7th, 12:00 p.m., Olive Garden

### Children’s Committee Meeting

Sunday, January 7th, 4:00 p.m., Library

### Committee Night

Sunday, January 7th, 6:15 p.m., Locations TBA

### CDC Committee Meeting

Wednesday, January 10th, 5:30 p.m., Library

### No Evening Activities

Sunday, January 14th

### Church Office Closed

Monday, January 15th

### Stewardship Committee Meeting

Thursday, January 18th, 5:00 p.m., Library

### Regular Sunday Evening Activities Resume

Sunday, January 21st, 5:00 p.m.

### Deacons’ Meeting

Tuesday, January 23rd, 6:30 p.m., Seekers’ Classroom

### Quarterly Business Meeting

Thursday, January 25th, 6:00 p.m., Fellowship Hall

## J-Term Class

Words Shape Worlds: The Life of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Sundays at 5:00 p.m.

January 21, 28, and February 4

Led by Tripp Martin

This year we remember the fiftieth anniversary of the death of Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. by revisiting his life and words. We will look at the events of his life and the words of his sermons and speeches, which were born out of the civil rights movement. We will reflect on the power of words to shape our world, and the power of faith to shape our lives.

## ANOTHER SUCCESSFUL YEAR

### Congratulations, AFBC Family!

During quite a number of weeks, many members of our church family—TOO MANY TO MENTION—have been working hard at our project of completing 150 Christmas boxes for the inmates at Lee County Detention Center. We happily attest to another successful year!

You have supplied and wrapped shoe boxes, given enough Christmas cards to supply five for each box, and funds for the purchase of 750 stamps for mailing the cards as well as supplying other box contents. Thanks to each one of you who joined us for the filling of the boxes. The Jail Ministry team is deeply grateful for the valiant work of all Sunday School classes and other church members, staff and friends.

Many thanks are due to each one of you and our Jail Ministry personnel. We include our deep gratitude for our wonderful leader and long-time mentor, Helen Brown.

The completed Christmas boxes were delivered to Lee County Detention Center on Tuesday, December 19 in time for the various Christmas services on December 20. Each of the 750 inmates received a filled box following the services.

We are indebted to the Women’s Missionary Union of Central Baptist Church, Opelika and to their leader Peggy Carroll, who for the last three years have supplied and wrapped fifty of our boxes for us.

We are so very grateful to each one of you, who has helped with this work! May you continue to receive many blessings in having done so!

## 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).*



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

**Winter Youth Summit**      **Youth Choir**  
January 12-14, 2018      Sundays, 5:00 p.m., Choir Room

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

### BYPTC is coming!

*Sunday, January 7th, 5:00 p.m.*

Parents: do you ever wonder *exactly* what your children and their friends do between 5:00 - 6:00 p.m. 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?

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 7<sup>th</sup> at 5:00 p.m., and we'll take care of the rest!

### Extended Session

We are looking to add a few more people to the Extended Session rotation. If you would be interested in keeping children in the nursery during the worship service, please contact Alison Crosby at [suttali@gmail.com](mailto:suttali@gmail.com) or by phone/text at 334-728-0911. Thank you!



### 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.**

## Preschool and Children's Sunday School Teacher Workshop

*Saturday, February 3, 8:00 a.m. - 12:30 p.m.*  
*Fellowship Hall*  
Breakfast and Lunch Included

As a way to support and encourage our teachers, we will gather for a workshop with Becky Caswell-Speight, Minister to Families with Children at Smoke Rise Baptist Church in Atlanta. She will discuss the various ways children learn, looking at different learning styles and the best practices for using them. We are grateful for the Children's Committee providing this opportunity!

If anyone is interested in teaching preschool or children's Sunday School in the future, you are also welcome to join the workshop.

### Opportunity for Parents with Children

*Saturday, February 3, 1:00 p.m.*  
Discussion on Faith and Family

After the Sunday School Workshop, Becky Caswell-Speight will remain after lunch to gather with parents to talk about faith formation in our daily lives. Becky will talk about how the various ways of learning can enliven the practice of faith at home.

### Communion in January

Since we are participating in the beautiful, ancient tradition of laying on of hands, ordaining new deacons to the church on Sunday, January 7, we will celebrate the practice of communion on Sunday, January 14.



### 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](mailto: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:**

*January 4th: Not Meeting*

*January 11th: Katharine Martin*





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.

**Monday- 1st**

*Church Office Closed*

**Wednesday- 3rd**

Advent De-decorating ..... Sanctuary 4:30 p.m.

**Thursday - 4th**

Handbell Rehearsal ..... Choir Room 12:30 p.m.

Sanctuary Choir Rehearsal ..... Choir Room 6:45 p.m.

*No Evening Activities*

**Sunday - 7th**

Deacon Ordination ..... Sanctuary 11:00 a.m.

Senior Adult Committee Meeting .. Library 12:00 p.m.

Youth Committee Meeting ..... Youth Room 12:00 p.m.

Ladies Lunch Bunch ..... Olive Garden 12:00 p.m.

Children's Committee Meeting ..... Library 4:00 p.m.

Bring Your Parents to Choir ..... Education Building 5:00 p.m.

Youth Choir ..... Choir Room 5:00 p.m.

Committee Night ..... TBA 6:15 p.m.

**Wednesday - 10th**

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

CDC Committee Meeting ..... Library 5:30 p.m.

**Thursday - 11th**

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.

**Friday - 12th**

Youth leave for Winter Summit ..... Gay St Lot TBA

**Sunday - 14th**

*No Evening Activities*

**Monday - 15th**

*Church Office Closed*

**Serving the Month of January**

**Greeters:** Dee Williams, Peggy Johnson

**Visitors:** Kyle & Melissa Willian

**Loaves & Fishes:** Seekers

**Offering:** Adult 4

**Serving January 7, 2018**

**Counters:** Helen Bearden, Flarcie Hopkins, Bill McIntyre

**Sound & Light:** Gary Cantini

**Extended Session:** Shane Dunn, Denise Stoeckel, Lynda Weidenbach, Amanda Oliver, Benjamin Wilson, Jo Jones, Pat Wade

**Serving January 14, 2018**

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

**Sound & Light:** Lindsay Crosby

**Extended Session:** Beth Smith, Lesley Odom, Brian Ledbetter, Mark Wilson, Lynli Cantrell-Wright, Cynthia Smithart, Sue Walker

**Ministerial Staff**

Dr. Tripp Martin  
 Pastor  
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***Listen to the service Sunday mornings  
 at 11 am on WAUD 1230 AM***