

Austin Avenews—January 2017

Letters From Timothy

Thank you to everyone who helped us finish out the year well! 2016 was a year with some challenges, but also with blessings. 2017 promises to be the start of an exciting new era in the life of Austin Avenue. We are working toward the close of our church planter funding campaign and are posting the position at local seminaries as well as posting nationally at seminaries with church planting programs. Please be praying as we seek the “just right” person to lead this effort to plant a new worshipping community within Austin Avenue UMC. If you are interested in learning more about a church that has begun this model, St. Luke's UMC in Houston has planted a church within their church called The Story. They are effectively reaching out to new generations through this unique mission (www.thestory.church). What most excites me about this is that we will also be able to strengthen the ministry of our traditional worshipping community and the whole church.

We have scheduled an Administrative Council Meeting for Monday, January 23, 2017 at 7:00pm. We will finalize and approve our 2017 Budget and have a presentation on transitioning our 2 day Parent's Day Out to a 5 day preschool. I believe this will be a critical part of our future and I am hopeful we will approve this proposal on the 23rd. We will also approve our leadership team for the year.

Thank you for all you do to make AAUMC a great church. I look forward to watching the great things God will do in our midst this year! Blessing on you all for a healthy and prosperous new year!

Keep the SON in your eyes!
Pastor Tim



All Ministry Teams Meetings

Children's / Education * Community Outreach * Hospitality * Membership Care * Music/Worship

Monday, January 9—6:00 pm

Very important meeting as we will be setting calendar dates for our various activities.

Followed by Leaders Meeting

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FOLLOW US ON FACEBOOK

WORSHIP INFO

Sundays
Sunday School..... 9:45 AM
Traditional Worship.....11:00 AM



Altar Flowers

2017 dates still available to provide altar flowers. Call the church at 254-754-4685 or sign up on the Altar Flower Board (in the 13th Street Foyer).

What a wonderful gift...the gift that we can all share in the celebration of every week!



First Sunday of Each Month
Nonperishable Food Collection
(even pet food)
Morning Worship

Planting a Church Within a Church: A Way Forward for AAUMC

I hope this will serve as a reminder to some and provide helpful information to those newer to AAUMC.

Why this Way? There is an axiom in church life: You attract who you are! Who are we at AAUMC? The largest constituency in our congregation are those retired through nonagenarians. Second to that are empty-nesters through age 65. Experts agree that we can effectively reach out to those 5-6 years either side of our age. The span between an empty-nester and a 20-something, even a 30-something is too great a span to naturally bridge. I believe that is the primary reason our charge conference approved bringing in a highly trained young church planter who will form a new worshipping community within Austin Avenue UMC. The planter's task in the first 12-18 months is to form 7-9 small groups which will eventually form the nucleus of a new worshipping community.

The beauty of this approach is it allows us to continue strengthening our traditional worshipping community and current programs.

I believe the Church Planting Project is the most promising way forward. I am committed to staying and doing the necessary work to see this project through. My hope and prayer is that on the other side of these significant efforts we will have birthed a new Austin Avenue UMC that will serve as a light in downtown Waco serving our community, well into our second century of ministry.

Please read "A Good Foundation For The Future" to find out how you can be part of supporting this bold new project!



The Gathering Place Memory Care Activities and Respite for The Caregiver



First Tuesday of Each Month

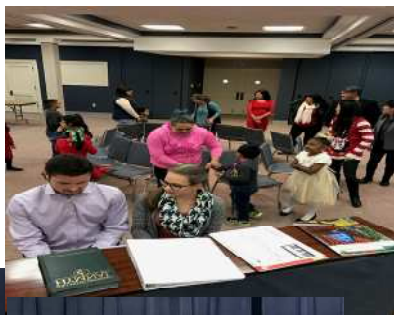
9:30 am—1:00 pm

Austin Avenue UMC—Fellowship Hall

AAUMC Piano Recital held on December 6

Special "Thank You" to all our participants, instructors, and those who attended to support our students! Refreshments were enjoyed by all!

Be watching for more to come during 2017!



Choir Practice Resumes on a New Day!

**Beginning, Sunday, January 15th
At 9:00 am in the Choir Room**



**Handbell practice resumes on
Wednesday, January 11th, at
5:30pm, in the Handbell Room**

Very Important Administrative Council Meeting

**Monday, January 23rd—7:00 pm
Fellowship Hall**

Celebrating the Sights and Sounds of a Very Special Christmas Season here at AAUMC



A Good Foundation For The Future

“Tell them to use their money to do good. They should be rich in good works and generous to those in need, always being ready to share with others. By doing this they will be storing up their treasure as a good foundation for the future so that they may experience true life.”

1 Timothy 6:18-19 NLT

We've had our vote through charge conference to approve bringing in a church planter to start a congregation within AAUMC that we pray will grow and flourish and eventually become the main worshipping community of our church. As I mentioned at charge conference we will vote twice, once by our ballot and once with our wallet! We've officially approved moving forward with finding a church planter, but now we need the help of everyone with the second vote!

We are funding the cost of this bold effort through a special campaign to raise the \$300,000 for staffing and program costs. Through the generosity of two families within our church who passionately believe in this effort, we will be able to match every dollar given up to the full amount we are raising. Your gift of \$1,000 becomes \$2,000; your gift of \$5,000 becomes \$10,000; your gift of \$12,000 becomes \$24,000; your gift of \$25,000 becomes \$50,000. Payment of your gift to the AAUMC Planting Program will be paid out over three years 2017-2019. It can be given as a one-time gift or given weekly over the three years. I firmly believe we will accomplish reaching the \$300,000 goal! It will take gifts of \$1,000 and gifts of \$30,000, and I am confident that our love for AAUMC and our hope for its future will compel us to be generous in our support for this special campaign.

These gifts are over and above our regular offerings. I commend to you the words at the top of this letter from the Apostle Paul, trusting that you too want to lay “. . . a good foundation for the future . . .” of AAUMC. This is the time for everyone who loves AAUMC to cast that second vote.

Austin Avenue United Methodist Church
1300 Austin Avenue
Waco, TX 76701

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Austin Avenews

New Floor, New Roof — New Life!



Sunday, January 1—Regular Worship Schedule