

# ACF NEWSLETTER

THIRD QUARTER, 2023

## A STRONG START

Fall 2023 has gone by in a blur. I cannot believe that we only have a few weeks left of this semester. With the Welcome Week events and an earlier-than-normal Fall Retreat, the first month in this semester was a sprint. By the time our staff was able to stop and catch our breath, the semester was more than half-way finished.

Our Welcome Weeks events were well attended. Katie Cobb, April Click, Rawson Brooks, and Allie Brothers did a tremendous job planning events like our Nerf Siege and the singing in the AU Chapel. A lot of new students attended these events. Katie Lawrence, our Outreach Intern, and our eight freshmen focus leaders worked hard to meet all the new students at these events. And many of these new students have stayed connected to our ministry.

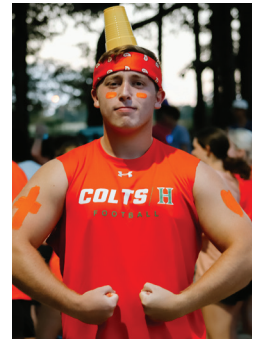
For the first time in several years, we were able to have a leadership retreat at the beginning of the fall semester. Between our apprentices, interns, community group leaders, and our freshmen focus leaders, we have over twenty students serving in a leadership role. We were blessed with the opportunity to go to nearby Christian retreat center — Camp Marannook — for the first weekend of the fall semester. We prayed together, discussed our roles and responsibilities, and planned out the fall. Most of these leaders are just volunteers. I appreciate their willingness to spend that whole weekend preparing for the year. Our student leaders are amazing. They invest hours each week into our ministry and into other students. They are truly on the frontlines of our ministry. I feel honored to get to work in the Kingdom of God alongside them.

Three weeks after our leadership retreat, we were back at Camp Marannook for our fall retreat. This year, our theme was *Forgiveness*. Specifically, we reflected on how our grasp of God's mercy for us leads us to be merciful to others. Rawson Brooks, Allie Brothers, Olivia Wilson, and Kendrick Duncan helped me plan the sessions. I taught the three of the sessions. On Saturday night, though, we split up into guys and girls for the evening session. Rawson and Kendrick led the guys' discussion, and Allie and Olivia lead the girls' discussion. They helped our students delve more deeply into the emotional and spiritual obstacles we all face when struggle to forgive others. As always, the students had fun hanging out. Camp Marannook had a great pool with a large pavilion next to it. We spent Saturday afternoon grilling out, swimming, and watching the Auburn game. Except for the Auburn loss, it was a great time.

Since our fall retreat, most of our focus has been on the weekly routines. Though I love our retreats and other events, the core of our ministry is in Tuesday nights, Community Groups, Discipling Groups, and more. Through these, our spiritual community is strengthened, and we grow in our knowledge of God.

Though we only have a few weeks left, we know God can accomplish a lot during that time. So keep our staff and student leaders in your prayers. Pray that we end the semester well. As always, I appreciate all of your support of our ministry. Without you, we couldn't do what we do.

In Christ, Micah Cobb



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Henry

Micah & Katie Cobb

By: Mitch & Cindy

Henry

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By: Kati Williamson

## ACF FINANCIAL REPORT

Auburn Christian Foundation, Inc. Income  
Statement for the Quarter Ended Sept. 30, 2023

### INCOME

CONTRIBUTIONS	26,679.22
INVESTMENT INCOME	1,383.07
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>28,062.29</b>

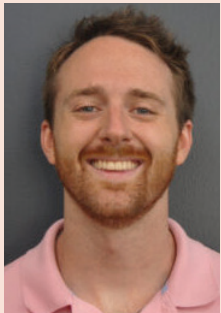
### EXPENSES

STAFF SALARIES	23,400.00
BUILDING & GROUNDS	23,220.55
COPIER EXPENSE	552.33
OFFICE	871.20
PAYPAL FEES	374.46
PRINTING	403.38
PROFESSIONAL FEES	875.00
SUBSCRIPTIONS	272.94
SUPPLIES	2,286.55
UTILITIES	4,711.50
<b>TOTAL EXPENSE</b>	<b>56,967.91</b>

**TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES (28,905.62)**



# FAITH, FRIENDSHIP, AND FINDING MY WAY



**Rawson Brooks**  
Class of 2019  
B.S. in Exercise  
Science

Like several of my peers, I can largely attribute my existence to the ACSC. One Christmas party at Auburn Church of Christ in the early 90s, students of the ACSC and members of the ACOC were asked to wrap and bring a gag gift and place it in a pile where partygoers would randomly pull a gift from the pile. Angela Chandler, and her toddler-aged son, Christopher, selected a gift. Revealed to be a finely crafted plastic sword, Christopher immediately began playing with it. The one who brought the sword as a gift, James Brooks, would notice the child playing with the sword and would go over to praise him on his impressive melee combat skills. Angela would notice the man talking to her son and go introduce herself. Six years later, I was born. My parents spoke fondly of their days at the ACSC throughout my growing up. Trips to Taco Bell, duct taping their friends to any and everything, Jim Brinkerhoff's messages, and of course, waiting in line to use the ACSC's landline phone. These stories would only further cement my intent to go to Auburn when I was deciding which college to attend. In fact, there was very little deciding as it was the only college to which I applied.

However, my first semester at Auburn was anything but the fun and camaraderie I had anticipated. The abrupt transition from the house where I was born and raised to Auburn, a city I had only previously visited on weekends, had a significantly greater impact on me than I had anticipated. I had very few friends from high school that came to Auburn, and even fewer that didn't quickly join the party scene. When I came to the ACSC, most of the freshmen in my class seemed to already have pre-established friendships with one another. I felt behind. Instead of going to home football games in Jordan-Hare, I spent most of my weekends going home to Huntsville or visiting my then girlfriend at another college. My grades suffered. My desire to workout suffered. My reliance on God suffered. Looking back now, it is clear I was depressed. One trip would change my trajectory forever: Gulf Coast Getaway 2016. Twelve freshman guys were thrown into a three-bedroom hotel room. It was there I realized how in my head I had been. These guys treated me like one of their own the moment I stepped through the door. It didn't matter that we had little to no previous experiences together. Our bond was only made stronger when we kept finding ourselves in trouble and consequently scolded by Micah. Using that base of confidence to show up consistently on Tuesday nights, many upperclassmen would begin inviting me to dinner and to participate in intramurals.

After several years of gaining memories similar to the ones of which my parents spoke, Covid hit. And while Covid itself didn't worry me, my lack of direction did. While my friends had

moved on to jobs or graduate schools after we graduated, I was unsure of what my next steps were. Feeling behind once again, I fell into a depression. Several factors would pull me out: I moved into the ACSC apartment, my friendships with Caleb Evers and Blair Bailey would evolve into brotherhoods, and I would begin to learn what it meant to be an active participant in my relationship with God.

In Exodus 14:14, Moses tells the Israelites, being chased by the Egyptians, "The Lord will fight for you; you need only to be still." Shortly after, God would part the sea for their escape. This verse grounded me in 2020 and still does today. Summer of 2021, Micah informed me that the Auburn Church of Christ Youth Group needed an intern. After initially turning down the offer, I decided to accept. That was the summer that ministry piqued my interest. The next summer, I had the opportunity to return home to Twickenham Church of Christ and intern for their youth ministry. That was the summer I learned that I needed to be in youth ministry. I would return to the ACSC that fall and begin working under Micah as his apprentice in order to hone my teaching abilities and further my understanding of ministry behind the scenes. Much like the parting of the sea in Exodus, this journey reaffirmed that sometimes, all one needs to do is stand still, have faith, and let God's divine orchestration guide their path.





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# FALL RETREAT 2023

