

# Alabama Centers

# The Gatekeeper



New Orleans Baptist  
Theological Seminary  
www.nobts.edu  
November 2013

## Special Points of Interest:

- **Thanksgiving Break**—There will be no classes November 25-29 in observance of Thanksgiving. Please enjoy a good and safe holiday with family and friends. Classes will resume on Monday December 2.
- **Defend the Faith Conference**—Apologetics Conference January 5-11, 2014 in New Orleans. For more info visit [www.nobtsapologetics.com/defendthefait](http://www.nobtsapologetics.com/defendthefait)
- **Birmingham Library**—The library and office will be open on Mondays (8am-7pm), Tuesdays (9am-2pm), and Thursdays (10am-2pm). If you need a resource for a research paper, please visit the library.
- **NOBTS Ecuador Mission Trip**—July 17-25, 2014 the Birmingham Center is offering 3 graduate and undergraduate course hours to go to Quito and Puyo, Ecuador. The mission trip will focus on church planting, discipleship, and evangelism. Approximate cost is \$2000. For more information please contact Dr. Stephen Hall at [stephenhall5@gmail.com](mailto:stephenhall5@gmail.com).

## Dr. Ron Pate, Director Birmingham Center

The Church at Brook Hills  
3145 Brook Highland Pkwy.  
Birmingham, AL 35242  
Phone: (205) 313-7800  
Cell: 205-516-4535  
E-mail: [rpate@nobts.edu](mailto:rpate@nobts.edu)

## Zach Kendrick, Assistant & Library Birmingham Center

Email: [bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com](mailto:bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com)

## NEW EXTENSION CENTER IN TUSCALOOSA

By Zach Kendrick

During a trustee meeting on October 8, 2013 the NOBTS Board of Trustees approved a new extension center in Tuscaloosa. The new extension center will meet at Forest Lake Baptist Church under the leadership of director Billy Austin, (please see interview on page 2). Three years ago, the Lord moved the hearts of Tuscaloosa area ministers to open a seminary extension center in the greater West Alabama area. After years of prayer

and meeting with seminary leaders the extension center has now become a reality. Classes will officially begin in January 2014, offering both graduate and undergraduate certificate courses. Currently, History of Christianity 2 and Systematic Theology 2 will be offered as graduate certificate courses in January on Tuesdays. However, the long-term goal of the extension center is to offer the full graduate and undergraduate degree program. Students can expect to see the full schedule

of classes offered in August 2014. For more information on the new Tuscaloosa Center please contact Billy Austin by email: [bibbybama@gmail.com](mailto:bibbybama@gmail.com) or by phone: (205) 339-2273. Additional Alabama Centers approved during the trustee meeting were a Huntsville Center, meeting at Heritage Bible College and the Rainsville Center, meeting at FBC Rainsville. For more information on NOBTS extension centers please visit [www.nobts.edu/extensions](http://www.nobts.edu/extensions).

## Dr. Teman Knight, Director Montgomery Center

Heritage Baptist Church  
1849 Perry Hill Road  
Montgomery, Alabama 36106  
Phone: (334) 279-9976  
E-mail: [Teman@HBCM.net](mailto:Teman@HBCM.net)

## Rev. Zach Richards, Director Rainsville Center

First Baptist Church, Rainsville  
223 Church Avenue  
Rainsville, AL 35986  
Phone: (256) 706-2478  
Email: [nealnobts@gmail.com](mailto:nealnobts@gmail.com)

## Rev. Billy Austin, Director Tuscaloosa Center

Forest Lake Baptist Church  
107 18th Street  
Tuscaloosa, AL 35401  
Phone: (205) 339-2273  
Email: [bibbybama@gmail.com](mailto:bibbybama@gmail.com)



*The Alabama Centers Gatekeeper is a publication of the NOBTS Birmingham Center. Any ideas for articles, interviews, or news can be sent to:*

[bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com](mailto:bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com)

## BIRMINGHAM CENTER

**Spring 2014:** The Spring 2014 schedule now online, please visit [www.nobts.edu/Extensions/Birmingham](http://www.nobts.edu/Extensions/Birmingham)

**Snack Table:** Please remember that all snacks and drinks are 50 cents.

**Greek Flashcard App:** Zondervan has released a new Greek flashcard app for the *Basics of Biblical Greek* curriculum. Cost: \$19.99 on the App Store.

## MONTGOMERY CENTER

**Schedule:** Spring 2014 class schedules at the Montgomery Center are available on the extension center website [www.nobts.edu/Extensions/CentralAlabama](http://www.nobts.edu/Extensions/CentralAlabama)

## RAINSVILLE CENTER

**Spring 2014:** Registration is now open for Spring classes at the Rainsville Center.

## MINISTRY POSITIONS

**Youth Pastor:** Grace Baptist Church in Fayette, AL is currently seeking a Part-Time Youth Pastor. If you are interested please contact Dr. Brad Doss at [preacherdoss@msn.com](mailto:preacherdoss@msn.com)

**Youth Pastor:** Whorton Bend Baptist Church in Gadsden is looking for a new youth pastor. If you are interested, please send your resume to Scott Mayo at [smay@farmersagent.com](mailto:smay@farmersagent.com) or mail it to 2820 Whorton Bend Road, Gadsden, AL 35901

**Youth Pastor:** Bellview Baptist Church in McCalla is looking for a Part-time Student Ministry. Be responsible for leading the youth ministry. Send Resume to [pastor@bellviewbc.org](mailto:pastor@bellviewbc.org) or mail to: 6674 Eastern Valley Road, McCalla, AL 35111

**Youth Pastor:** Bay Springs Baptist in Shelby, AL is looking for a bi-vocational youth pastor. They must be musically gifted and able to work with youth on contemporary music, able to fill the pulpit when needed, enjoying hunting, fishing, and not be afraid of mud. Send resumes to: [pastor@bayspringsonline.com](mailto:pastor@bayspringsonline.com)

## IMPORTANT DATES

**Nov 25-29**—THANKSGIVING (No Classes)

**Dec 5**— Finals for Thursday Classes

**Dec 9**—Finals for Monday Classes

**Dec 10**—Finals for Tuesday Classes

**Dec 14**—Graduation

**Jan 5-10**—Defend the Faith Conference

**Feb 21-22**—Greer Heard Forum (NOLA)

## PRAYER REQUESTS

Pray for the directors of our new centers in Rainsville, South Roebuck, and Tuscaloosa.

Pray for a good semester of ministry training.

Pray for fellow students and professors who are leaders of churches. May they lead well.

Pray for our churches, associations, state, and nation.

*If you have a prayer request please send it to [bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com](mailto:bhamasst.nobts@gmail.com)*

# MEET TUSCALOOSA CENTER DIRECTOR, BILLY AUSTIN

In light of the approval of the Tuscaloosa Center of NOBTS we would like you to meet Billy Austin, who will serve as the director starting January 2014.

### **Where did you grow up?**

I grew up in Montgomery, AL

### **What is your testimony?**

I became a Christian at age 8. Graduated from Samford University in 1967 and Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary in 1970. Prior to being called to be a minister, I wanted to be a lawyer. In a real sense, I left the law and embraced grace instead. I've always loved people and love preaching and preachers. I promised God I'd go wherever He wanted me to go and do whatever He wanted me to do. I've loved every place I've served and am excited about this tremendous opportunity for ministry.

### **What is your call to ministry? Where have you served in ministry?**

Served Hopewell Baptist and Duncanville Baptist locally, preceded by East Tallassee Baptist. Prior to retiring in January of

2013, I served as President of Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers for 21 years.

grand daughter, 15 year old Madison.



Courtesy Photo

### **Are you married? Do you have any kids?**

Married to Linda Headley Austin of Clanton, AL. Have one child, a son, who has worked at Hunt Refinery for 21 years, and one

### **Where do you serve in ministry?**

Retired and serving in this role only, although I enjoy supply preaching and serving as interim pastor.

### **What are you looking forward to most as the director of the new Tuscaloosa Center?**

I was approached about being the director in the Spring of 2013 and I gladly accepted. I hope to see students grow in their faith and understanding of God's Word.

### **What is your favorite hobby?**

Photography and photo editing as well as spending time with family.

### **What is your favorite sport to watch and/or play?**

Love to watch all football and cheer for the University of Alabama.

### **Besides the Bible what was the last book you read?**

Big Russ and Me, by Tim Russert. What did you learn? The importance of family and value of passion in whatever you do.

### **What is one piece of advice you would give students about their years in seminary?**

Value every minute of your time spent on seminary studies and don't be discouraged if you are challenged to your limit. Persevere and you'll be grateful throughout your ministry.