

# THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

September 1, 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.*

## Food that the World Cannot Give

In John's Gospel, Jesus tells the disciples who urge him to eat something after a long day's work, "I have food to eat that you do not know about....My food is to do the will of him who sent me..." A few moments earlier he told the Samaritan woman at the well, "If you knew the gift of God, and who it is that is saying to you, 'Give me a drink,' you would have asked me and he would have given you living water."

You and I are busy providing bread and drink for our lives. We work hard to have a good and comfortable life. We want for our children and for ourselves, healthy, nutritious, satisfying food on the table and purposeful, happy lives. So we provide good food and meaningful experiences that sustain and enrich us.

Most Episcopalians look for rewarding experiences—books to read, art and music, intellectual growth, purpose, physical activity, travel, leisure. We offer our children countless opportunities through sports, music, school activities, and clubs. One mother of a kindergartner was telling me her child is busy now from 7:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. And it just gets busier as they get older! We prepare meals for our tired and hungry families. We strive to serve up a life that is cooked to our cultural recipes of perfection, but how often we fail to offer the sustaining nourishment of God's grace. In the midst of the smorgasbord of life's many offerings, are we getting up from the table hungry? Are we getting the nutrition that will sustain us when life gets tough; when we or those we love are suffering?

Jesus tells us, ***I have food to eat that you do not know about....*** Nativity offers food for our souls and lives that the world cannot give. Jesus is the bread of life and living water, a never-failing spring that wells up to eternal life. Are you providing for your children and yourself this food that lasts? Nativity provides a healthy offering for the soul and heart. I hope that you are making this food a priority in your life and in the life of your children. Here are some of the things we offer this fall to serve on the table of your lives:

- Church School Classes for all ages beginning September 12 at 10:00 a.m.
- Centering Prayer on Tuesdays at 5:30 and Thursdays at Noon
- Five Bibles Studies weekly (Wednesdays at 7:15 a.m. and 1 p.m.; 2 classes on Wednesday evenings at 6 p.m.; Thursday mornings at 9:30 a.m.)
- Three Education for Ministry (EFM) classes weekly: Monday and Tuesday evenings; Thursday mornings)
- Adult Choir rehearses on Wednesdays at 7 p.m.
- Children's choirs at 5 p.m. on Wednesdays and again on Thursday afternoon
- Wednesday Nights at Nativity beginning September 8 (Food for the body and soul!)
- Cursillo Small Groups meeting throughout the week
- Many more opportunities to serve and give.....

God bids us through the prophet Isaiah, ***Ho, everyone who thirsts, come to the waters; and you that have no money, come, buy and eat! Come, buy wine and milk without money and without price. Why do you spend your money for that which is not bread, and your labor for that which does not satisfy? Listen carefully to me, and eat what is good, and delight yourselves in rich food. Incline your ear, and come to me; listen, so that you may live.***

We have food that the world cannot give. Please join us!

*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.

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## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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Dr. Neil Lamb

### Nights at Nativity FALL KICK-OFF DINNER

Wednesday, September 8—Dinner 5:15 PM

Presentation 6:00 PM

*The Spiritual Development Committee presents*

**Guest Speaker – DR. NEIL LAMB**

Director of Educational Outreach for the Hudson/Alpha Institute for Biotechnology

**“Ethical Issues Associated with Genetics and Biotechnology”**

Dinner & Nursery Reservations are required, please call church office 256-533-2455  
by Tuesday, September 7, at Noon

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### SUPPER CLUB NEWS and the Seasons First Supper—September 12, 6:00 pm

Do you know the folks who attend a different worship service time than you? Is there someone who attends the service you do but you would like to get to know him or her better? An excellent and fun way to do this is to participate in **Nativity's Supper Club**.

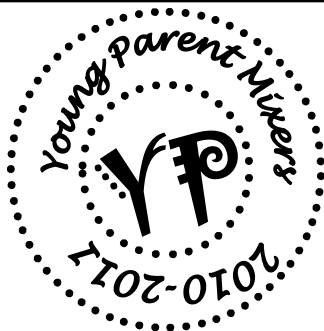
**COUPLES AND SINGLES! Join us for the annual “Get to know each other pot luck dinner.”**

We will meet in Ridley Hall, please bring a dish and your favorite wine, tea, or soda.

We meet in small groups of 10-12 people thru the school year. Each group meets once a month and enjoys great food and fellowship. The host and/or hostess can make it as informal or formal as they choose, the emphasis is on *fellowship*. The host provides the entrée and others in the group provide the hors d'oeuvres, side dishes, desserts, and beverages.

Each host chooses the date and time. Currently, we have groups meeting Sunday evenings, Sunday after worship, Saturday evenings, and week nights. This has been known as Foyer for many years, and is enjoyed by all who participate. ...the name has changed, but not the reason for the gatherings. If you have any questions regarding Supper Club please call Gail Rogers, 256-539-8044 and talk to the machine or email her at [gailandronnierogers@juno.com](mailto:gailandronnierogers@juno.com)

**VIP: If you are already participating in Supper Club but cannot be at the annual pot luck dinner, please, please contact Gail so you will be included in the rotation assignments. HOPE TO SEE YOU AND LOTS OF NEW FACES!**



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### YOUNG PARENTS join the fun!

We are excited to kick off the year with a new monthly social event for parents at Nativity. Our first Mixer will be at the home of Shannon and Larry Gunter.

Who: Parents of children still living in the house (unless they are 25!)

When: Friday, September 17th at 7:00

Where: 1708 Mountainbrook Drive

Bring?: an appetizer to share and an Episcopal Beverage

Questions? - Elizabeth Foster - 533-2455 ext. 211 or [Elizabeth.foster@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:Elizabeth.foster@nativity-hsv.org)

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### ECW Wine and Cheese Social

When: Monday, September 27; 6:00 to 7:30 (firm)

Where: Banister Room, Church of The Nativity

Who: Everyone interested in helping with the Nativity Bazaar!

Wonderful results from our first Wine and Cheese Social. Please make plans to attend the next one, we will continue working logistics for Bazaar 2010. A

For more information, please call Glinda at 256.348.5410 or Renee' at 256.783.4167.

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**PLEASE NOTE ANOTHER IMPORTANT EVENT TO ATTEND: ECW 121st Fall Conference...October 7-8...Anniston - All women & clergy are invited. This conference will help our ECW future and it would be great to have several Nativity Episcopal Young Women attend a fun and informative weekend away.**

*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.

## MISSIONS and OTHER EVENTS

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### Sunday, September 5 is HAP Sunday

Help supply the area food pantry by bringing these items to church: Canned meat, cereal, canned fruit, macaroni & cheese, peanut butter, and jelly. Just put them in the bins marked HAP.

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### Attention Medical Personnel

Are you interested in adventure? Are you looking for an opportunity to see the world?  
Would you like to leave the doldrums of winter in Alabama for a warm tropical climate?

If the answer is YES come join the Medical Mission Group headed to Haiti in January. We are looking for physicians and/or nurse practitioners who have a current Alabama license to help with the annual mission. For details call Bob Serio (256-881-6242) or go to our website for information and application.



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### Just Stuff It, The Sequel

On **Sunday, September 5th**, after the 10 o'clock service, we will once again have the opportunity to demonstrate teamwork, that *Nativityites* are yoked together in service to the homeless. We will stuff meal packs for First Stop in Ridley Hall.

Bill Goodson, First Stop Volunteer



**The Mission Guild** will meet **Monday, September 20 at 10:00 a.m.** at the home Sue Rowan (1121 Harrison Avenue.) Come see a delightful "Meller Drama" produced and directed by Mary Vann. Co-hostesses with Sue are Joyce Adams and Mary Vann. Newcomers are welcome to join us!  
Reminder: Bring bingo prizes for the Aquarius Club.

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## **ON SEPTEMBER 28, 2010 *THE TOP OF THE HILL GANG PRESENTS* MAGIC AT NATIVITY! Everyone is invited! What fun!**

COMEDY MAGICIAN **RUSSELL DAVIS!!** (fresh from his "The Magic of Reading" tour of Alabama public libraries sponsored by the State and by Friends of the Library)

11:30 A.M.—Appetizers

12:00 noon—A MAGICAL SALLY STOCKTON LUNCH And Russell Davis with award-winning "Walkaround Magic"

1:00 P.M.—The Amazing or Baffling "MAGIC...OF...RUSSELL!"

1:30 P.M.—Question & Answer time (but no secrets revealed)

**Reservations are required by calling the church office 256-533-2455.**

**Please make your reservations no later than Monday noon, September 27.**

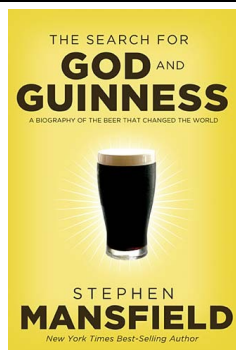
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**Learn about deeply satisfying art that anyone can do.** "Introduction to SoulCollage"® workshop coming October 30 at Church of Nativity! For More information and to register for this event contact Linda Martin at 256-837-6570.

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### **Day of Service & Unity—Interfaith Mission Service—Saturday, September 11, 2010**

Hosted by: St. Mark's Lutheran Church—A multicultural, multigenerational community service learning event!



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### **Join us for Wednesday Night Pints & Prayers Beginning September 15, 6:00 (see Nights at Nativity)**

In the 18th century Arthur Guinness, the founder of the famous Dublin brewery, was greatly influenced by the social teachings of John Wesley's "Righteous Use of Wealth." He went on to develop his beer and business to the greater glory of God, doing a great deal of good in Dublin and beyond by founding Sunday Schools, taking good care of his workers, and supporting hospitals for the poor. Join us for a pint of the Irish stout as we consider Jesus' teachings on money, wealth, and health - and how to live out our Christian faith whether at home, office, church, or wherever we may find ourselves. Brewed non-alcoholic alternatives will also be made available.

The Rev'd Brad Landry+



I would like to thank everyone at Nativity for making my Field Education such a wonderfully enriching and rewarding experience. I can tell that everyone at Nativity has a calling in helping prepare seminarians to become priests. It is through your acceptance, encouragement, and welcoming nature that I felt very much at home in your church. The Church of the Nativity will always hold a special place in my heart, and I will carry you with me in my prayers.

God Bless,  
Mandy Lippe

## YOUTH NEWS and upcoming EVENTS



## High school Sunday School at Nativity is GREAT!

- Great women!
- Great men!
- Great debates!

Calling all 9<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> graders...we want to invite you to an exciting Sunday School experience this year as we explore some of the great women, great men, and great controversies of our faith. Join us each Sunday beginning September 12 as look at some of the most famous saints (and sinners!) of the Bible and Church, as well as discuss some of the hottest topics in Christianity today. Over the next few months we'll be taking a closer look at:

- Creation: What do you believe about Creation? Was the world created in 7 days?
- Famous men and women: Adam, Eve, Cain, Abel
- James, brother of Jesus: Moving from words to action
- Famous men and women: Mother Teresa, Jonathan Daniels
- The role of women in the church: Should women lead prayer or serve as priests?
- Famous women: Mary Magdalene and Mary Anne Akin
- Do good people commit sin? Is it OK to sin since all we have to do is ask God for forgiveness and he gives it to us freely?
- Famous men: David, Brad Landry
- And much much more (including a few surprises!!)

So be sure to join us as we embark on this great journey exploring great women, great men, and great controversies of the Bible and our faith. You won't want to miss it!

### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE SEPTEMBER 2010

#### September 5

8:00	10:00
C Andrew Dunn	C Elizabeth Moody, Dylan Joffrion
T Tindall Morring	T Celeste Nelson, Rachel Joffrion
T Franklin Aldag	T Elise Nelson, Trace Markwalter
S Travis King	S Hanly Ward
AS Karsten Correale	AS Cat Kelly

#### Sept 12 NOTE THAT SERVICE TIMES CHANGE THIS WEEK!

8:45	11:00
C Sabol Rogers	C NK Baugher, Reece Baugher
T Chase Rogers, Allie Starnes	T Dylan Clardy, Jackson Grelier
T Jackson Anglin, Alex. Young	T Karl Schneider, SL Miller
S Noelle Carter	S Mary Mgt Ragland
AS Spencer Anglin	AS Julie DiFranco

#### Sept 19

8:45	11:00
C Kachi Eziebe	C Hutson Chilton, Rachel Quillen
T Meredith Walker, Steuart Evans	T Anna Chilton, Windham Hunter
T Neil Luther, Palmer Ford	T John Laney, John Chilton
S Harry Hudson	S Harrison Hunter
AS Tripp Ford	AS Patrick Quillen
	Banner Rosie Chilton

#### Sept 26

8:45	11:00
C Ian Braudaway, Madeline Sharp	C Paul Naumann, Bird Sherrill
T Gilliane Sharp, Cassidy Bates	T Savannah Watson, Emily Ellison
T Hall Blake Bryant, SG Moore	T Allison Taylor, Powell Stockton
S Carter McDonald	S William Ellison
AS Maria Caprio	AS Foard Naumann

### EYC FUN EVENTS!!!!!!



We're  
Having a  
Cookout

**Sunday, September 12  
12:00—6:00 p.m.**

Fun in the sun at The Stockton Lake House as we get together to kick-off our new year! Meet in the church circle, bring your bathing suit, sunscreen, towels, and *come hungry*.

**Friday, September 24—  
Sunday, September 26**

Cost: \$175 covers meals, transportation, room, two white water rafting trip, paint ball, and ropes course!

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE IS MONDAY  
SEPTEMBER 13!!!**

Contact Catti: 256-497-3488 or catticlanton@bellsouth.net





# WORSHIP SERVICE SCHEDULE

## SUNDAYS beginning September 12

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist (Rite I) Bibb Chapel

8:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist \* (Rite II) Church and Children's Chapel

10:00 a.m. Church School \* for all ages

11:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist\* (Rite II) Church

\* indicates Nursery available

## WEDNESDAY NOON HOLY EUCHARIST & HEALING SERVICE

12:00 pm. - Bibb Chapel

## MUSIC NEWS

- Nativity Polo Shirt Sale

Polo Shirts in Dark Green with a beautiful embroidered steeple logo are available for sale through a choir member or Suzanne. You may also order polos in a variety of colors, or button downs, or fleece, etc. The choir makes a (small) profit from each sale, with the proceeds benefitting our June 2011 trip to England. The cost are: Adult size shirts \$25 and Youth size shirts are \$20, checks are to made out to Church of the Nativity, annotated Choir



**Church  
of the  
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EPISCOPAL  
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- Choir Pastiche

The Choir's fun and fabulous night of entertainment from last August will return September 18th and include songs and acts by the choir and friends -- in a festive atmosphere! Tickets are available through a choir member or Suzanne (\$15) ; this is a fundraiser for the choir's trip to England next summer. Desserts and beverages will be served.

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, etc.

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

## Nights at Nativity for Children!

Have you heard the buzz about our new Children's Choir and Fall Programs on Wednesday nights? We hope you will join us for Nights at Nativity - programs that are sure to please everyone in the family! The children's choir will begin at 5:00 in the choir room for pizza and music. To receive more information and to register your child, please email Madeline at [madeline.mullins@gmail.com](mailto:madeline.mullins@gmail.com)

We'll see you on Wednesday, September 8!

Adults and teens will begin dinner at 5:15 in Ridley Hall and proceed with guest speakers or weekly studies.

*Look elsewhere in this newsletter for information regarding speakers and studies being offered for adults.*

## CHILDREN'S NEWS AND EVENTS

- **Church School begins September 12! Teachers are excited, they are ready, received a mountain-top experience and looking forward to seeing your child!**

Nursery, Godly Play (3 and 4 year olds), WoRM (K-Grades 4), and Club 56 (Grades 5& 6)

The first two weeks of Church School we will busy with our Heifer Art Project! Every child will create a piece of art work for the sale...remember 10:00 each Sunday.

- **Save The Date!**

Please save the date for our annual St. Francis Day celebration on Sunday, Sept 26. This day would not be complete without our Children's Art Sale benefitting Heifer International. There is lots of great art in store for this year, so you won't want to miss out on this one! More details will follow in the weeks to come!

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## PRAYER LIST

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

Jerry Horton, Evelyn Linn, Gavin Hooker, Debbie Adcox, Nanette Pride, Jane Lyle, Jane Douthit, Angel Colin, Georgia Hendricks, Diane Harvey, Charlotte Laxson, Emile Joffrion, Gerald McQueen, Donna McLawhorn, Dan Kinard, B. W. Dortch, Jeanne Dowd, Elsie Olsen, Perry McClain, James Horton, Gene Sullivan, Eileen Sullivan, Leigh Wahl, Bill Marsh, John, Nancy Kelly, Julie Kirk, Joan Bennett.

We pray for our Military: Lourie Formby, Afghanistan; John Orosz, Afghanistan

We pray for the departed: Scott Hicklen, brother of Lee Hicklen

We give thanks for a marriage: Amy Elizabeth Hill and James Leighton (Lee) Nation married August 29 at Nativity.

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

9/6 Patrick Ahearn  
9/8 Henry Crosby  
9/9 Emma Baggette  
9/12 Micah Watts  
9/13 Parker Ellis  
9/14 Sara Hutchens  
9/15 Lillian Retzke

We give thanks for new memberships: James, Alisa, Hutson, John, Rosie, and Anna Chilton; Christ, Carey, Christopher, and Crayton Lovejoy; Mike, Megan, Cameron, and Millicent Harry; Jason, Andrea, and Anthony Landers; Will and Katie Taylor; Kathleen Byrne; Edward Rottmann III and Lisa Stowers.

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## Bishop Parsley's Page

As I pray the rich cadences of the Book of Common Prayer, I am challenged and sustained by the words "we" and "us" and "our." We pray in the plural. "Cleanse the thoughts of our hearts . . . we praise you, O God . . . we humbly beseech thee that we may always prove ourselves a people mindful of thy favor and glad to do thy will . . . take away the arrogance and hatred that infect our hearts, break down the walls that separate us . . . open our eyes . . . that we may learn to serve you with gladness." Such plural prayer is so not merely because much of the Prayer Book is designed for corporate worship. Whether prayed corporately or privately, nearly all its prayers are "we" prayers, addressing God not as separate individuals but as one community.

In this simple fact of our Anglican spirituality lies a life-changing truth. We stand before God together. We need God together. We praise God as one. What matters is not just "me." What matters is "us" before God. God so loved the world we believe, and so we pray. This flies sharply in the face of the narcissism of our age and, I dare say, the narcissism of too much contemporary religion. Self-concern is the devil's signature dish in our day. It tempts us to see even God and our spirituality as all about me—my needs, my concerns, my agenda.

Now do not misunderstand me. God cares about each of us personally. God desires for us to open our hearts to him at the deepest personal level and in our own words. God promises to be with each of us at the points of our greatest need. This has been my experience and is the witness of Jesus in his profoundly personal relationship with his abba, Father.

Yet none of us stands alone in our need before God. My yearning for mercy and forgiveness, for help, for peace and justice, for joy

## COMMON PRAYER AND COMMON GOOD

and renewal is also your longing—and the yearning of countless people the world over. The deep truth is that you are with me in my prayer, and I with you, and all humanity together. God's responses to our individual prayers, finally, do not minister fully to any one of us unless they minister to us corporately. As John Donne wrote, "no one is an island, entire of itself; every man is a piece of the continent, a part of the main . . . I am involved in mankind."

This corporate wisdom of the Prayer Book means to form our minds and shape our lives. It would make us persons who seek the common good, not just our individual good. The common good is God's will for the world as a great, interconnected whole where all life can flourish. Our purpose in life is to do our part in and for this whole. Jesus knew this as he prayed at the end, "not my will but thine be done."

In our self-oriented society little seems more important than a new commitment to seek the common good. The global financial crisis, the catastrophic oil spill in the Gulf, the violence of the massive weapons industry—all show us the terrible danger of the individual profit and success motive, without a right concern for the commonweal. Special interest groups and individual agendas dominate our political scene and show very little concern for interests other than their own. As long as "I get mine" or "my group gets ours," what is best for the whole does not really matter.

As I see the heartrending images of oil-covered pelicans and dying dolphins and turtles in the Gulf, I cannot help but wonder who speaks for them in the face of powerful petrochemical and economic interests? Who will speak for the health of the earth as a community of life in which all living creatures matter and nothing is expendable?

In our time we are learning dramatically that

all things are interrelated. We must learn anew to think and act systemically, not just individually. Does drilling for oil over 3 miles down, with its obvious catastrophic hazards, serve the common good? Do we have the right to risk accidents that pour hundreds of millions of gallons of oil into the delicate ecosystem of the sea without fail safe protections? Can we continue to allow special interests to trump our care for the environment on which all life depends? I know my answers to these questions . . . what are yours?

These issues should remind us that if we live for ourselves we will die by ourselves. One of the Church's most important roles is to witness to the integrity of God's creation and to work passionately for the common good. As one of our prayers says, "Guide the people of this land, and of all the nations, in the ways of justice and peace; that we may honor one another and serve the common good." That is a prayer to contemplate—and aspire to live. As we share the deep wisdom of the Prayer Book's plural prayers may our hearts and minds be formed with love for the whole of God's beloved community. Father Zossima says to his students in *The Brothers Karamazov*:

Your work is for the whole, your deed is for the future. Never seek a reward, for grace is your reward on earth without that: your spiritual joy, which only the righteous obtain. . . . Kiss the earth and love it, timelessly, insatiably, love all men, love all things, seek this rapture and ecstasy. . . . We pray common prayer. Let us live for the common good.

Your servant in Christ,  
The Rt. Rev. Henry Nutt Parsley Jr.

## Is it stewardship time...again?

It's a trick question because it's *always* stewardship time! We practice stewardship every minute of every day of our lives. Stewardship is defined as "managing those things that have been entrusted to us by someone else." Of course in our lives, that "someone" is God and "those things" are everything that He has given us...namely our time, our talents, and our material possessions. God endows us and trusts us with 168 hours each week, numerous talents (both known and, as yet, undiscovered), and enough financial resources to get by. All He asks in return is that we use these gifts wisely and return a portion to Him for the building of His Kingdom.

I am sure that many people believe that the only thing the church really cares about when it comes to stewardship is our money. While adequate funding is vital to Nativity's mission and ministry, the Stewardship Committee wants to assure everyone that we are just as focused on gifts of time and talent as we are financial resources. The Committee has endorsed and supported a communications plan developed by Shirley Hale to match needs in our church and community with resources of time and talent among our members and organizations. You've already heard a little about the "Agents of Grace...Just Do It" campaign and you'll be hearing much more in the coming months. This will be a great mechanism by which Nativity parishioners can direct their time and talents to those in need.

The Stewardship Committee recognizes that we have many incredibly generous people in our congregation. To recognize this generosity, the Committee will once again be celebrating with a parish-wide event held at Early Works Museum on November 11 (you may remember the wonderful event we had at the Art Museum last year!). This event is being underwritten by generous parishioners, so no Nativity operating funds are being used for this celebration. We hope you will join us for our second annual Jubilee – "Nativity Fiesta" – and celebrate the grateful giving of so many generous people. Please mark your calendars for November 11<sup>th</sup>.

Stewardship is not about begging people to participate in church activities or to give more money. Rather, it is about giving people the *opportunity* to live into the fullness of their relationship with Christ by returning a portion of what they have been generously given for the building of His Kingdom. I urge you to take a moment to reflect on what has been entrusted to you and how you have used these resources, and then act where God is calling you.

David Collette  
Chair, Stewardship Committee

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Dear Friends, The Bishop Search/Nominating Committee recently issued the following announcement:

**ALABAMA BISHOP SEARCH PROCESS UNDERWAY NOMINATION/APPLICATION DEADLINE IS OCT. 8**

*The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama has begun its search for a new diocesan bishop. The deadline for nominations and applications is Oct. 8. The eleventh bishop of Alabama will succeed the Right Reverend Henry N. Parsley, Jr., who is retiring as diocesan bishop effective Dec. 31, 2011.*

*"The eleventh bishop of Alabama will be a visionary who can lead, teach and inspire both lay persons and clergy to grow the church, to find creative ways to meet financial challenges, and to strengthen ties between parishes and the diocese," according to the diocesan profile, which can be viewed at <http://bishopsearch.dioala.org>. Guidelines for submitting nominations are included in the profile.*

*The committee has been charged by the Standing Committee to deliver a slate of nominees by April 25, 2011.*

### **NATIVITY CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES 2010-2011 (contact the church office for more information)**

#### **NEW Adult Christian Formation Classes \* begin Sunday, September 12, 10:00**

\* Nursery available during Church School

The Book Class	Ridley Hall
A Parenting Class ( <i>Blessing of a Skinned Knee</i> )	Joffrion 2 East
<i>The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness</i>	Joffrion 2 West
<i>The Soul and Relationships: Dancing with Rumi on the Mystic Path</i>	Choir Room
Zimmerman Bible Class ( <i>The Gospel of Mark</i> )	Library

#### **Wednesday Christian Formation Classes begin September 8**

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study	7:15 am	Library
The Good Book Women's Bible Study	1:00 pm	Library
Children's Choir and Pizza Supper	5:00 pm	Choir Room

#### **NIGHTS at NATIVITY FALL KICK-OFF September 8**

- Dinner 5:15 pm (reservations required by Tuesday noon 256-533-2455) Ridley Hall
- Nursery by reservation only (required by Tuesday noon 256-533-2455)
- Program 6:00 pm The Spiritual Development Committee presents: Dr. Neil Lamb
  - Children Enrichment Program 6:00 pm—children K-Grade 6 WoRM
  - Youth Grades 6-12 Program begins at 6:00 pm EYC Rooms

#### **Thursday Adult Formation Classes**

Reflections Bible Study	9:00 am	Joffrion 2 East (nursery available with prior notice)
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#### **Centering Prayer—Bibb Chapel**

Tuesdays 5:30 pm—7:00 pm and Thursdays 12:00 noon—12:45 pm

## 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 noon, Sept 13, 2010.

### 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 Gadoski**  
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  
Permit # 511  
Huntsville, AL 35805

## NATIVITY CHURCH SCHOOL \* BEGINS

**Sunday, September 12, 10:00 a.m.**

### Adult Christian Formation Classes

\* Nursery available during Church School

The Book Class

A Parenting Class (*Blessing of a Skinned Knee*)

*The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness*

*The Soul and Relationships: Dancing with Rumi on the Mystic Path*

Zimmerman Bible Class (*The Gospel of Mark*)

Ridley Hall

Joffrion 2 East

Joffrion 2 West

Choir Room

Library

### Youth Christian Formation Classes

Grades 7-8

Grades 9-12

Ridley 2nd Floor

Joffrion 3rd Floor

### Children's Christian Formation Classes

Nursery

Godly Play (3 and 4 year olds)

WoRM (K-Grade 4)

Joffrion 1st Floor

Angel Lane

Angel Lane

*For the first two weeks of Church School (9/12 and 9/19) all children will be busy with 2010 Heifer Market Preparation and Art Projects. Be sure your child is present each Sunday to have a project completed for the Art Stroll. Heifer Market Art Stroll and St. Francis Day will be celebrated on September 26.*

Club 56 (Grades 5 & 6)

Ridley 2nd Floor