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 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.

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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
BIRMINGHAM CENTER

Spring 2014: The Spring 2014 schedule now online, please visit www.nobts.edu/Extensions/Birmingham

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


MONTGOMERY CENTER

Schedule: Spring 2014 class schedules at the Montgomery Center are available on the extension center website www.nobts.edu/Extensions/CentralAlabama

RAINSVILLE CENTER

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

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 1970. Prior to being called to be President of Alabama Baptist Retirement Centers for 21 years.

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 grand daughter, 15 year old Madison.

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.

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

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 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 Minister to be responsible for leading the youth ministry. Send Resume to 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

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