

# THE STEEPLE

## The Church of the Nativity

August 4, 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.*

### Imagination and Poetry at the Ball Park and in Church

Next week's school bells signal the end of summer. With August's dog days bearing down on us, I realized certain summer rituals hadn't been enacted. So last night, my wife Tippy, our son Case, and I found ourselves at Joe Davis Stadium rooting for the Huntsville Stars, drawn by the lure of the game and its poetry and imagination. Cheering on our *Boys of Summer*, the ball park evokes strong memories of good times past from little league to the Braves winning the Series; memories of true American sports heroes like Joe Di-Maggio and Jackie Robinson, Hank Aaron and Mickey Mantle, Tom Glavine and John Smoltz.

For baseball purists, there is no need for the gimmicks offered at the ball park to keep folks interested. No need for Kraft Single Two-for-One Ticket Tuesdays or Thirsty Thursdays; no need for the chicken dance or the umpteen races and other cutesy stunts pulled between innings. Who wants pizza or buffalo chicken sandwiches and 31 flavors of ice cream or fruit smoothies when peanuts, cold Budweiser, hot dogs, Cracker Jacks, and Coke are all one needs to sustain a ballgame appetite!

Thinking about all the gimmicks at the ball park clouding the majesty of the game reminded me of an interfaith colleague from Anderson, South Carolina. He was the pastor of a growing, *and I mean really growing*, mega-type church. He was proud of the increasing numbers. He shared stories of how their 27 member rock band blew the people out of the water and how his big screen multi-media player would flash sentimental images and music just at the right point in his sermons to grab people's attention and *bring them to their knees at the altar call*, as he liked to put it.

As Christmas was approaching, he excitedly told me about his plans on the Sunday before Christmas to descend into the congregation on a guide wire, dressed as Santa Claus, and kneel at the live Manger scene, really showing people what Christmas was all about! I asked what he would do for Christmas Eve or Christmas Day itself and he said, "Oh we don't come to church then, we've already celebrated."

Poetry and imagination, beauty and holiness, history and tradition are offered in the Episcopal Church. No gimmicks and stunts are needed to draw us in and keep us interested. I guess you could call us Episcopalians "worship purists." For sure, our altar call puts us on our knees, but without the emotional gimmicks. As move forward to the altar rail, sharing in the Communion of Christ's body and blood, we receive the only food needed to sustain our lives.

Majestic music that has inspired through the centuries echoes forth within the prayer-soaked walls of our beautiful and hallowed church. The prayers and preaching and sights and sounds, evoke our senses and imagination. Along with worship, Bible studies and book classes that engage our minds, outreach efforts that engage our hearts, and fellowship opportunities that help us know Christ's presence among us, keep us coming back.

With school bells ringing next week, it's time for us Episcopal *purists* to come back together and enact the rituals and follow the schedules that sustain our lives and, through us, sustain the world. Come out regularly to this place of poetry and imagination, beauty and holiness.

*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.

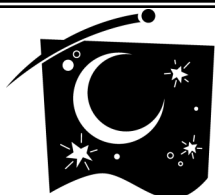
## PARISH NEWS and upcoming EVENTS

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**JOIN THE JONATHAN DANIELS PILGRIMAGE AUG. 14** The 12th annual pilgrimage honoring slain civil rights advocate Jonathan Myrick Daniels and others who lost their lives during the 1960s movement is scheduled for Saturday, Aug. 14 in Hayneville. AL. The Rt. Rev. Todd Ousley, Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Eastern Michigan will be featured speaker at the worship service following the pilgrimage. The pilgrimage begins at 11 a.m. at the Courthouse Square in Hayneville. Everyone is invited. Refreshments will be available in the Square following the pilgrimage. Daniels was added to the Episcopal Church Calendar of Saints and Martyrs in 1994 to be remembered each Aug. 14. Additional information is available on the diocesan website at <http://dioala.org>.

A group from Nativity will meet in the circle drive at 6:30 a.m. and travel to the pilgrimage in the church vans. To reserve a seat, contact: Rev'd Brad Landry, 256-533-2455([blandry@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:blandry@nativity-hsv.org)) or Jeannie Robison ([jrobis1@comcast.net](mailto:jrobis1@comcast.net))

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Summer  
Nights @ Nativity

### MICROWAVE DAVE and the NUKES—August 22, 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 case of inclement weather the event will be held in Ridley Hall.

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## Gathering God's Good Gifts

This retreat is sponsored by Nativity TOHNG and is OPEN TO ALL

Tuesday August 24, 9:00 a.m.—3:30 p.m.

at St. Thomas Episcopal, Huntsville

A one-day retreat to 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.

Pre-registration is required 256-533-2455 no later than Thursday, August 19

Cost \$15 (retreat and lunch) Pay at the door (checks payable to Nativity Sr. Ministry)

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**WHAT IS EfM?** EfM, Education for Ministry, is a 4-year program of theological education designed for the laity of the church. Nativity offers 3 different groups and if you can contact either mentor for more information or to register for the next semester:

**Monday evening mentor:** George Thacker, 256-533-3005, [george\\_thacker@bellsouth.net](mailto:george_thacker@bellsouth.net)

**Tuesday evening mentor:** Lea Ellison, 256-520-6652, [lea.ellison@comcast.net](mailto:lea.ellison@comcast.net)

**Thursday morning mentor:** Jeannie Robison, 256-536-0202, [jrobis1@comcast.net](mailto:jrobis1@comcast.net)

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### Bishop Search Survey Available Online

The Search/Nominating Committee invites all members of the diocese to complete a brief survey online at <http://bishopsearch.dioala.org> under the "Survey" link. Those without internet access can call the church office (256-533-2455) to have a copy of the survey mailed.

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## **The Nativity Music Program wants You!**

Yes, we have many avenues for singers, instrumentalists, and all who want to support music here on Sundays, as well as for other events and services during the week.

Have you been "considering" becoming active musically?

Please contact Suzanne today and find out how you might be most comfortable contributing to Nativity through music, as well as how helpful your talents could be (in ways you might not have hoped!)

**There is a place for you at Nativity.**

### **Looking Ahead on the Nativity Music Calendar:**

- **Summer Choir Continues through August**

If you are curious about what goes on up front in a service this is a great way to check out the lectors, the LEMS, the clergy, and how wonderful it feels to worship as a choir member. All are invited to come into the church around 9:00 or shortly afterwards on a Sunday morning. We learn a simple anthem and review the service music for the 10:00 service. All ages are welcome! Bring a friend who is in town for a visit or get to know a regular choir member a little bit better on a Sunday in August.

- **Concerts**

The Friends of Music Concert Series for the 2010-11 Year is in the final stages of planning. If you want to make sure you are on our Email list please contact Suzanne or Connie in the church office.

### **In August there are two concerts to look forward to:**

- **Sunday evening August 22 Microwave Dave & the Nukes** will provide entertainment for our Lawn Concert Series from 6-8 pm. Bring a picnic, a couple of chairs, and friends and family!
- **Sunday afternoon August 28th at 3 pm Nativity hosts the second concert in the Twickenham Fest Chamber Series.** Featuring Susanna Phillips, Matthew McDonald, and friends, in a fabulous array of musical talents from America's leading young artists, this free concert is open to all who have reserved a seating pass. Please call 256-489-7415 for your reservation.

### **Information on Musical Events at Nativity can be accessed online or by phone.**

The church phone number: 256.533.2455 at extension 216 will provide you with up to date information on concerts, including changes due to the weather and the like.

Updates, flyers, and more of all things happening at Nativity are found on the main church website (front page, or music tab.)

### **Nativity Choir to England!**

- **The Choir now has a draft itinerary** of our trip to England for June of 2011. Would you like to come with us? Please contact Suzanne for information.
- **The choir will be singing in Canterbury Cathedral, Gloucester Cathedral, and Bristol Cathedral.**

### **Fundraising efforts towards this trip continue with:**

- **Nativity Polo Shirt Sale**

Polo Shirts in Dark Green with a beautiful embroidered steeple logo as drawn by Rosie Little will be available for sale at the Ministries Fair on August 22nd. We will also take orders for more shirts and continue this sale throughout the year.

- **Choir Pastiche**

The Choir's fun and fabulous night of entertainment from last August will return this September (18th) and include songs and acts by the choir and friends – in a decidedly festive atmosphere. Tickets will be available at the Ministry fair.

### **Youth and Children's Choirs:**

The Christian Formation & Music Team at Nativity has worked out a great plan for the coming year; information will be available soon. **Look for Music booth at the Ministry Fair.**

**The Reflections Bible study class will resume on Thursday, August 12** with a "beginnings brunch" and the study of the Book of Genesis. This 8 week course will meet every Thursday morning from 9:15-11:00. Nursery will be provided. Leaders are Mel Ford, Shirley Hale, Shelley Whitney and Debbie Collette.

If you are interested in joining a group of dynamic ladies to study where and how our story begins then join us for this journey to the beginning. E-mail Shirley Hale at [srhale106@aol.com](mailto:srhale106@aol.com).

### Healthy Recipe of the Month:

Cool, refreshing, healthy: the perfect summer dish. And it's easy to make.

### Gazpacho

#### Ingredients:

2 large tomatoes  
1 medium cucumber,  
peeled and chopped  
1 green or red pepper,  
seeded and chopped  
1 medium onion  
1-2 cloves garlic  
3-4 tablespoons red wine  
vinegar  
5 tablespoons of water (add  
more or less according to  
the consistency you prefer)  
2 tablespoons extra virgin  
olive oil

#### Directions:

Place ingredients into a  
blender and blend until  
smooth. Pour the puree  
through a sieve & refriger-  
ate until chilled. Serves  
four.

#### Garnish:

Just before serving sprinkle  
with additional chopped  
cucumber, tomato, and  
green pepper.

From: The Episcopal  
Church Medical Trust  
Health & Wellness News

## STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP submitted by Jennifer Retzke

### GreenScaping –

### Reminders: *Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Rebuy*

#### Article 2 – Reuse

##### Waste

- Take apart nonreturnable wood pallets to reuse the wood (e.g., edging around plant beds) or chip it for use on site for mulch.
- Chip woody waste and tree clippings into mulch for use on-site.
- Donate healthy plants to local nonprofit organizations when reconfiguring or removing trees and shrubs from your landscape.
- Reuse or increase the use and efficiency of existing sites before cutting into new sites. Reuse soils within the work site; create mounds or berms to serve as wind breaks or to add visual interest.

##### Water

Use gray water, reclaimed water, or collected rainwater for irrigation and equipment wash downs.

#### Article 3 – Recycle

##### Waste

- Recycle bedding trays and plant containers from annuals and other greenery
- Triple rinse and recycle plastic commercial containers.
- Recycle used oil and tires from your vehicles and equipment.
- Provide recycling receptacles next to trash receptacles.
- Send green waste and food waste that cannot be composted on site to a local composting facility.

Reclaim land - turn waste land into usable property and a valuable asset.

##### Water

- Recycle gray water for irrigation and equipment wash downs.



### Banister Art Gallery features ASCRIBING ARTISTS

A creative ministry bringing together visual artists who desire to ascribe or attribute their work and life to ... Jesus Christ. The ministry is inspired by Psalm 29:2...

Not all Ascribing Artists paint religious themes or Biblical depictions. The subject matter of the artist is not necessarily what make us Ascribing Artists, it is the heart behind the artist with the desire to share the gospel...

Each artist has his/her work labeled and price of each can be found in the price index book. For information you may call Gina Hurst, Art Consultant at 256-361-4960 or email her at [AscribingArtists@gmail.com](mailto:AscribingArtists@gmail.com). Brochures are available in the Banister Room

### Lansing Lee Conference SUSTAINABILITY: A MATTER OF FAITH

is scheduled for October 17-19 at Kanuga Conferences, Hendersonville, NC. Keynote speaker: The Rev. Canon Sally Bingham; Chaplain: The Rev. Barbara Crafton; Workshop Leaders: Jamie Ager, Mark Robertson, Jill Rios, Cindy Shea. Cost: \$225–325 depending on package chosen (financial aid is available)  
Register online at [www.kanuga.org](http://www.kanuga.org)

## PRAYER LIST

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### We pray for those who are ill or recovering

Art Jones, Henry Chase, Rex Chenoweth, Wilton Fowler, Woody Fleming, Donna McLawhorn, Jeri Newman, Georgia Hendricks, Dan Kinard, B. W. Dortch, Jeanne Dowd, Diane Stephanouk Harvey, Toon Ferrell, Charlotte Laxson, Dick Hay, Gerald McQueen, Elsie Olsen, Perry McClain, James Horton, Gene Sullivan, Eileen Sullivan, Leigh Wahl, Bill Marsh, Angel Colin, John, Nancy Kelly, Julie Kirk, Joan Bennett

### We pray for the departed:

Leo Wood, parishioner

Annie Laura Allen, mother-in-law of Merrilee Allen

### We give thanks for the marriages of:

Catherine Meade Ayer, daughter of Lynn and Ric Ayer, and Trey Elton Davis were married Saturday, July 24, 2010 at Nativity.

Laura Beth Neely, daughter of Freya and Loch Neely, and Warner Swain were married Saturday, July 31, 2010 in Charlotte, TN

We give thanks for the birth of: Kathryn Rose Pope, granddaughter of Jim and Melinda Siverd, born June 8.

### We give thanks for the birthdays of our children:

8/9 Matthew Doty, Samuel Devenish, Wilhelm Clardy

8/10 Will Crosby, Gillianne Sharp

8/13 Sarah Huskey

8/16 Charlotte Klos, Read Klos

8/18 Warren Towry, Anna Quirk, Emily Church

8/20 Sumter Park

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## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN....Acolyte Training

This **Sunday, August 8, following the 10:00 service** (meet in the church) This training is for **all current acolytes and anyone from grades 7-12 who would like to become an acolyte** and take part in our program this year. **If you are unable to attend this training session**, but are interested in being part of our group, call Dorrie Nutt 256-533-1128 or Kathy Woodard 256-881-5362 and we'll arrange for a different time to meet with you.

We look forward to working with all of you this year!

The Acolyte Masters: Kathy Woodard and Dorrie Nutt

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### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE AUGUST 2010

#### August 1

8:00	10:00
C Sabol Rogers	C Noelle Carter
T Spencer Anglin	T Elise Nelson
T Chase Rogers	T Tindall Morring
S Ian Braudaway	S Hanly Ward
AS Karsten Correale	AS Bird Sherrill

#### August 8

##### ACOLYTE TRAINING SESSION following 10:00 service

8:00	10:00
C Andrew Dunn	C Elizabeth Moody
T HB Bryant	T Neil Luther
T SG Moore	T SL Miller
S Devon Parsons	S Will Ellison
AS Trace Markwalter	AS MM Ragland

#### August 15

8:00	10:00
C Kachi Eziebe	C Nancy Kate Baugher, Dylan Joffrion
T Maria Caprio	T Foster Shrout, new torch
T new torch	T Rachel Joffrion, new torch
S Travis King	S Reece Baugher
AS Cat Kelly	AS Shep O'Neal

#### August 22

8:00	10:00
C Madeline Sharp	C Rachel Quillen, Hutson Chilton
T Kate Noble Hall	T John Chilton, new torch
T new torch	T Rosie Chilton, new torch
S Laurel Sharp	S William Ellison
AS Carter McDonald	AS Patrick Quillen

#### August 29

8:00	10:00
C Ian Braudaway	C Drew McDonald
T Harry Hudson	T Paul Naumann, new torch
T Karsten Correale	T Foard Naumann, new torch
S Sabol Rogers	S Bird Sherrill
AS Chase Rogers	AS Harrison Hunter

*Check the schedule below carefully—you might be listed for a new position this month. We will be moving some people up after Acolyte Training on August 8, and utilizing others to help teach torch positions to incoming acolytes. If you're not able to serve on your day, please arrange for a substitute, then call or email to let us know who will be taking your place. You will receive a new roster for the year following Acolyte Training.*

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**Look for upcoming announcement for an opportunity to support the HEALS Clinics and a fellow parishioner.**

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## 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](mailto:linda.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org)

The deadline for the next issue is  
Monday, August 16, 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

208 Eustis Ave. SE  
Huntsville, AL 35801

256-533-2455

Fax: 256-533-2374

[www.nativity-hsv.org](http://www.nativity-hsv.org)

Non-profit Organization  
US Postage Paid  
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Huntsville, AL 35805

### NATIVITY MINISTRY FAIR—Sunday, August 22

In addition to being a celebration of all the wonderful ministries happening here at  
Nativity, it is also a chance to get more involved. Come by (between 9:00 -12:00)  
and find your place in one of the many great ministries Nativity has to offer.

**"The place God calls you to is the place where your deep gladness and the world's deep hunger meet."**

**—Frederick Buechner**

Get your family copy of Nativity Green Book (directory)

Meet teachers, volunteer teams, register for fall classes & MORE!

Refreshments will be served (muffins, biscuits, fruits, & drinks)

The Children's ministry will have open house  
and registration in the WoRM.

### HOMECOMING PARISH PICNIC—August 29

(a.k.a. Rally Day Picnic)

**following 10:00 service**

Church will provide meats, drinks, and dessert  
Please bring a side dish (enough to share with others)  
Food will be served from Ridley Hall  
Tables and chairs will be set up under the Big Tents!