

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

June 16, 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.

NO LONGER I...

I have been crucified with Christ; and it is no longer I who live, but Christ who lives in me. These words from Sunday's Epistle reading from Galatians challenge us to a larger plane of living, not only for Sundays, but for every minute, every day of our lives. So how do we get there? What would it mean for Christ to live, not you, through your life? What would it mean for you to recognize that Christ lives in everyone you meet?

Longing for Christ to dwell in us, *to live in us*, claiming that in his crucifixion, the less-than-God-intended life we live, is crucified also, sets us on the spiritual journey. And the goal of the spiritual journey is nothing short of divine union with God in Christ. Divine love then emanates from our lives manifested in the fruit of the Spirit: love, joy, peace, patience, kindness, generosity, faithfulness, gentleness, and self control. We live the Beatitudes.

The spiritual journey is not a search for perfection or control or the door to heaven; it is a search for divine union now. It is the remarkable discovery that what we have been seeking is already given. I did not find it. It found me.

Perhaps we have been going about it in the wrong way. It has less with "doing" and more with "being." In Genesis we hear the Divine DNA is already a part of us. *So God created humankind in his own image, in the image of God he created them, male and female he created them.* Christ's indwelling is never earned by any behavior or ritual, but only recognized and realized *and fallen in love with.*

This summer with its less hectic pace could be a time to accept this gift anew. It could be a time to fall in love with Christ's indwelling presence in you. There are many ways to cultivate this friendship God initiates in Christ. Although it is not about "doing," it does take deliberate time every day. Consenting to God's abiding presence means taking time for prayer, especially. This needed prayer is not intercessory prayers when we ask God for things and do all the talking. What is needed is to be quiet, allowing God to speak. And God's first language is silence. We consent to God's loving embrace in still quietude.

Many at Nativity are discovering that Centering Prayer offers a way to consent to God's ever abiding presence. This prayer practice allows the process of interior transformation, a friendship initiated by God and leading, if we consent, to divine union. Thomas Merton wrote: *Without [being deliberate about the spiritual journey] our whole existence becomes unsubstantial and illusory. The life of the spirit, by integrating us in the real order established by God, helps us see a new reality...* A restructuring of consciousness takes place which empowers us to perceive, relate and respond with increasing sensitivity to the divine presence and action in, through and beyond everything that exists.

The spiritual journey includes both the practice of contemplative prayer and the efforts we make, under the inspiration of the Holy Spirit, to bring the fruits of prayer and the Spirit into ordinary daily life. We enter a process of letting go of the false needs for security, esteem, and power in order to trust God alone. Trusting God, we are free to be who God has created us to be: agents of transforming love. And it is no longer I, but Christ who lives in me.

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 upcoming EVENTS



Summer Nights @ Nativity
with Alan Little, a Southern Soulslinger and Guitarist,
joining with Shane Wilson, keyboardist

June 20, 6:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy an great evening of on the lawn with friends and family .

Bring a picnic dinner for you and your family/friends.

Remember to bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

July and August dates will be announced later.

Alan Little is singer/songwriter/guitarist/harmonica player/percussionist/drummer - and one-time river guide—is a Roots Rocker with James Taylor’s touch and Alison Krauss’s sense of purpose. American Idol winner, Taylor Hicks, chose an Alan Little tune, “Wedding Day Blues,” for his most recent album, “The Distance.” While this was Little’s first cut on a national artist, the track placed him in a peer group of more well-established songsmiths. Whether playing locally with his band, Shametown, or accompanying others at venues like Nashville’s renowned Bluebird Café, his music is only surpassed by the power of the story he tells.

Born in tiny Coldwater, Alabama, *Shane Wilson* is a Southern phrase turner from roots to boots, making he and Alan Little kindred souls from the first chord. Also a member of Shametown, this intense singer/songwriter/keyboardist found early musical maturity through mentors like Allman Brother’s Producer, Johnny Sandlin. But it’s Wilson’s southern pulses of fiction feuding with fact that liken him to a “budding novelist who has stumbled upon the Second Coming of Faulkner.” Credits include Greg Allman, Widespread Panic, Dan Penn, Sugarland, Buddy Miles, Jerry Joseph, Bloodkin, Oteil Burbridge, Derek Trucks, and more. Wilson is a crowd-pleaser via honky-tonk piano, simple acoustic guitar, and honest delivery. And be sure to watch his fee—they almost never stop!

HAP Pantry Sunday falls on Sunday, July 4th !



As you prepare for a family picnic, think of an EXTRA for a family in need! If you will be out-of-town, bring your items the **previous Sunday (June 27)** bins will be in Ridley Hall.

JULY ITEMS NEEDED:

Canned beans, corn, potatoes, peaches, & applesauce;
Dried milk and Kool-Aid for kids who are at home during the Summer
HAP clients depend on us !!

WE JUST STUFFED IT!

Many thanks to the host of volunteers who gathered in Ridley on the 13th to stuff meal packs for First Stop. Mike Lowe is the long-time organizer of this project at Trinity Methodist, and when I told him of your response, he wrote, "It's glorious to see the Kingdom at work." Amen.

According to the outreach budget, we will do this every three months, and I promise to be better organized.

Bill Goodson

A NEW TRANSPORTATION MINISTRY for Church Services & Activities?

The New Transportation ministry is not functional at this time. It is still forming therefore, we need your input. So far it is transportation to church services and other church activities (we hope to expand it at a later time.) Please let us know by answering the following questions as they apply:

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!



WHITE ELEPHANT SALE

Saturday, June 19, 7:00 am - 1:00 pm

Nativity Parking Lot (Eustis Ave/Greene St.)

Proceeds for the sale will help raise funds for the Choir trip to England planned for the summer of 2011. Items can still be donated, to schedule a drop-off please call Chris Jackson at 256-337-1871 or by email to: suzanne.purtee@gmail.com



Vintage clothing, jewelry, antiques, pictures, lamps, shabby chic, decorative items, books, *that perfect find!*

We "just did it"-- and had a blast!

Cursillo Reunion Tuesday Group + Peter Barber preparing and serving breakfast at First Stop on Monday, June 7, 2010.

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.



ECW Renewed!

Nativity's ECW is preparing for an exciting revitalization. The 2010 Officers and Vestry liaisons, along with Father Anderson, are currently forming an ECW Board comprised of a representative from each of the guilds, organizations and groups at Nativity that include women.

This new Board will be the means of involving and bringing together *all* of Nativity's Church Women, not only during our revitalization process, but in a continuing effort to encompass the involvement of women of all age groups in this wonderful organization steeped in many years of tradition here at Nativity.

The first ECW Board Meeting is scheduled for Monday, June 21, 2010, 5:00 p.m. in Ridley Hall and we are excited about hearing from each representative. Leaders please give us a call with any questions you may have and, most importantly, to let us know who your new Board Member is! We look forward to hearing from you!

Renee Elliott, President ECW 256-533-5674

Gail Brown, ECW Vestry Liaison 256-880-1149

Amy Brooks, Outgoing ECW Bazaar Chair 256-881-6060

THE SEWANEE SUMMER MUSIC FESTIVAL BEGINS ITS 54th SEASON



A new addition to the schedule this year is "Sewanee Sundays" on all five Sundays of the Festival through July 18. The Sewanee Sundays package of events includes a gourmet picnic lunch, an exclusive pre-concert Conductor Conversation, and the afternoon concerts. Reservations are required for this package, and tickets for the entire afternoon of activities are \$25.

Opening Festival Orchestra Concert
Sunday, June 20, 2:30 p.m.

Faculty Chamber Music
Wednesday, June 23, 7:30 p.m.

Faculty Chamber Music,
Saturday, June 26, 7:30 p.m.

Cumberland Orchestra
Sunday, June 27, 2:30 p.m.

Sewanee Symphony
Sunday, June 27, 3:30 p.m.

CONTACT: Mary Ann Patterson 931-598-1577
mapatter@sewanee.edu

PRAYER LIST

We pray for those who are ill or recovering

Bob Crump, Gerald McQueen, Dick Hay, Pat Harley, Joanna Whitley, Charlotte Laxson, Lil Hawkins, Louise Moon Weathers, Gilda May, Perry McClain, Betty McCaleb, James Horton, Suzanne Thomason, Tippy Anderson, Judy Christian, 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:

Mohammad Falludi, friend and classmate of Nativity teens

Ron Pidgeon

The Victims of the Arkansas flood

We give thanks for the birthdays of our children:

6/20	Ben Hulsey	7/01	Lillian Gray
6/22	Lillie Markwalter	7/03	Finola O'Halloran, Eamonn O'Halloran
6/23	Chase Howell, Will Brocato	7/05	Alexander Cahue
6/25	Sarah Thompson, Raney Sledge, Matilda Smith	7/07	Kate Noble Hall
6/26	Laura Lee Kamelchuk, Hall Bryant	7/08	Becky Jones
6/27	Mhairi Kerr	7/09	Catherine Peterson
6/28	Katherine Hunter	7/10	Emily Evans, Daniel Starnes
6/30	John Chilton		

We give thanks for the marriage of Mallory Lynn Garner and Marion (Bo) Beirne Spragins III, on June 11, 2010 at The Church of Nativity.

We give thanks for an ordination:

Geoffrey Parker Evans, older son of Ron and Claudia Evans, was recently ordained as a transitional deacon by the Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop Suffragan of Alabama. The ordination was held at Saint Andrews Parish in Birmingham. The ordination sermon was given by the Rev. Gates Shaw, Rector of Christ Episcopal Church in Fairfield. Geoffrey, who was baptised and confirmed at Nativity, recently received a Masters in Divinity from Virginia Theological Seminary. The Rev. Deacon Geoffrey Evans has joined the clergy staff of Saint Mary's on the Highlands in Birmingham.

Transitions: Pamela Mahaffey and Charles L. Jones III transferred membership transfer from Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Church

Next Baptism July 18, 10:00 a.m. Please contact Linda Wheeler in church office for scheduling, 533-2455.

Parish Financial Report - Period Ending 05/31/2010

	CURRENT	BUDGET for		ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
	MONTH	PERIOD			
Pledges	\$ 85,575.50	\$ 99,791.67	\$	413,852.50	\$ 498,958.31
Plate Received	\$ 5,653.25	\$ 3,750.00	\$	18,244.73	\$ 18,750.00
Other Revenues	\$ 33,523.46	\$ 9,125.00	\$	72,182.83	\$ 45,625.00
TOTAL	\$ 124,752.21	\$ 112,666.67	\$	504,280.06	\$ 563,333.31
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 19,076.99	\$ 22,583.33	\$	77,340.52	\$ 112,916.69
Personnel	\$ 57,121.76	\$ 59,598.58	\$	288,272.51	\$ 297,992.94
Other Expenses	\$ 32,493.57	\$ 30,456.28	\$	148,609.87	\$ 152,281.04
TOTAL	\$ 108,692.32	\$ 112,638.19	\$	514,222.90	\$ 563,190.67
NET	\$ 16,059.89	\$ 28.48	\$	(9,942.84)	\$ 142.64



WORSHIP SCHEDULE July, 2010 published 6/15/10

SUNDAY, July 4, Sixth Sunday after Pentecost (Independence Day)					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Anderson & Groff out)	Lector	Intercessor
8:00 AM		Lippe	Robert Dunn	John Hendricks	Lane Mickle
10:00 AM		Lippe	Janet Robbins, Lea Ellison, Mike Ward	Susan Brown, Polly Blalock	Ruth Ann Haymes
WEDNESDAY, July 7, HE					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12:00 PM			Jeannie Robinson		
THURSDAY, July 8, HE					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 PM					
SUNDAY, July 11, Seventh Sunday after Pentecost					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Groff out)	Lector	Intercessor
8:00 AM	TBD	Anderson	Lee Hicklen	Jeannie Robinson	Lee Hicklen
10:00 AM	TBD	Anderson	Don Askins, Rich Goodwin	Ted Briggs, Pamela Briggs	Martha Bosworth
WEDNESDAY, July 14, HE					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12:00 pm			Cheryl Watts		
THURSDAY, July 15, HE					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 PM					

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP submitted by Jennifer Retzke

GreenScaping: The Easy Way to a Greener, Healthier Yard - ARTILCE 4 OF 5

Adopt a Holistic Approach to Pest Management

Natural Pest Control - Only about 5-15 percent of the bugs in your yard are pests. "Good bugs," like the ground beetle and the green lacewing, help control pests. Pesticides (including weed and bug killers) can be effective tools for controlling pests such as insects, weeds and diseases. Be sure you need a pesticide before you use it. On-going pest problems are often a sign that your lawn or garden is not getting what it needs to stay healthy. You need to correct the underlying problem to reduce the chance of pests reappearing. Remember, a holistic—or integrated pest management—approach is the most effective way to manage pests. Here's how:

Start with prevention

- Maintain healthy soil with compost and mulch.
- Select pest-resistant plants and put them in the sun/shade and soil conditions they like.
- Use a variety of plants so, if pests attack, your whole garden isn't at risk.
- Mow higher. Most grasses should be mowed to a height of two to three inches. Taller grass has more leaf surface and deeper roots and eventually chokes out many weeds.
- Clean out diseased plants so disease doesn't spread.
- Pull weeds before they go to seed and spread.
- Remove dead plants to reduce hiding places for insect pests.

Identify the problem before you spray, squash or stomp

– Whether it's a bug, disease or weed, you need to identify it to know

how to effectively manage it. The cause of ailing plants or grass may not be pests or disease but incorrect mowing or pruning, improper watering or other easily corrected practices. That scary bug could actually be a beneficial "good bug" that eats problem pests.

Accept a little damage—give nature time to work - Accept a few pests, as long as they are not harmful to the long-term effects of the landscape. Natural predators often bring pests under control, but they need time to work. Monitor your landscape to spot signs of pests but don't spray at the first sign of damage—nature may control it for you or plants may outgrow the damage.

If a pest or weed problem develops, use an integrated approach to solve the problem – Physical controls like traps, barriers, fabric row covers or plants that repel pests can work for some pests.

- Use a little "elbow grease." Long-handled weed pullers pop dandelions and other weeds out easily.
- Mulching, not to exceed three inches, reduces weeds in garden beds.
- Use "crop rotation" techniques by changing the planting location for annuals to minimize their susceptibility to pests and disease.

Replace problem plants with pest-resistant ones for a healthier, care-free yard – If a plant, even a tree, has insect, pest or disease problems every year, consider replacing it with a more tolerant or resistant variety or another type of plant that doesn't have these problems.

Use pesticides responsibly - Carefully read and follow pesticide product label instructions. Avoid overuse of pesticides. When you have a small problem area, treat just that area, not the entire yard.

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, July 5, 2010.

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

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A Summer Blessing



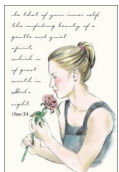
Blessed are you, summer,
season of long days and short nights,
you pour forth light from your golden orb,
energizing the earth and calling forth growth.



Blessed are you, summer,
with your generous gift of heat.
Your warm, breath animates creation,
encouraging all growing things to stretch
toward the sun.



Blessed are you, summer,
you call us into playfulness,
Encouraging us to pause from work.
You renew our spirits.



Blessed are you, gracious season of summer,
you surprise us with a variety of gifts from the earth.
We, too, gaze into the earth of ourselves,
beholding gifts waiting to be honored.



Blessed are you, nurturing season of summer,
your fruits and vegetables appear on our
tables, changing them into altars.
Tasting of your life, we are made strong.

Blessed are you, summer,
host of a start that shines with passion.
Sun-soaked, we reach for your energy
that drives us upward and onward.

Blessed are you, sacrament of summer,
nature's green season, sweet echo of spring.
You spring to us in living color
as you renew the earth with symbols of life
for our bodies and souls.

Blessed are you, summer,
season of roots that reach for water.
Even though the cracks in the sidewalk
the song of your seed can be heard.

Blessed are you, summer,
season rooted in reality.
Even as the perspiration collects on our brow,
we experience your earthly joy.

Blessed are you summer,
with your firefly evenings
you minister to the child in us.
You feed our hunger for beauty.

The Circle of Life
Joyce Rupp & Macrina Wiederkehr
Sorin Books, 2005