

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

June 2, 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.

Gratitude for Ministry

God and Father of all, we praise you for your infinite love in calling us to be a holy people in the kingdom of your Son Jesus our Lord, who is the image of your eternal and invisible glory, the firstborn among many brethren, and the head of the Church. We thank you that by his death he has overcome death, and having ascended into heaven, has poured his gifts abundantly upon your people, making some apostles, some prophets, some evangelists, some pastors and teachers, to equip the saints for the work of ministry and the building up of his body.

From the Ordination Service in the Book of Common Prayer

This prayer summarizes our hopes for the church and our ministry in Christ's name. It points specifically to the ministry of priests in the church, but it is also a prayer for every person in the church, who by virtue of baptism share in the priesthood of all believers.

This week we welcome a new ordained minister among us, Brad Landry, and prepare to receive the blessings of Christ's ministry through his life with us. But I am also especially thankful that God in Christ has equipped all of us for the work of ministry in the church. There are so many people at Nativity who, recognizing the abundant gifts God has poured upon them, regularly build up the body of Christ through ministry at Nativity.

As we move into summer hiatus, please join me in expressing gratitude for God's call to ministry, for yourself, and for our many brothers and sisters in Christ here. Ending the school year, we are grateful for the many teachers in our church school and weekday classes. This Sunday, we will recognize the new graduates of our Education For Ministry program, people who have committed four years of study to prepare themselves further for ministry to build up the body of Christ and God's kingdom.

We are grateful for our many ministers of music, our choristers, who give so much of their time week in and week out, leading us in moving worship, inspiring us to offer our best to God. In July, perhaps you might want to test a call to this ministry yourself by singing in the summer choir!

But during this transition time, I must thank two people specifically: Father Hyvenson Joseph and Deacon Mary Groff. On June 1, Mary Groff resumed her regular schedule of Sundays and Tuesdays. During our interim time without three full-time priests, Mary has graciously and effectively offered the gift of compassionate pastoral care on Fridays. She has been a huge assistance to Mary Anne Akin and me, and of course, to those she shared the gift of ministry. We cannot thank her enough for this expanded sharing of the gifts of ministry in her inimitable, practical, style!

Father Hyvenson's joyous and deep faith have blessed us all the past seven months. We will miss him as he returns to his Diocese of Southeast Florida. He has been instrumental in pastoral care, especially for our homebound. He has rallied our young adults in the parish to form community, organizing our Sundays on Thursday Eucharist and assisting them in identifying their commitment to outreach ministry. They have become an intentional presence among us. Please join me in thanking Hyvenson and offering prayers for his continued life and ministry. We look forward to his visiting from time to time, and to the completion of the housing project for his expanded family in Haiti.

At Nativity, we have much to be grateful, especially for God's calling us to ministries which demand our best efforts and which satisfy and delight us...and, especially for God's raising up so many faithful ministers, ordained and lay, who build up the Kingdom of Jesus Christ.

Andy +



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.

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.

PARISH NEWS and EVENTS



SUNDAY, June 6 is HAP Sunday. Please remember to help our neighbors by providing the following items to be delivered to Huntsville Assistance Program:

Canned Meat, Canned Fruits, Canned Vegetables, and Cereal

Women's June Tuesday Night Bible Study will be held the rest of June in Ridley Hall!

A summer class entitled "Crossings Continued," will be taught by Suzanne Matthews every Tuesday evening in June from 6:00 - 7:45 p.m. This is a follow-up to the "Crossings" Women's Retreat at Sewanee in February. The cost of the class is \$25. To enroll, call the office at 533-2455 or Lane Tutt at 653-7200. Due to the wonderful group for the first class we will move to Ridley on June 8.

"Are you interested in attending Cursillo?"

Remaining dates in 2010 September 16-19, and October 14-17.

Contact one of Nativity's Cursillo Ultreya Co-lay rectors Chris and Shelley Whitney or David and Debbie Collette.



The Choir plans a trip to England in the Summer of 2011!

All interested in singing or travelling with us must contact Suzanne soon; commitments and arrangements will be made this summer. Help us raise funds for our trip to England by supporting our **White Elephant Sale on June 19th.**

Donations are currently being accepted and can be stored in advance! For more information call Suzanne in the Church Office or Suzanne.purtee@gmail.com or you may contact Chris Jackson at 880-1627.

Acolyte Schedule June 2010

June 6

8:00

C Henley Kelly
T Spencer Anglin
T Robert Walker
S Katherine Walker
AS SG Moore

10:00

C Patrick Wingo
T Elise Nelson
T Tripp Ford
S Elizabeth Moody
AS Hanly Ward

June 20

8:00

C Ian Braudaway
T H B Bryant, F Shrout
T KN Hall, N Luther
S Madeline Sharp
AS Laurel Sharp

10:00

C Lydia Sandy, David Sampson
T F Naumann, B Sherrill
T D Joffrion, S O'Neal
S Paul Naumann
AS Rachel Joffrion

June 13

8:00

C Wills Brocato
T Chase Rodgers
T Maria Caprio
S Sabol Rodgers
AS Karsten Correale

10:00

C A Quirk, R Carter
T T Morring, D Parsons
T SL Miller, N Carter
S William Ellison
AS MM Ragland

June 27

8:00

C Anna Glenn
T Travis King
T Harry Hudson
S Kachi Eziebe
AS Carter McDonald

10:00

C Olivia Collette, Ian Briggs
T Walker Purvis, H Hunter
T Susan Purvis, A Dunn
S Julie DiFranco
AS Trace Markwalter



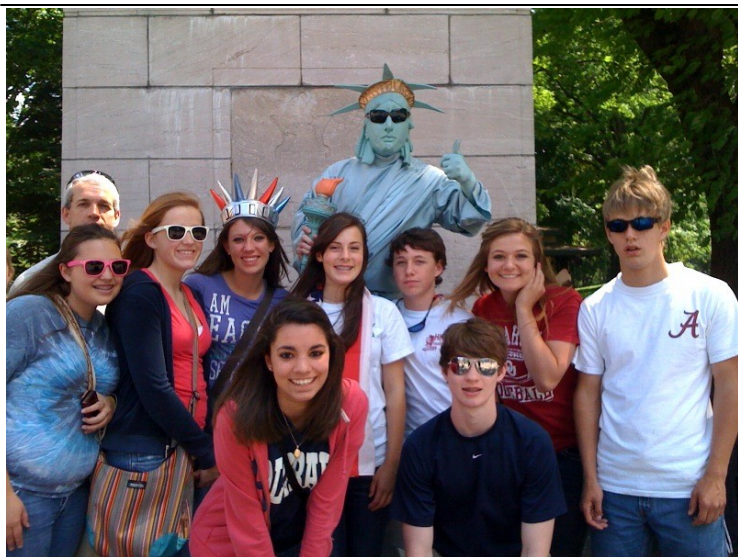
REMEMBER to check your favorite gift and book store for all your summer needs. The Mustad Seed—is open:

Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday 10:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m.

Sunday 10:00 a.m.—12:30 p.m.

New shipments arriving weekly so you need to check often for that perfect gift of book.

YOUTH HAPPENINGS!!!



On May 6th our Youth Confirmation Class 2010 went to NYC to work and play. While there we worked at Holy Apostle Episcopal Soup Kitchen, Project Hospitality on Staten Island and St. Michael's Soup Kitchen. We also shopped, ate, saw Blue Man Group and did too many other things to even name. Included in our group was: Chaperones: Catti Clanton, Emily Collette, Leila Hergert, David Joffrion, and Bartlee Linton; Students: Spencer Anglin, Noelle Carter, William Ellison, Allie Hergert, Elise Nelson, Travis King, Trace Markwalter, Rachel Quillen, and Hanly Ward. Our adventure was amazing! Thank you all so much for your prayers and support in making this possible! David Joffrion wrote the following letter to the confirmation group and with his permission we are sharing with all of you. This is a perfect reflection on a meaningful trip.....

Allie, Elise, Hanley, Noelle, Rachel, Spencer, Trace, Travis, William:

As you all unwind and start to process in the next few days what it was you just went through in New York, let me take a minute to say some things about the trip.

First and foremost, it was a GREAT trip. There is no other word to describe it. You all acted and behaved as well as I could have ever imagined, and I am sincerely and deeply proud of all of you.

As far as the experience, I want you all to realize some things....

You are all so VERY priveleged to have been able to make this trip. You are all lucky to have the things in life you have. Having said that, this privelege you enjoy does not mean you are ENTITLED. And I expect each of you to know the difference. You simply do not deserve good things in life just because you come from good families.

So what does this mean? It means that you now have a perspective on life that a lot of people your age, and even quite older, do not and WILL not ever have. You have seen how people of all races and backgrounds can be less fortunate, and you have seen how the GRACE of those who care can affect these people. Every one of us - rich, poor, smart, not-so-smart, whatever....has issues. And we should never judge anyone because of anything they can or can't do.

I challenge each of you, and expect you all, to take this perspective, and this WISDOM from your experience in New York, to grow with it, and become LEADERS in your respective walks of life. You are all so very capable of doing this! Have the courage to do what is right, have the compassion to help

others always, and never take yourselves so seriously that you think you are better than ANYONE. Lead by example. Take action. Speak up and make yourself heard, even if it is not the popular thing to do. If you do this - if you do not worry what others think about you but instead focus on good over bad, then you will have the admiration and RESPECT of all your peers. This is how people can and do change the world, to make it a better place, even in Huntsville Alabama. And always, ALWAYS give of yourself. Giving to others is a very powerful gesture, and one that will fulfill your heart in ways you can't even begin to imagine.

Now, will you always do the right thing? Will you always make the right choices? Of course not. But real leaders learn from their mistakes, and move onward. They pick themselves up off the ground, shake off their shortcomings, and keep on keeping on. I watched each of you this weekend, and I know without a doubt that you all can become great people.

And last of all, never be afraid or embarrassed to proclaim and know that everything you have, and everything you are, is because of God. He is the reason you are here, and the one thing He is about is LOVE. If you can learn to be loved, and give love in return, then your life will be much fuller and happier because it. I ASSURE YOU of this!

I am humbled, grateful, and very appreciative that you all accepted me as one of your group. I can't say that I knew any of you beforehand, but I can without hesitation call all of you my friends as of now. If any of you EVER need help, a friend, a confidant, advice, or anything else that I can do for you, my heart and my home is always open to you.

I am a better person for having been with all of you this weekend!

David Joffrion

VBS REGISTRATION IS OPEN ONLINE!

Are your children ready to go on an adventure like no other? We have a fun week with some new twists planned for our children this year! VBS is open to children ages 4 by September 1 - entering 6th grade. **New for this year – we will offer a fun-filled, outreach focused program for our 4th -6th graders.**

To register your children for this fun filled week and get more details about the week, go to www.groupvbspro.com/vbs/hl/nativitykids.

MEMORIAL GARDEN DONATIONS RECOGNIZED MAY 30, 2010

In Memory of Viola Hart Coons Ayer

Harry J. Coons, Jr. Family

In Memory of Katherine Hargett Boyer

Alberta J. Hargett

**In Memory of Katherine Hargett Boyer and
Byrne Taylor**

Walter and Susie Harper

**In Memory of Dan Calhoun, Scott Thomas, and
Johanna Caruso**

Carl and Sarah Gessler

In Memory of John Hilchey

Mr. and Mrs. John S. Epps

Mrs. Dorothy Hilchey and Family

Mr. and Mrs. Milton A. Page

Mr. and Mrs. Hugh Bigler

Mr. and Mrs. Gaines Watts

Sue Rowan

The Rev'd and Mrs. Emile Joffrion

Anne Paelian

Chester and Anita May

Lucy Corker c/o Lucy Hilchey

Gerald W. Patterson

Vernon and Martha Hutchens

In Memory of George Loughead

Marion Loughead

In Memory of Milo Shearer

Mr. and Mrs. I.O. Drewry, Jr &

Mr. and Mrs. I.O. Drewry III

Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Little

In Memory of Scott Thomas

Lane and Drew Tutt

In Memory of Scott Thomas and Alice Hamilton

Jennings and Kitty Simmons

In Memory of Kathleen Weatherbee

Susan Welstead

**In Memory of All our friends
who are buried in the garden**

John and Pattie Cline

In Honor of Suzanne Butler Williams

Ed Williams, Jr.

In Honor of Conner and Wills Graduations

Gerry and Jane Brocato

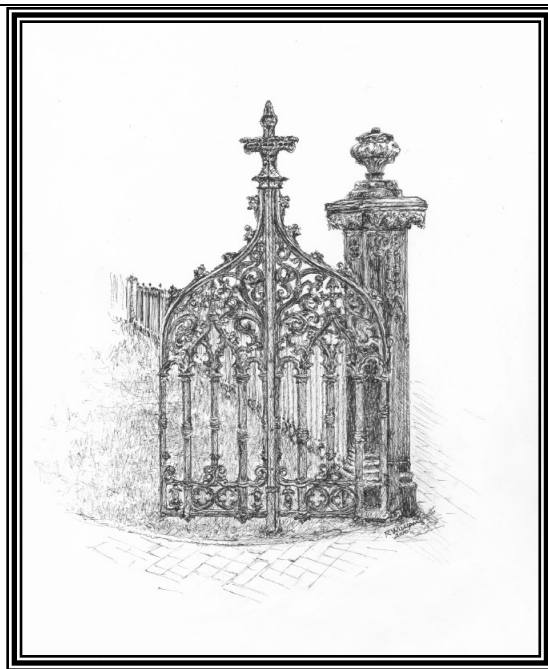
**In Honor of Rosemary Williams Little
for the pen and ink drawing of The Nativity Iron Gate**

Nativity Garden Guild

General Donations to Memorial Garden

Beezie Lindsey

Nativity Flower Guild



We offer special gratitude to Rosemary Williams Little for the generous offering of her original pen and ink drawing of the Nativity Iron Gate, circa 1859. She has given Nativity Garden Guild copyright privileges and for this we will ever be grateful.

NATIVITY ART GALLERY



Features Mary Ellen Davidson

As an award winning artist in the medium of etching for over 25 years, Mary Ellen's work has sold throughout the USA and in other countries. Her one-woman exhibits have taken her from Texas to Florida along all the southern states and eventually to Chicago and Los Angeles. Today, being part of the Huntsville community, she especially enjoys her membership with the artists of "The Committee" and with the HAL Gallery.

**On May 23, 2010, we celebrated baptism and
confirmation with**

Bishop Suffragan Kee Sloan, presiding

Baptized:

Charles Gavin Ray, son of Brooke and Charles Ray

Youth Confirmands 2010

Spencer Anna Anglin, Noelle Pirie Carter, William Wyatt Ellison, Allie Culver Hergert, Travis Edwin King, Richard Eugene Markwalter, Elise Laurie Nelson, Katharine Rachel Quillen, and Cathryne Hanly Ward

Adult Confirmands 2010

Robert James Barinowski, Sandra Renae Barinowski, Ana Mari Cadilla, Allen L. Daniels, Mallory Lynn Garner Heather Noel Gray, David Lee Meyer, Denise Laurie Nelson, Stephanie Sherman, David V. Smitherman, and Marion B. Spragins, IV

PRAYER LIST

We pray for those who are ill or recovering

Louise Moon Weathers, Gilda May, Nelta Tolar, Jessica Nettles, Perry McClain, Kennedi Phillips, Susie Harper, Pat Hair, Betty McCaleb, James Horton, Suzanne Thomason, Callie Sullivan, Tippy Anderson, Judy Christian, Charlotte Laxson, Gene Sullivan, Eileen Sullivan, John Klos, Bill Marsh, Angel Colin, John, Nancy Kelly, Leigh Wahl, Julie Kirk, Joan Bennett

We pray for our Military:

Johnny Johnston, Jr (Afghanistan)

We pray for the departed:

George G. Gundy, father of Walter Grundy

We give thanks for the birthdays of our children:

6/12	Ella Duncan, Abby Ginn, Jack Copeland
6/13	Elise Ramsey
6/14	Nathan Linton, Alee Clayton
6/15	Kate Miller, Joshua Huskey, Ian Artrip
6/19	Sims Windham, Lydia Sandy

Next Baptism date is July 18, 10:00 a.m.

Contact Linda Wheeler in the church office to be put on the schedule.

We pray for Nativity parishioners Margo Ellison and Byron Hulseby who will be attending Cursillo #173 at Camp McDowell this coming weekend, June 10-13.

CCIB REPORT: RESTORATION UPDATE by Loch Neely, Chairman

BIBB CHAPEL:

Bibb Chapel is again open for services. The Bibb Chapel exterior (masonry and roof) restoration is complete. The interior plaster repair cannot be completed until the excess moisture has escaped from the walls. This will require several months.

CHURCH AND BELL TOWER:

The masonry restoration work has begun on the church. Mortar removal is complete on about 60% of the Green Street side of the nave. The cast iron dentils have been removed and will be cleaned and repainted before being re-installed. Mortar removal and re-pointing over the breezeway to Ridley Hall has been completed, allowing the breezeway roof to be completed. Scaffolding has now been installed around the bell tower for the masonry repair and re-pointing. The scaffolding will be in place for about 2 months. Additional scaffolding will be installed and moved to various other parts of the church as work progresses. Covers will be placed over the stained glass windows to protect the windows and to prevent dust infiltration. For safety reasons, the outside bell tower doors will remain closed and sealed during this work, for at least 2 months.

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 Buyse. If you have any questions please give me or Skipper Colin a call.

JUST DO IT! Do not merely listen to the word.....Do what it says. James 1:22

Our request for help comes to us from the Boys and Girls Club on Abingdon Ave. (close to Lincoln school) They anticipate around 250 kids will attend their summer program, ages ranging from K-12th grade and they badly need volunteers to assist with the children. Nativity has been asked to provide volunteers for each Tuesday in June and July.(Yes, we know it's late.).The shifts are from 8-12 and 12-5 and we need 12 volunteers for each shift. Half of these can be older teenagers. You may volunteer for as many shifts as you can and are willing to work into your schedule.

The volunteers will help the children with the activities. Every Tuesday the K-8 year old group will be going roller skating. The volunteers going with the skating group will help the little ones get their skates on and off and get shoes back on and loading onto and off of buses. (You do not have to skate!) The volunteers who don't go skating will do what needs to be done with the children remaining at the Club...meals, snacks, art, reading buddies, outside recreation...wherever the volunteer feels most comfortable and useful.

QUESTIONS? You can contact Holly Ellis (hollyellis4cabi@gmail.com) or Emily Rodgers (emily34@knology.net). These children need to know that people care about them. All we need to do is **JUST DO IT**, show up and show love!!!

JUST STUFF IT! (a meal pack, that is)

Here's an opportunity for you to help prepare meal packs for the homeless outreach teams at First Stop. We will gather for an assembly line in Ridley Hall after the 10 a.m. service on Sunday, June 13. Youth and adults are welcome to join around the tables to stuff items such as cheese crackers, fruit cups, vienna sausage, and cookies into plastic zip-locks, all funded by our Outreach Committee.

Come join us!

Bill Goodson, First Stop Volunteer

A NEW TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY for Church Services & Activities?

1. Do you need transportation to attend services and other church related activities?
2. Are you willing to transport parishioners to services and other activities?

Call the church office 533-2455 and let us know or talk with Deacon Mary Groff for more information!

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP submitted by Jennifer Retzke

Number 3 in a series on GreenScaping: The Easy Way to a Greener, Healthier Yard

Practice Smart Watering for Healthier Plants

Too much of a good thing

Did you know that watering too much or too little is the cause of many common plant problems? You can have healthier plants, save money on water bills and conserve precious water resources by learning to give your lawn and garden just what they need, and no more.

Water deeply, but infrequently.

Most plants do best if the soil is allowed to partially dry out between watering. A loss of shine or footprints remaining after you walk across the lawn indicates that it's time to water. Vegetables and other annuals should be watered at the first sign of wilting, but tougher perennials (plants that live several years) need water only if they stay droopy after it cools off in the evening. Trees and shrubs usually don't need any watering once their roots are fully established (two to five years), except during periods of drought.



Make every drop count.

Some easy ways to lower water bills and get more water to plants include:

- Build your soil with compost and mulch to hold water and reduce evaporation.
- Choose low-water-use plants. Once established, they can often thrive just on rainfall.
- Use soaker hoses or drip irrigation on beds - they can save 50 percent, or more, compared with sprinklers.
- Use an outdoor water timer (available at garden stores) to water just the right amount, frequency and time of day.
- Water lawns separately from other plantings. Make sure sprinklers aren't watering the pavement.
- When soil is dry or compacted, it won't absorb water quickly. If water puddles, stop watering a while and then restart so the water has time to soak in.
- Water in the early morning—if you water at mid-day, much of the water just evaporates. Evening watering should be avoided because it can encourage the growth of mold or plant diseases.
- In a dry spell, you can allow an established lawn to go dormant. Water just once a month and brown areas of the lawn will bounce back in the fall.

Let the rain soak in.

Rain rushes off roofs, pavement and compacted soil. This causes flooding downstream, erodes stream banks and muddies the water, which harms fish and other wildlife. You can help slow this run-off and help the soil hold the moisture plants need in summer.

- Direct downspouts out into lawns, rain gardens or "rain barrels."
 - Use compost and mulch to reduce erosion and help rain soak in.
 - Use open pavers, gravel or other pavement options that let rain seep into the soil.
 - Plant dense strips of native trees, shrubs and groundcovers next to streams, lakes and ditches to stabilize the soil and to slow and filter run-off.
-

What a child of the Church of Nativity is like.!!!

When I was in seminary at Sewanee, I met Steve Mosher, and Rusty McCown, two classmates and friends, who are now also priests of the Church and very familiar with Nativity. I was among the few in my seminary class for whom going to seminary was our very first career. It appeared to me then, that all these second-career-seminarians, including Rusty whom I called (Mr. McCown), and Steve (l'homme blanc), gave up some very honorable careers with a secure income to come to seminary. Most of their sponsoring parishes were much larger and more financially healthy than I was used to in Florida. When talking in groups about our own parishes, my first impression of Nativity was a corporate size (large) parish, and because it was in the South and in the middle of downtown, I thought it must also exist for corporate white collar Southerners. I was invited as a guest seminarian to visit the diocese of Alabama. I attended Summer Camp at McDowell with Bishop Sloan, then just "Kee", and then did Sawyerville Day Camp. I confirmed that the first part of my impression of Nativity was true. This happened by staying quiet; I did that effortlessly as you know me, and listened to counselors and campers talking about churches in the diocese of Alabama. However, during my seven months of service as an interim assisting priest at Nativity, I verified that the second part of my impression was not right. Through the following paragraphs, you will see, I hope, why my impression of Nativity as a white collar southern Church was dead wrong!!!

As you are reading this article I am sure you are wondering how I got to Nativity. I had no connection with Nativity whatsoever, beside Rusty whom I met in seminary and who is now a priest working for the National Church, and Steve, who is now a priest in Tennessee. When I returned to Sewanee to work on my second degree, I was in a desperate financial need. Knowing that Fr. Mosher accepted a call to a different parish, leaving this curacy position vacant at Nativity, I wrote an email to the Rector of Nativity whom I had never met before. I don't know if Andy had made one or many phone calls on my behalf, but as a priest of the Church, I feel like he accepted me unconditionally. The only thing he warned me of during our short interview is that Nativity is a large parish (meaning) lots of work!!! which is what I thought. When he informed me that I was starting the following week, I started to think, that I wear a collar as a priest but I am not a white collar!. Au contraire, I was rather broke!!! As for the "southerner" part, I am neither from the north nor from the south. I am from Haiti, and my accent is very Haitian, too!!! But I was hired before I even knew it. Can't you say I was wrong!!!

I worked as a Young Adult and Pastoral Care minister, and in addition to the strong pastoral relation that was developed between me and folks, I succeeded in making friends with some Nativity parishioners who were very dynamic in the Church for some time, and now they took delight in telling me all their Nativity stories. Needless to say, an affectionate bond developed between the Young Adults and me who are not too far apart in age. Their eagerness and excitement to help me build a temporary shelter for my extended family members who were affected by the earthquake in Haiti is an expression of such love and fraternity that exists between us. If you are an internet user, browse the site "Friend of Hyvenson" for a better understanding.

As to the larger community, that is, all the three congregations 7:45; 8:45; 11:00, it has been a real blessing to interact with them in a pastoral capacity. Through my preaching, celebrating the mass, and making pastoral calls, there is always joy in my personal conversations with them. I also had the opportunity to make some more friends within the congregations. During the earthquake in Haiti, I was sustained by all the prayers, phone calls, emails, encouraging words, sympathy, monetary donations, etc. I received from the entire congregation. As one of their pastors, they were concerned for me as well as all my relatives who were in the middle of the disaster in Haiti. It was quite encouraging and amazing.

Now as my contract with Nativity is expiring soon, I can say from the bottom of my heart that this is a place that I'm going to miss so dearly. I am on my way to Florida where my permanent home is, and from there I will discern my next move. In the mean time, I will ask your prayers for the Young Adults of Nativity in all their various activities to raise the money to go to Haiti and help me build that shelter. Raising the funds needed will mean that my immediate move after leaving Sewanee will be in Haiti for the construction of that home. And I am so grateful accomplishing that along with Nativity in Haiti.

I am sure you are not surprised to hear the impression of the outside world of Nativity. There is a French idiom that say, "On ne batit pas une grande cathedrale dans un petit banlieu, mais une petite chapelle." which means, a big cathedral cannot be built in a small suburb, but a small chapel. Because Nativity is located in the middle of clean downtown and the neighboring upper middle class areas of Huntsville, it's only natural that it people from its surrounding thus people who are financially secure. By the same token, there are many parishioners who make their living by waking at 5 am like any other hard-working American family. Do you realize how I was dead wrong!!!

Let me say quickly that I was born in Port-au-Prince, Haiti in 1971. I immigrated to the United States in 1997 and landed in Boca Raton, Florida. I found my way to seminary in Sewanee in 2001 and graduated in 2004. I was ordained a deacon in April 2004, and assigned as the priest-in-charge of St. Peters' Episcopal Church in Key West Florida. In October 15, 2004 I was ordained to the priesthood and remained at St. Peters' for three years. In July 2007, I felt the call to go for a higher education. I resigned my position in Key West, went to Canada for two years following that higher educational calling. In 2009, I returned to Sewanee to work on my S.T.M. (Master in Sacred Theology) as a step toward that higher degree. That was when I got the opportunity to meet all of you. And it was an immeasurable blessing to have crossed your path. The Lord was taking care of me and you by doing that. I sincerely hope we will cross each other's path again, who knows!

I repeated so many times in my sermons that a church must mirror its Lord Jesus Christ, not its culture. As imperfect as we are, it is quite normal that we are not getting it perfect, and we never will. We are called to struggle, and keep on trying, and God will make it perfect for us in the very end. Thus if you come to Nativity, you will quickly realize that there are a large varieties of domestic and foreign activities reaching out to all kinds of people, cultures and nations. And if you make a quick impression hearing from the outside world like I did, I would dare invite you to come. And like myself, you will realize you too, will be wrong.

Au Revoir Nativity and God bless,
Hyvenson +



HAITIAN DINNER @ NATIVITY

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, June 14, 2010.

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

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THANK YOU FOR
204 Beach towels for
Sawgerville Campers

Please join us as we welcome...



Brad, Elizabeth, Hattie, and Noah Landry with a traditional Nativity Welcome Reception on Sunday, June 6 immediately following the 10:00 a.m. service in Ridley Hall.

The Rev'd Brad Landry will be preaching at both services.