

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

July 20, 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.

A RENEWED ECW NEEDS YOUR HELP

Faithful women have nurtured the life, ministry, and witness of the Church from the beginning. Blessed Mary's calm assent to the Holy Spirit's action bringing the life of God through her womb enabled Christ's Incarnation. Through Mary, *the Word became flesh and dwelt among us*, and she is evermore known as "the God Bearer." Throughout Jesus' ministry, faithful women were in the background supporting him. They were at the foot of the Cross when all of the disciples except for John fled. The women were the first witnesses to the Resurrection.

At Nativity, faithful women through the generations have enabled Christ's life and presence to continue to come into the world. There are many Mary's and Martha's offering invaluable gifts for ministry among us. Specifically, the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) has long been a focused means for women to support our ministry in special ways. The ECW raises our awareness of offering our lives to God in gratitude through the United Thank Offering. The ECW models hospitality by hosting elegant parish receptions. And of course, the best face of Nativity hospitality is offered to the wider community, for over a century now, through the ECW Nativity Bazaar.

Yet, changing times have resulted in the need for the ECW to change. With three weekly women's Bible Studies, the Daughters of the King gathering monthly, the Top of the Hill Senior Ministry offering monthly programs, and the on-going Mission Guild, the ECW does not need to meet monthly---women are already meeting regularly. New times call for a new vision and organization.

This vision is emerging through the faithful and devoted leadership of Renee Grelier Elliott who took over the helm of the ECW this past January. However, Renee was handed the wheel of an almost deserted ship. There was no board, no other officers, and only last year's Bazaar co-chairs, Amy Brooks and Minda Alexander, to help. Beth Chenoweth is graciously serving as Receptions Chair for another year. We are all grateful to these dedicated women.

After meeting with Vestry leadership, Renee and I called for a renewed ECW that serves as an umbrella organization for the numerous groups of women involved throughout the parish. Each group provides one representative to the ECW Board. The initial June meeting discussed these ideas:

- The Board will host a fall and spring luncheon with dynamic speakers appealing to women's spirituality and interests for ALL the women of the church.
- The meetings will take place during the day but be limited to one hour to accommodate working women's schedules.
- There will also be an evening holiday event and an October meeting for final Bazaar plans.
- The Bazaar's fund raising efforts will be directed toward outreach projects, especially the longstanding support of the Oscar Mason After-School Program, other pre-identified outreach ministries, and the work of the Mission Guild. Decisions will be transparent.
- United Thank Offering in-gatherings will be promoted (National ECW outreach effort).
- The ECW continues to host parish receptions (assisted by the Blue Apron ministry).

Every woman in the parish is a member of the ECW! So we need the help of every woman to enable the vision to grow. **No co-chairs for the 2010 ECW Nativity Bazaar have yet to be identified.** Can you imagine Nativity without a Bazaar? We are looking for co-chairs for this year's Bazaar. This is a well-oiled machine with many of the volunteers already in place (particularly the Kitchen chair!). Please call Renee, Amy, or Minda if you would like to serve. The Nativity Bazaar is one of the most fun, energetic, loving, welcoming, involved days at Nativity. People are already calling for tickets and looking expectantly toward that wonderful November Thursday. An idea is developing to include the Men of the Church in an effort to raise more funds through a turkey fry! **Your Vestry and I are convinced that the faithful women of Nativity will continue to offer Christ's presence through a vibrant ECW.** Thanks be to God for the ECW!

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?

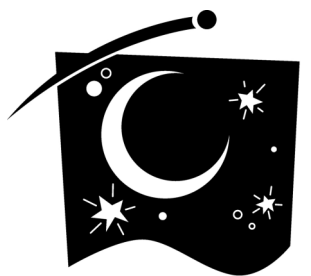
Nativity continues to offer a worship opportunity on Thursdays, 6:00 p.m. in Bibb Chapel.

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

HAP SUNDAY—August 1 Items needed this month are the same as last month:

canned bean, corn, potatoes, peaches, applesauce; dried milk (or shelf milk) and Kool-aid.



*Summer
Nights @ Nativity*

Rain date RESCHEDULED - Chip Gulbro and Friends

Instrumental swing and Jazz

August 1, 6:00 p.m.

Come and enjoy an great evening of on the lawn* with friends and family. Bring a picnic for you and your family/friends or just sit back and enjoy the music. Remember to bring your lawn chairs or blankets.

*In the event of inclement weather the event will be held in Ridley Hall.

Summer Nights @ Nativity upcoming dates:

August 22—Microwave Dave and the Nukes*

September 19—Horn Ensemble*

A VOCAL CONCERT FEATURING

Shonda Devine & Anthony Ballard accompanied by Daniel Stipe

Works by Massenet, Strauss, Mendelssohn, and more!

~ JULY 25, 5:00 p.m. at Church of the Nativity ~



TOP OF THE HILL GANG AUGUST EVENT

Gathering God's Good Gifts

The retreat will explore three of God's good gifts:

Living in **BALANCE**, Living on **PURPOSE**, & Living and **CARING**

*Enjoy the gift of good company while exploring the gifts of
Balance, Purpose, and Caring in our lives.*

*There will be time for prayer, learning and laughter,
reflection and ritual, and nourishment.*

This retreat is sponsored by TOHG/Senior Ministry of Nativity to be held at St. Thomas, Huntsville
Please begin making reservations NOW.

August 24, 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.—St. Thomas Episcopal



SAVE THE DATE! ECW 121st Fall Conference...October 7-8...Anniston

All women & clergy are invited.

Serving Others in Christ: Mission and Ministries in the Diocese of Alabama: The Rev'd Margaret Rose will be program presenter. She is the Director of the Mission Leadership Center at the Episcopal Church Center, New York. Conference to be held at St. Michael and All Angels Episcopal, Anniston, AL.

\$30 Registration Fee includes lunch Thursday, Wine and Cheese Reception, banquet Thursday Night, lunch Friday, plus homemade goodies at the breaks!

For more information or registration form, please contact Renee Elliott (256-533-5674) or church office.

August 29 3:00 p.m.

Chamber Music concert with Susanna Phillips, Matthew McDonald & friends.

All ticket reservations must be made by calling 256.489.7416

Nativity to host Bishop Search & Nominating Committee Listening Group to be held at Nativity, Sunday, July 25, 3:00 p.m.

As the search for the 11th Bishop of Alabama gets underway the Search and Nominating Committee has begun a listening process to gather input from across the diocese.

The committee will hold three "Listening Groups" Sunday, July 25th, to assist in compiling a profile of the diocese for the search process. The sessions will begin at 3 p.m. at The Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Birmingham, and The Church of the Ascension in Montgomery. The guided sessions are open to everyone and the committee hopes that every parish will be represented at one of the sessions which should end about 4:30 p.m. No registration is required.

The committee will be listening to hear "who we are as the Episcopal Church in Alabama," and "what qualities we believe are important in our next diocesan bishop."

THE LANGUAGE OF LOSS: Putting Grief into Words - St. Mary's Sewanee

"I believe it is the sharing of our stories that saves us. And in no area do I feel this more strongly than I do with regard to grief." -Amy Lyles Wilson

Burying a loved one, being downsized at work, growing old, feeling abandoned by God, letting go of a dream...any one of life's losses can leave us speechless. All of a sudden, the language we've relied on for years no longer has the power to get us through the day, much less express our anger and confusion about our circumstances.

"Tell me about despair, yours," says the poet Mary Oliver, "and I will tell you mine." Come to the mountain and we'll talk about loss, and language, and the grace that must surely come in-between. Together we'll find the words for those times when mere words just won't do.

Participants will be invited to share their own experiences of grief while engaging with writing prompts and readings designed to translate longing into literature. You need not consider yourself a "writer" to join us. This hands-on workshop will be conducted within the principles of Amherst Writers and Artists, which fosters a safe space for the writing and telling of our stories. No one is required to read his or her work aloud, and criticism is not part of the process. While this is not a therapy group, often when we begin to "give sorrow words" we enhance our healing. Please feel free to contact Amy through www.amylyleswilson.com if you have questions.

Presenter: Amy Lyles Wilson is a professional write and editor. She has combined her passion for writing with her academic degrees in English, journalism, and theology to encourage and equip others to write their hearts out.

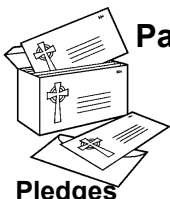
Place: St. Mary's Sewanee, Sewanee TN

Date: October 31 - November 1, Sunday 3 p.m. until Monday 3 p.m.

Cost: Residential Fee \$100 Commuter Fee \$60 **Deposit:** \$50

For more information: Call 800-728-1659, 931-598-5342; www.stmarysewanee.org; stmaryssewanee@bellsouth.net

NATIVITY MINISTRY FAIR—Sunday, August 22—Exciting programs for 2010-2011



Parish Financial Report Period Ending 6/30/2010

| | CURRENT MONTH | BUDGET for PERIOD | ACTUAL YTD | BUDGET YTD |
|---|------------------|----------------------|----------------|---------------|
| Pledges Received | \$ 54,055.42 | \$ 99,791.67 | \$ 467,907.92 | \$ 598,749.98 |
| Plate | \$ 1,999.00 | \$ 3,750.00 | \$ 20,243.73 | \$ 22,500.00 |
| Other Revenues | \$ 3,047.59 | \$ 9,125.00 | \$ 75,268.80 | \$ 54,750.00 |
| TOTAL | \$ 59,102.01 | \$ 112,666.67 | \$ 563,420.45 | \$ 675,999.98 |
| Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach | \$ 23,599.34 | \$ 22,583.33 | \$ 100,939.86 | \$ 135,500.02 |
| Personnel | \$ 56,591.95 | \$ 59,598.58 | \$ 344,864.46 | \$ 357,591.52 |
| Other Expenses | \$ 26,523.09 | \$ 30,456.28 | \$ 175,132.96 | \$ 182,737.32 |
| TOTAL | \$ 106,714.38 | \$ 112,638.19 | \$ 620,937.28 | \$ 675,828.86 |
| NET | \$ (47,612.37) | \$ 28.48 | \$ (57,516.83) | \$ 171.12 |

HOMECOMING PARISH PICNIC

(a.k.a. Rally Day Picnic)

August 29

**Following 10:00
service**

**Make plans for
your family to join
in the great end of
summer fun!**

PRAYER LIST

We pray for those who are ill or recovering

B. W. Dortch, Pat Harley, Jeanne Dowd, Suzy Kraft, Ellery May, Ann Epps, Diane Stephanouk Harvey, Emile Joffrion, Sarah James, Toon Ferrell, Charlotte Laxson, Dick Hay, Virginia Powell, Bill Dilworth, Gerald McQueen, Elsie Olsen, Perry McClain, James Horton, Gene Sullivan, Eileen Sullivan, Bill Marsh, Angel Colin, John, Nancy Kelly, Leigh Wahl, Julie Kirk, Joan Bennett

We pray for the departed:

Anne Riggs, mother of Pride Sherrill
Libba Walker, parishioner
Betty McCaleb, parishioner
Judy Christian, sister of Marcia Cobun

We give thanks for the birth of Charles Henry Ayres (son of Ashley and Chad) born June 28

We give thanks for the birthdays of our children:

7/26 Hattie Crosby, Anna Zuga
7/28 Anna Mullins
7/29 Emma Markwalter, Sadler Evans, Powell Stockton
7/31 Kaden Cheatham
8/1 Jordan Smith
8/3 Alexander Young, Caroline Brooks, Dylan Hicks, Harrison Little
8/4 Evan McCarty
8/5 Catherine Kelly, Addison Duncan
8/6 Noah Huskey, Anna Post

SPAfer Presents The 17th in our Mid-South Lecture Series September 24-25

Dr. Barbara Brown Taylor - St. Stephen's Episcopal in Cahaba Heights

Session 1 Friday 7-9 p.m. Wedding Heaven and Earth

Session 2 Saturday 9-10:30 a.m.—What the Individual Body Knows about God

Session 3: What the Communal Body Knows about God

Admission: \$40 for both days; single days \$25
205-252-9573 www.spafer.org

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP submitted by Jennifer Retzke

GreenScaping – Reminders: *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rebuy*

Article 1 – Reduce

Waste

- Select low maintenance/slow growing plants and grasses.
- Reduce or eliminate plastic silt fencing and substitute with blankets, berms, and filtersocks made of compost for erosion control.
- Switch from pressure-treated wood to plastic lumber for decks, benches, and signs.
- Return wooden pallets and other shipping materials to your supplier whenever possible.
- When replacing an existing hardscape or structure, deconstruct, reuse and recycle all possible materials such as metal, wood, shingles, concrete, and pavement.
- Minimize site and soil disruptions to the maximum extent possible.
- Cluster structures to maximize open space.
- Minimize turf grass and paved areas - keep as much natural area as possible.

Water

- Incorporate compost into the soil to help improve water absorption and retention.
- Top-dress your turf with compost.
- Reduce non-permeable hardscape wherever possible.
- Place mulch over a plant's root zone to reduce moisture evaporation and conserve water.
- Install drip irrigation systems.

- Clean equipment with compressed air whenever possible. Grass clippings and debris should be collected and composted.

Air/Energy

- Strategically plant vegetation outside and around buildings to reduce indoor heating and cooling needs.
- Use hand or electric equipment where ever feasible to reduce emissions.
- Implement scheduled equipment maintenance program for increased efficiency & reduced emissions.

Fertilizers and Pesticides

- Use compost as a soil amendment to help reduce the need for chemical fertilizers or pesticides.
- Incorporate native plants in your landscape— they generally require less fertilizers and pesticides.
- Spot treat whenever possible.
- Set mower blades higher to fight weeds and diseases without pesticides.
- Grasscycle—leave grass clippings in place (don't bag) when mowing.
- Produce less green waste by limiting fertilizer and water use.
- Use mulch around trees and in flowering beds as weed prevention.
- Purchase only what you need and can use for a specific treatment.

Climate Change

- Plant trees to shade paved areas and help reduce the summer "heat-island" effect.
- Compost organic waste in lieu of burning or burying.

STEEPLE SCHEDULE

The Steeple is published each
1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

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

linda.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is
Monday, August 2, 2010 noon.

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev'd Mary Anne Akin
Associate Rector

The Rev'd Brad Landry
Rector's Assistant,
Deacon-in-training

The Rev'd Mary E. Groff
Deacon

Suzanne Purtee
Organist/Choirmaster

Lane Tutt
Adult Christian Formation

Cattie Clanton
Youth Christian Formation

Madeline Mullins
Children's Formation

Elizabeth Foster
Children's Formation

Audrey Clayton
Nursery Coordinator

John Buyse
Property Manager

Al Ford
Sexton

Sally Stockton
Kitchen Coordinator

Beverly Franklin
Bookkeeper/Business Mgr

Connie Gadowski
Worship & Ministry Assistant

Linda Wheeler
Assistant to the Rector
Communication/Publication Admin

Prentice White
Verger/Wedding Coordinator

Vestry

Mac Phillips
Senior Warden

Bland Warren
Junior Warden

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

A member of the clergy is
on call each week.

If you need assistance from a priest
outside office hours, the priest on
call will respond to your page.

The number to call in

Case of an Emergency Only is
256-533-7007.

All other calls should be directed to
church phone

256-533-2455

and follow the prompts to leave a
message for a priest to respond.

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

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A WARM WELCOME TO OUR FRIEND LINEA

We welcome back our friend and guest preacher The Rev'd Deacon Linea Haufiku from the Anglican Diocese of Namibia on this Sunday, July 15. She will continue her studies as a senior this fall (Master of Arts in Religion) at the Episcopal Seminary of the Southwest in Austin, Texas. The Diocese of Alabama has had a long-standing mission partnership with Namibia, sending the Rev'd Bill Yon as missionary in the 70's and now, the Rev'd Jeremy Lucas and his wife Penny serve there.

Many of you have kept in touch with Linea since she was with us in 2009 and know you will be thrilled to see her again. She is elated to be in Alabama for a few weeks and seeing each of you.