

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

April 21, 2010

The mission of the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, as part of the family of God, is to proclaim and spread the word and work of God through Jesus Christ our Lord, in the unity of the Holy Spirit, by Eucharistic worship and by ministry to the world.



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843



Sunday on Thursday

Can't get to Church this Sunday, going out of town, other commitments preventing you from getting to church on Sunday? Nativity continues to offer a worship opportunity on Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. in Bibb Chapel (church during renovation.)

This service utilizes the same readings as the upcoming Sunday, allowing you to say your prayers and worship prior to the weekend if you will be away. It is come as you are, from work or the gym, as casual as you need to be to get here! REMEMBER to make God a part of your weekend pilgrimage, offer your life and purposes to God's holy purposes as we gather for Eucharist on Thursdays.

Brad Landry to serve as Assistant Rector and Deacon in Training

I am thrilled to announce that Bradley Jackson Landry has accepted my call to serve as Assistant and Deacon in Training for Family Ministries, Reconciliation, and Parish Life. The vestry unanimously approved my calling Brad at our April meeting. Brad will graduate on May 14 from the School of Theology at Sewanee: The University of the South. His professors and the Dean highly commend him as a bright, energetic, compassionate person who brings many gifts to the priesthood. After ten months, Nativity will again have three full-time clergy when Brad officially begins on June 1.

Brad and his wife of almost eight years, Elizabeth, have two young children, Hattie (3) and Noah (2). They will be living in the Hospital District and hope to move to Huntsville on May 22. Brad writes a letter of greeting and introduction that tells you more about himself and his fine family on the inside pages. Brad, Elizabeth, Hattie, and Noah will join us on Saturday and Sunday of our Parish Weekend at Camp McDowell!

Brad is a candidate for Holy Orders from our Diocese and will be ordained a transitional deacon at his sponsoring parish for seminary, St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands, on May 19. Prior to seminary, Brad served as the Youth Minister at St. Mary's for four years.

Brad's first Sunday will be June 6. The ECW will help us welcome the Landry's with a reception following the 10:00 a.m. service that Sunday. Brad will provide pastoral and administrative oversight and leadership for our children's and youth Christian Formation ministries, including the nursery. He will prepare parents and godparents for Baptism.

Brad will be supporting Parish Life, Blue Apron Welcoming Team, Newcomers' Ministry, Parish Weekend planning, and fellowship opportunities for families and young adults. He will also provide pastoral leadership for our Reconciliation Ministries and work with our new group of Young Adults who are getting active at Nativity. Brad will share in offering clergy pastoral care and in our liturgical life, preaching and celebrating (celebrating after his ordination to the priesthood in December). Please keep the Landry's in your prayers as they make their transition to Huntsville.

Brad couldn't be joining Nativity at a more exciting time. With so many faithful groups meeting: Church School, Wednesday Evenings, Bible Study, Centering Prayer, Pastoral Care, EFM, Outreach, Worship, Music, and Fellowship; and vibrant children's and youth ministries...the hard work of our successful capital campaign moving toward completion with the most significant restoration work supported by a Save America's Treasures Grant taking place...with outreach giving more opportunities for us to reach out ...and a year in which we have had the most faithful and generous response to our annual stewardship campaign ...The Holy Spirit is at work, shaping and calling us to deeper levels of service. We welcome Landry Family now to be a part of Christ's strong presence among us!

Andy +

Dear Church of the Nativity,

"I thank my God every time I remember you." - Philippians 1:3



Elizabeth, Hattie, Noah, and I are very excited about soon calling Huntsville and Nativity our home. As we have gotten to know Fr. Andy, the staff, vestry, and other members, Nativity has been sifting its way into our hearts and prayers. We have been invited to attend the upcoming parish weekend at Camp McDowell where we look forward to sitting in rocking chairs or around the camp fire listening to each others lives as we get to know one another better.

By way of introduction, I wanted to share with you a few things about me and my family. Elizabeth is my wife of nearly eight years, and we have two children - Hattie (3) and Noah (2). During our visits to Nativity we have been

very impressed with the care the nursery has provided and our kids have loved the playground! We have lived the past three years in Sewanee, TN where I have been completing my Masters of Divinity at the School of Theology. While we will deeply miss our friends and the beauty of this place, we are very much looking forward to being back in the city! Before coming to seminary I served as the youth minister at St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands in Birmingham for four years. Elizabeth has a passion for serving others through the practice of medicine as a registered nurse.

I was baptized and raised in the Roman Catholic Church for most of my life, with a brief sojourn in the Baptist Church during part of high school and college. I first felt this strong call, or urge, towards ordained ministry when I was in high school. Elizabeth, grew up in various parts of the country and world, as her father was in the Air Force. While living in Japan, she was baptized in the East China Sea!

Elizabeth and I met and were married while we were students at Samford University in Birmingham. Towards the end of our college careers Elizabeth and I found that the Episcopal Church was an inclusive community that affirmed both our Catholic and Evangelical experiences of faith - a healthy synthesis of living traditions that have, and continue to feed us. Beautiful liturgy and sacramental spirituality continue to draw and sustain us in our relationship with God.

Elizabeth and I are both runners, and look forward to getting to know our way around the streets of Huntsville through our running shoes. I play the guitar and Elizabeth plays the piano, which typically turns into a ragtag duet when the kids insist on joining in the fun. If you want to know any more odds and ends about us you'll just have to find out in person (or Facebook friend us)!

I am very eager to begin my work at Nativity as the Rector's Assistant for Family Ministries, Reconciliation, and Parish Life. Many of the areas I will be working in are areas where I have great passion for ministry. It is very exciting to be coming to a church that is known for beautiful liturgy and music, and excellent education. As I share my first months and years together with you as a deacon, then priest, I hope to continue to learn from you all and serve together as the body of Christ.

Grace & peace,

Brad Landry

*God willing and the people consenting,
The Right Reverend Henry N. Parsley Jr., Bishop of Alabama,
Will ordain Bradley Jackson Landry
To the Sacred Order of Deacons
In Christ's One, Holy, Catholic and Apostolic Church
On Wednesday the nineteenth of May Two Thousand and Ten
At six o' clock in the evening
St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church
1910 12th Avenue South Birmingham, Alabama
Your prayers and your presence are requested
Clergy: red stoles Reception following*

PARISH NEWS and EVENTS

Bibb Chapel services - All services (Wednesday, Thursdays, Sunday early services, Centering Prayer) scheduled in the chapel will be held in the church due to renovations....

CCIB Restoration Status

The Bibb Chapel masonry project is complete. The church masonry project will follow when the National Park Service approves our plans and specifications. Copperworks of Decatur has completed replacing the roof and gutters on Ridley Hall. Scaffolding on Bibb Chapel has been installed. Replacement phase of the Bibb Chapel roof and gutters will start on April 26 and should require about 6 weeks to complete.

Bibb Chapel will be closed starting on April 26 for the six-week period during the roof and gutter installation phase. The interior of the chapel will be covered with plastic and the air conditioner turned off to prevent damage to the interior from dirt and dust. All services and events will be relocated to other locations. See the church schedule for the new locations. Also the "circle area" will be closed during the installation phase. Please observe and obey any barricades and detours. Should you notice anything that appears to be a safety hazard, please inform Loch, Skipper, or John Buys.

The steeple and church roof replacement cannot be started until the church and bell tower masonry project is complete. The church masonry project will require 6 - 7 months.

Contact Skipper Colin or Loch Neely if you have any questions.



Countdown to Parish Weekend 2010

The parish weekend committee is working hard to make this the BEST parish weekend ever! We hope that all of you are geared up and ready for this fun weekend at wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell!!! All participants will be receiving a very detailed email in their inbox at the end of this week, so be on the lookout. We can't wait to see you at the BEST parish weekend ever next Friday, April 30!

Youth and Children's Sunday -- Casual Sunday @ 8:45 Service!

We hope that all of you will join us this Sunday for our annual Youth and Children's Sunday. The 8:45 service will be led by the children of Nativity of all ages! Wills Brocato has prepared a sermon that you will not want to miss. Since the children will get to see a teen mentor speak to them from the pulpit and Club 56 lead the prayers of the people, we will cancel our regular children's chapel for this Sunday. Also, we ask that the kids (and adults!) come casual for 8:45 and Sunday school because we will be planting a children's garden in honor of youth and children's Sunday – in other words, they will be getting dirty! All children ages 3-4th grade will meet on the playground for Sunday school this Sunday. The Club 56 will meet in their regular classroom and will come to the playground at the end of class.



Children will Sing at 8:45 service this Sunday!

All of our children thru 4th grade have been learning the special music to sing in church this Sunday at the 8:45 service. If your child is interested in taking part in the singing this Sunday, please have them in Ridley Hall no later than 8:15 to rehearse and line up to process. They will be singing at the beginning of the service, so don't be late!!

Celebration of Sunday April 25 as Care of Creation Sunday

Be on the lookout for a colorfully-decorated offering envelope in your bulletin this coming Sunday, April 25.

This Sunday has been designated by Bishop Parsley as the Diocesan-wide Care of Creation Sunday, and Nativity children have decorated offering envelopes for our parish.

These envelopes will be used to collect money for our special Nativity project: a beautiful red maple tree which will be dedicated at Camp McDowell as part of the new landscaping project near the Chapel of St Francis.

We will present the money to The Rev'd Mark Johnston, director of Camp McDowell, during the Nativity Parish Retreat; the tree will have a special plaque showing that it was given by our Parish. Any extra funds collected will be used for additional plantings in the Chapel landscaping project at Camp McDowell.



Memorial Garden

Nativity Memorial Garden Donations accepted in honor of Memorial Day

Since many of our loved ones are interred in Nativity's memory garden, the Garden Guild has established a memorial dedication program. Your donations to the Garden Guild help us honor those who are buried in the garden with the decoration of beautiful plants and flowers.

Is there someone you'd like to honor? Contact Lane Tutt of the Garden Guild to make your donation. Donations must be received no later than May 16, to be acknowledged in the May 30th Memorial insert.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE May, 2010 , published 4/21/10

SUNDAY, May 2, The Fifth Sunday of Easter

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Anderson out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Joseph	Joseph	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 AM	Akin	Joseph	Basye-Holland Shuey, Ralph Shuey	Dianne Nettles, Melissa Kirkindall	Clay Sherrill
11:00 AM	Akin	Joseph	Don Askins, Lea Ellison	Martha Joffrion, Ed Greene	Martha Bosworth

WEDNESDAY, May 5, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 PM	Akin	Akin	Don Askins

SUNDAY, May 9, Sixth Sunday of Easter

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Akin out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Warren Vann, Charlie Warren, Lewie Bates	Amy Creech, Jeannie Robison	Virginia Kobler
11:00 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Sam Porter, Mike Ward, Mike Knight	Laura Brown, Mary Johnson	Deborah Baker

WEDNESDAY, May 12, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 pm	Anderson	Anderson	Cheryl Watts

SUNDAY, May 16, Seventh Sunday of Easter

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Groff & Lippe out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
8:45 AM	Joseph	Anderson	Cheryl Watts, Bob Serio, Lane Mickie, Robert Dunn	Lee Hicklen, Kachi Ezeibe	Lane Mickie
11:00 AM	Akin	Anderson	Rich Goodwin, Gary Rasponi, Dianna Dabbs, Walter Thames	Debbie Collette, David Collette	Ronnie Rogers

WEDNESDAY, May 19, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 PM	Akin	Akin	Mary Hendricks

SUNDAY, May 23, Pentecost

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
8:00 AM	Sloan	Sloan		Lane Mickie	Lee Hicklen
10:00 AM	Sloan	Sloan	Bryan Bennett	Michael Innes, John Conover	Shirley Hale

WEDNESDAY, May 26, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 PM	Anderson	Lippe	Jeannie Robison

SUNDAY, May 30, First Sunday after Pentecost

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
8:00 AM	Anderson	Akin		Dianne Nettles	John Hendricks
10:00 AM	Anderson	Akin	Roy Gowman, Memlee Allen	Ronnie Rogers, Roy Gowman	Sally Ann Culver

ALTAR GUILD

1	Lea Ann Barnett, Wanda Cobb, Ann Bishop, Debbie Joyner, Emily Moody	8	Laurie Noojin, Linda Watts, Kathryn Mahoney, Mary Johnson, Judy Vann
15	Kakki Brooks, Judy Heacock, Caffey Litkenhous, Wimberly Watts, Sara Little	22	Kitty Simmons, Elaine Calhoun, Laura Innes, Beth Pugh, Suzy Naumann
29	Emily Rodgers, Alice Lanier, Rose Ann Shearer, Louise Reynolds, Melanie Drenning		

BLUE APRON

2	8:45 - Mullins, Elis 11:00 - Suggs	9	8:45 - Bohan, Ayres 11:00 - Collette
16	8:45 - Bryant, Brooks 11:00 - Kerr	23	10:00 -
		30	10:00 -

CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE:

April 26 - May 2	May 3 - 9	May 10 - 16	May 17 - 23	May 24 - 30	May 31 - June 6
Akin	Akin/Anderson	Anderson	Akin	Anderson	Anderson

PRAYER LIST

We pray for those who are ill or recovering

Jennifer Russo, Jennsia Porter, James Horton, June Thompson, Sinclair Styer, Suzanne Thomason, Lillian Retzek, Mandy Lippe, Callie Sullivan, Charlie Kettle, Tippy Anderson, Judy Christian, Pearline Gilpin, Sara Grace Fague, Charlotte Laxson, Betty McCaleb, Gene Sullivan, Eileen Sullivan, Lauren Falls, John Klos, Bill Marsh, Angel Colin, John, Nancy Kelly, Leigh Wahl, Julie Kirk, Jack Wilson, Joan Bennett

We pray for our Military:

Johnny Johnston, Jr (Afghanistan); Lawrence Linton (Afghanistan)

We pray for the departed: Ruth Rasponi, mother of Gary Rasponi; Boyd Mabe Johnson, mother of Steve Johnson; Sarah Elizabeth Nicely, former parishioner

We pray for Jeff Ellis and Kairos Prison Ministry as Jeff serves on the staff of Kairos #50 at Limestone Correction Facility starting this Thursday, April 22–25. *The mission of Kairos Prison Ministry is to bring Christ's love and forgiveness to all incarcerated individuals, their families and those who work with them, and to assist in the transition of becoming a productive citizen.*

We give thanks for the birthdays of our children:

4/25 Hutson Chilton
4/27 Jackson Anglin
4/30 Thomas Aldag
5/01 Ian Braudaway
5/02 Rachel McCoy
5/06 Tripp Ford
5/07 Christopher Laney
5/08 Kachi Ezeibe

The next opportunity for baptism will be on Sunday, May 23, (Bishop's Visit) at the 10:00 a.m. services. Please contact Linda Wheeler in the church office (533-2455) to be placed on the schedule.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church in Huntsville invites Nativity Parishioners to join their Medical Mission Trip to Honduras June 5-12. Person in all aspects of the medical professions are welcome: doctors, nurses, dentists, pharmacists, physical therapists, etc. Persons without medical skills will be considered after the required positions are filled. For more information, call Bob Harwell, Mission Coordinator 256-348-1957. Each participant is responsible for his/her full costs.

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE MAY 2010

May 2

8:45	11:00	May 23 **NOTE SERVICE TIMES CHANGE THIS WEEK	8:00 **	10:00 ** Confirmation
C Henley Kelly	C Patrick Wingo, Olivia Collette	C Nancy Kate Baugher	C Drew McDonald, Kachi Eziebe	
T Robert Walker	T Foard Naumann, Foster Shrout	T Trace Markwalter	T Maggie Clanton, Harrison Hunter	
T Devon Parsons	T Dylan Joffrion, Paul Naumann	T Neil Luther	T Olivia Collette, Shep O'Neal	
S Katherine Walker	S Elizabeth Moody	S Reece Baugher	S William Ellison	
AS Cat Kelly	AS Rachel Joffrion	AS Travis King	AS Julie Difranto	
			Banners: A Dunn, Walker & Susan Purvis	
			Thurifer: Patrick Quillen	

May 9

8:45	11:00
C Wills Brocato	C Rowe Ragland, Rachel Quillen
T Chase Rogers, Spencer Anglin	T Elise Nelson, MM Ragland
T Maria Caprio, K Correale	T SL Miller, Hanly Ward
S Sabol Rogers	S William Ellison
AS SG Moore	AS Patrick Quillen

May 16

8:45	11:00
C Rachel Carter	C Anna Glenn, Lydia Sandy
T Kate Noble Hall	T David Sampson
T Tindall Morring	T Anna Quirk
S Madeline Sharp	S Bird Sherrill
AS Laurel Sharp	AS William Ellison

May 30

8:00	10:00
C Hutson Chilton	C Ian Briggs
T John Chilton	T Dylan Joffrion
T Tripp Ford	T Paul Naumann
S Rosie Chilton	S Rachel Joffrion
AS Carter McDonald	AS Foard Naumann

REMEMBER if you cannot serve on your date, please get a replacement as soon as possible.



“Brunch with our Neighbors” held on Saturday, April 17, 2010 Our first annual project for the Russel Erskine residents was an unqualified success. The grand ballroom was decorated with bunches of brightly-colored tissue paper flowers in containers made from our church’s old roof tiles, all designed by Johanna Hutchens. Elaine Calhoun, Suzy Naumann, and Alyce Smith prepared a beautiful and delicious meal and many helpers served our guests. We were entertained with music by Mac Phillips, Lee Hicklen, the Nativity Choir, and the one and only Microwave Dave. After stopping to have their pictures taken in the lobby, the residents returned to their apartments where a gift bag was personally delivered to them. Our friends at Russel Erskine enjoyed and appreciated all the work that went into this project and one of them expressed those sentiments beautifully:

My dear new Friends,
When one is not feeling so well, it seems that our Father sends his angels to watch over us.
I want to thank all the angels who had a part in being a blessing to all of us at Russel Erskine.
Please let the children know now very much their work is appreciated—everyone who had part.
I am so blessed today and I can’t thank you enough!!

In His Love,
Mary

The following people were present at Russel Erskine for the preparations on Friday and/or the event on Saturday:

Mary Anne Akin	RuthAnn Haymes
Andy Anderson	Lee Hickley
Gail Brown	Fisher Hutchens
Brian Burton	Michael Innes
Elaine Calhoun	Suzy Naumann
Club 56	Dave Phillips
Jennie Coe	Mac Phillips
Kathleen and Phil Dotts	Sarajane Tarter
Elizabeth Foster	Lane Tutt
Dave Gallaher	Andrea Vandervoort
Wayne Glenn	Helen and Ed Vaughn
Pat Goodson	Gaines Watts
Shirley and Bob Hale	Kathy Woodard

The following groups were involved in this project:

Men’s Wednesday Morning Bible Study
Men’s Wednesday Night Bible Study
Women’s Wednesday Night Bible Study
Reflections Bible Study
Good Book Bible Study
Tuesday Morning Centering Prayer
Daughters of the King
Prayer Shawl Ministry
Nativity Choir
Children’s Sunday School
Youth Sunday School

Wayne Laney,
Outreach Chairman

PARISH FINANCIAL CORNER—Period Ending 03/31/2010

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 87,552.90	\$ 99,791.67	\$ 253,285.00	\$ 299,374.97
Plate	\$ 2,735.34	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 10,443.52	\$ 11,250.00
Other Revenues	\$ (102.81)	\$ 9,125.00	\$ 22,595.98	\$ 27,375.00
TOTAL	\$ 90,185.43	\$ 112,666.67	\$ 286,324.50	\$ 337,999.97
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 15,394.10	\$ 22,583.33	\$ 44,521.36	\$ 67,750.03
Personnel	\$ 53,265.03	\$ 59,598.58	\$ 168,560.52	\$ 178,795.78
Other Expenses	\$ 33,523.35	\$ 30,456.28	\$ 89,270.90	\$ 91,368.48
TOTAL	\$ 102,182.48	\$ 112,638.19	\$ 302,352.78	\$ 337,914.29
NET	\$ (11,997.05)	\$ 28.48	\$ (16,028.28)	\$ 85.68

2010 HABITAT HOUSE BUILD UPDATE

April 24 Siding, stucco
April 27, 29 Install floor tile, hang interior doors, trim doors & windows,
May 1 Install cabinets, base-board, caulk/touch-up woodwork, landscape
May 4, 6 Wash windows, install door hardware, towel racks, closet shelving
May 8 Clean/wax floors, pressure wash concrete surfaces, hang storm doors & blinds, finish landscaping
May 11, 13 Catch up
May 14 Final touch up

May 14—11:00 a.m. DEDICATION CEREMONY

Contact Bill Giardini to be a part of this project. Visit the church website for weekly updates.

REMEMBER TO MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS for Top of the Hill Gang Luncheon Tuesday, April 27 at noon (come for appetizers at 11:30)

Speaker: Rev. Doug Carpenter, son of the late Bishop Charles Carpenter.

Topic: "Bishop Carpenter's Leadership Style"

The 11th Anniversary of Dining with Friends to benefit the AIDS Action Coalition of North Alabama will be at Nativity on Friday, May 14. The Church of Nativity has raised \$60,000 over the past five years! We hope to make this year the best ever! We are looking for hosts to help with the dinner. It's a fun way to dine while giving to a great cause. For more information, please contact Wimberly Watts, 755-3980 or Jeff Johnson, 651-2865.

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP

Earth Day is April 22. Here are 7 Ways to Make Earth Day Mean Something:

Changing a light bulb is a start – but it's not enough. To celebrate the 40th anniversary of Earth Day, take action with this smart advice from some of the country's leading environmental leaders and activists:

1. Mobilize

Earth Day grew out of a period in our history when rivers were on fire, when you couldn't see across the street because of smog, when we started to notice environmentally related birth defects. These were the signs of 150 years of industrialization going south, and the problems were obvious.

Changing a light bulb might sound silly, but think back to World War II, when everyone became a cog in the wheel and played their part. Women like my mother worked in tire factories. People bought war bonds. It was millions of people doing the right thing. And that's what needs to happen now, because this is a war – a war against flagrant abuse of resources, a war against greenhouse gases. Everyone needs to play a part.

–Kathleen Rogers, President of Earth Day Network

2. Plant a Tree

Commit to planting a tree in your yard or neighborhood each year. A properly placed tree can reduce your cooling costs in the summer and improve the overall health, aesthetics, and value of your home. Look for these species for the residential landscape: red oak, red maple, river birch, American hornbeam (also called ironwood tree or water beech,) or black gum. Planted on the west or south side of the house, a deciduous tree will help cool the house in the summer and allow the sun to shine on the house in the winter.

– from combined sources, incl Eric Ryan, Co-founder of Method home-cleaning products, & Harvey Cotten, Hsv Botanical Garden COO

3. Sit Down to Family Dinner

Between industrial farming practices, fossil fuel processing plants, packaging, and shipping, our modern food system is

said to be responsible for a third of global warming. But we can change that by making better choices. Whenever you can, eat organic, eat local, eat seasonally, and turn off the TV and talk to your kids about these things. Plus, isn't it nice to spend a little family time together? We could all use more of that.

– Chef Ann Cooper, Renegade Lunch Lady

4. Shop Differently

See the connection between the things we purchase and the damage we do to the Earth.

What we buy is more important

than what we do. Look at yogurt containers. When companies were pushed to replace plastic tops with foil seals, there was a dramatic drop in waste. Since Stonyfield made the switch in 2003, they've decreased their packaging by more than 100 tons annually. We need to get smart about the ecological impact of what we buy and let companies know we're wise to the game.

Green is not black-and-white. We can buy a T-shirt made from pesticide-free organic cotton, but it takes about 713 gallons of water to grow the cotton for that shirt. [Good-Guide.com](#) can tell you how more than 70,000 products stack up in terms of their environmental, health, and social impact in a single rating. You can even scan a product's bar code at the store with your iPhone and a rating will pop up (if one's available)

Spread the word to friends, family, online social networks, and most important the companies that are being affected by your actions. We need to push them to lessen the

ecological impacts of what they sell by letting them know that our purchasing decisions depend on it.

– Daniel Goleman, psychologist and author of ["Ecological Intelligence"](#)

5. Do Something Outside

We need to think of nature as our living room. You don't have to go on a grand adventure; just step out your back door. Sit in a hammock and enjoy the fresh air. Keep a blanket in your car for impromptu picnics. It doesn't matter what you do outside. Just get out there.

–Becky Garland, an exec dir at the Nat'l Wildlife Federation

6. Start Your Own Backyard Garden

Even though there's a farm stand two miles from where I live, I still have a garden right outside my kitchen. It's such a joy to prepare the soil, watch the plants grow, and bring in the harvest. It really keeps you in rhythm with the seasons, and **it's a great way to involve the whole family in an activity that teaches kids about the origin of food.**

–Myra Goodman,

Co-founder of Earthbound Farm Organic

7. Think Before You Toss

Before you throw something out or recycle it, take a moment to consider where it's going to end up and how it's going to get there. **Really think about it.** Think about how to divert it from the waste stream altogether, whether by composting or finding a second use for it. And **hold that image in your head every time you buy something.** Once you can visualize that daily waste stream and all the energy used to support it, and you can imagine the impact on the people who live alongside it every day, you'll understand environmental justice a little better.

– Marjora Carter, Founder of Sustainable South Bronx

STEEPLE SCHEDULE

The Steeple is published the first and third Wednesdays of the month.

To submit events or articles, you may bring them to Linda Wheeler at the church office or by email:

linda.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is noon, Monday, May 3, 2010.

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

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Non-profit Organization
US Postage Paid
Permit # 511
Huntsville, AL 35805

Cast of Characters

King Solomon - Prentice White

Eve - Evie Spearman

Adam - Jeff Ellis

Serpent - Bland Warren

God - Ed Vaughn

Queen of Sheba - Amy Creech

Naomi - Mel Ford

Ruth - Betsy Ford

Samson - Don Wheeler

Delilah - Jean Warren

Samson's Hair Dresser - Jeff Johnson

Philistine Guards - Skipper Colin

- Loch Neeley

The Cursillo Band as themselves

King Solomon and a
Few Fine Women in the Bible
coming to a church near you!

Mother's Day, May 9, 2020
10:00 a.m. in Ridley Hall
Fun and Refreshments

An All-Star Nativity Cast
