

ACF NEWSLETTER

THIRD QUARTER, 2019

WELCOME AND WAR EAGLE!

The Auburn Christian Student Center is both a receiving and sending ministry. We joyfully welcome new students from around the country, as well as around the world, each fall. We then launch them back out around the globe. We are thankful for you for partnering with us as we strive to challenge these students to transform into the image of Jesus during the four or five years that they are on the Auburn University campus.

Fall is a season of receiving here in Auburn. Before we started welcoming new students, we planned a "Reconnect" event for our returning students. They enjoyed an evening of fun and games at Chewacla, but most of all they enjoyed being back together since so many of them had been gone for the summer. Many of our students had served as interns, camp counselors, and missionaries for ministries all over the world this past summer, and we were thankful to have our ACSC family back together again!

We then concentrated on welcoming our new students. We did everything from helping them move into their dorms to hosting a Speed Greet, and from helping them find their classrooms to hosting a New Student Retreat. A huge thank you goes to our Freshmen Focus Leaders who have devoted themselves to loving these new students: Mariah Clark, Landon Boyd, Aidan Lambrecht, Becca Fraley, Caroline Whitehead, Connor Kelley, Elle Shipman, Geoffrey Frick, Hailey Chastain, Kyle Perkinson, and Kristin Henry. The FFLs will continue to pray, disciple, and serve these new students throughout the academic year.

After a month of non-stop welcome events, we have settled into a good fall routine here at the ACSC. Our Tuesday Night Worship continues to be the hub of our ministry. Micah has been teaching challenging lessons from the Gospel of Mark this semester. Our students are enjoying meeting together on Sunday nights for "Connect." Myron Highsmith and Jenny Cox are coordinating this effort and have something different planned each week - from prayer groups to dinners to panel discussions. On Wednesday nights, we continue to have many international students, scholars, and their family members join us at the Auburn Church of Christ to improve their English by reading through the Gospel of Luke. Of course, the weekends are full of football! Thanks to Lucas Vail for coordinating our ACSC gameday seating in the stadium. Our three ACSC interns, Blair Bailey, James Glass, and Tessa Voss, have gone above and beyond this fall loving and serving these students who God has brought us from the the four corners of the globe!

If you have not dropped by the ACSC this fall, then we hope you will soon! If you stay over till Sunday, please join us at the Auburn Church of Christ for Bible class and worship. Please like our Facebook page, www.facebook.com/au4jesus, or follow us on Instagram @au4jesus_ , to see in real time how your prayers and contributions are impacting the lives of college students on the Auburn University and Southern Union campuses.

Godspeed,
Mary Brinkerhoff, Activities Coordinator



THANK YOU FOR YOUR CONTINUED PRAYERS AND FINANCIAL SUPPORT!

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ACF FINANCIAL REPORT

Auburn Christian Foundation, Inc. Income
Statement for the Quarter Ended Sept. 30, 2019

INCOME

CONTRIBUTIONS	43,197.36
RENTAL INCOME	450.00
INVESTMENT INCOME	931.36

TOTAL INCOME 44,578.72

EXPENSE

STAFF SALARIES & BENEFITS	15,758.91
BUILDING & GROUNDS	11,800.86
COPIER EXPENSE	520.96
OFFICE	393.83
PAY PAL FEES	394.89
PRINTING	828.27
PROFESSIONAL FEES	1,075.00
SPEAKER FEES	56.83
SPECIAL PROJECTS	17,041.00
SUPPLIES	1,637.70
UTILITIES	4,692.07

TOTAL EXPENSE 54,200.32

TOTAL INCOME LESS EXPENSES (9,621.60)

THE KINGDOM AND THE CAMPUS

After my first year as the minister at the Auburn Christian Student Center, I spent some time thinking about the goal of our spiritual formation. Of course, we want every student to grow into full maturity in Jesus Christ (Col. 1:28). But we only have a few years with our students. Transfer students can be in our ministry for two years or less. Other students spend about four years with us. But since students are only here during the semesters, those four years are partial years. So we have to focus on a few goals, since we cannot accomplish everything in the limited time we have.

Through prayers and conversations with others, we decided to focus on five goals: first, we want every student to experience a careful study of one of the four gospels; second, every student should learn how to be meaningfully involved in a church and not just a campus ministry; third, we want every student to develop personal spiritual disciplines; fourth, we want students to learn to live missionally; and, fifth, we want students to learn to care for one another, discipling and edifying one another.

We are always trying to do things that help form our students in these areas. We are in the middle of a two-year study of the Gospel of Mark, carefully listening to the way that Jesus's mission is described and the call it makes on our lives. I personally have been challenged by spending time each week studying and meditating on the stories and sayings of Jesus included in Mark's gospel.

As a way to encourage our students to develop the spiritual discipline of prayer, we have started praying through the Psalms together. Using GroupMe, a popular smartphone app, I send out a daily psalm to nearly one hundred students in our prayer group. I ask everyone in that group to pray through that psalm at some point in their day, using the psalm to inform their own personal prayer. For the students who have chosen to participate in this, I hope that they can develop a daily prayer habit that is life-giving for years to come.

I could write a lot about how we are trying to encourage students

to disciple and edify one another, and I could also write about the ways we are encouraging students to be meaningfully involved in the Auburn Church of Christ. But let me end by writing about our efforts to encourage students to live missionally. We have students who volunteer with a local non-profit, By Our Love, to serve the children in the Ridgecrest community of Auburn. And we also have a lot of students involved in befriending international students and families, tutoring them in conversational English and displaying Jesus to them. In addition to these efforts and others, we have invited Mission Alive, a church planting and missions organization, to visit with our students for the second year in a row. Last night, some of our students ate with Mission Alive's president, Tod Vogt, and heard him talk about the opportunities (and need!) for mission in North America. He presented opportunities to the students and helped them imagine creative ways that they could serve the Kingdom of God, even if they do not enter "professional" ministry.

So, we continue to minister to our students, encouraging them to be like Jesus and providing them with opportunities to live out their faith. Our hope is that we continue to send students out into the world to be Jesus to the hurting and the lost. As always, I am grateful for your continued prayers and support. We couldn't do what we do without you!

Sincerely,

Micah Cobb, Campus Minister



Micah Cobb

Campus Minister,
Auburn Church of
Christ

Through his experience at the Auburn Christian Student Center and the

influence of Jim Brinkerhoff, he felt called to devote his life to campus ministry. After graduating from Auburn University with a B.A. in philosophy, Micah earned his M.A. in philosophy from the University of Mississippi. While he was at Ole Miss, he was the campus ministry apprentice for the Rebels for Christ. He was then hired by the Hilltoppers for Christ campus ministry in Bowling Green, Kentucky. He served as its campus minister from January 2011 until June 2014, when he moved to Auburn.



Lauren Henry
Senior, Nutrition
and Dietetics
Hope Hull, AL

COMMUNITY HAS NO LIMIT

I owe the Auburn Christian Student Center for my wellbeing. My college education was chosen based on this ministry's existence. The majority of my friendships can be attributed to the Student Center. My past three years' spiritual formation sprang from the friendships and opportunities given to me here in this place. Even my very existence can be traced back to the ACSC. My parents met here 30 years ago. I would not have been born if it weren't for the committed, fun-loving believers who gathered together with Jim and Mary Brinkerhoff so many years ago.

I do not say this lightly – today's ACSC has had a large hand in molding me into who I am today, spiritually as part of a larger community of God's people.

Community is not always easy to find, especially during college. I went from being fully known by my high school, youth group, and city to being just another number among thousands of Auburn students — a tough transition for an eighteen year old. Once the

excitement of the first couple of school weeks wore off, I found myself frustrated and lonely as Auburn was not what I expected it to be. Thankfully I was soon asked to join a discipleship group of 4 Freshman girls led by a sophomore. As we sat in a living room sharing our current spiritual walks, I knew this group would be impactful. The vulnerability grew as we progressed through the semester. Some weeks tears were shed while others, laughs were shared. I slowly started to feel a part of a community that offered so much more than the world. It offered Jesus.

The importance of this community impressed me throughout my years at Auburn. One powerful, influential conviction many ACSC members shared was that marginalized groups need to experience community more than anyone. I learned that these efforts were to be the means of how we bring God's kingdom to the earth. I didn't care for or truly understand marginalized people until I heard that term shared and repeated again by Micah Cobb and new leaders and members of the ACSC. I spent a week in Williamsburg, Virginia with ACSC students and ministers learning how a local church there was walking with those experiencing

homelessness—a marginalized community. An open door was placed in my path to serve international students – a marginal-

ized community. I was welcomed into the home of a family who loved and raised children in foster care—a marginalized community. I served alongside ACSC friends at the low income Lincoln Village neighborhood – a marginalized community. I realized something important during these experiences: Community has no limit.

The ACSC has allowed me to be a part of a community that does not just pour into me by encouraging me, but it points me towards groups of people who need encouragement and love. This was not an easy lesson to learn. However, I found that God works best when we actually allow him room to work. That is, we humble ourselves in His sight and rely on him to make the big moves.

I have seen God working every single day here. The servants and friends of the ACSC have opened my eyes to the work God was doing through one another within my growing community. Joining this ministry didn't simply provide a cool group of friends to hang out with; I experienced challenge, transformation, and conviction to show God's love to every tribe and every nation. And that has connected me with true community.

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NEW STUDENT RETREAT

