

# THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

October 6, 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.*

## *The Steeple Goes Electronic!*

Over the past few years, the number of copies of *The Steeple* that we mail out twice a month has grown to over 900 with each edition. That is a huge amount of paper and a great deal of staff and volunteer time to print, collate, label, and mail. Our wonderful administrative staff, along with the Communications Ministry chaired by Bob Serio, have now brought *The Steeple* into the 21<sup>st</sup> century. You may now receive *The Steeple* on-line. You will soon be able to make reservations on-line and even pay for your Wednesday Nights at Nativity supper!

Your parish leaders and staff are committed to Nativity's "green" efforts as stewards of creation. We are committed to being good stewards of the financial, time and talent resources that you return to God's work through Nativity. Two weeks ago, we sent e-mails to all members of Nativity for whom we have valid e-mail addresses in our files and provided a link to *The Steeple* on line. We asked these parishioners to send Linda Wheeler an e-mail if they would like to opt out of the printed edition and receive the electronic version. Almost 100 people chose to go green and receive our bimonthly newsletter electronically.

**Now it is time for you to do your part.** If we have your e-mail address, you will receive an e-mail with a link directly to *The Steeple* on-line. Please choose to receive the electronic version and opt out of the printed version. It's simple: all you have to do is to click onto Linda Wheeler's e-mail address and let her know and we will remove your name from the printed mailing list. If you don't get an e-mail from us with this invitation, please call the parish office, or better yet, send Linda Wheeler an e-mail with your desire to receive the newsletter on-line. Linda's e-mail address is [lwheeler@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:lwheeler@nativity-hsv.org).

Our parish family is growing, and so our programs and ministries are growing, too. Our vibrant and expanding children's and youth ministries will need more resources to support this growth. Our children's music program is a part of this expanding need. Education and Community ministries are also expanding to accommodate the spiritual journeys of our growing parish family. We have more people of all ages participating from the Nursery to Young Adults to Seniors. Our beautiful buildings call for our proactive funding of ongoing capital needs without reducing our commitment to outreach ministries. We are committed to creation and to all who share this fragile earth our island home with us, and to those who will come in future generations. Wherever we can go electronic, we are doing that. At the same time, we are using recyclable and biodegradable materials.

Our staff is looking for and finding ways to be prudent stewards of the resources available. At the same time we recognize that this year's Ministry Campaign for 2011 calls upon our parishioners to show an even greater commitment to the stewardship of the financial resources God is providing you. Pretty soon, you'll be able to give on-line, making this personal ministry more efficient ☺. We have a rich tradition to carry forward into the future. The talent, time and financial resources are here. Thanks for sharing yours.

*Andy +*



CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY,  
EPISCOPAL

*Est. 1843*

### **VESTRY VOTING 2010**

Ballots will open at  
10:00 a.m. on Sunday,  
October 31  
and will be open from  
5-7 p.m. on  
Wednesday,  
November 3 and  
8:00 –10:00 a.m. on  
November 7

**The Annual Parish  
Meeting**  
concludes on  
Sunday, November 7  
with a fellowship time  
and food for everyone.

**Please remember  
in order to vote you  
must be a confirmed  
member of Nativity.**

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



**A NOTE FROM THE FLOWER GUILD:** The dedication flowers placed on the altar may be taken after the 11:00 a.m. service by the persons dedicating unless there is a concert or evening service in the church; in this event they may be taken on Monday. If you have any questions, please contact Nancy Davis or Andrea Vandervoort.

**COMING SOON: Christmas Flower Dedications. Forms will be in *The Steeple*.**

**“Introduction to SoulCollage®”** Join Linda Martin at Nativity on Saturday, October 30<sup>th</sup>. Learn creative, enjoyable ways to tap into your own wisdom. Explore using images as a form of prayer.

**When: Saturday, October 30, 9:30 – 11:30 Where: Ridley Hall Cost: No Charge**

Phone the church office at 256-533-2455 to register. Call Linda at 256-837-6570 for additional information.

**YOUNG Parents Mixers - Friday, October 15, 7:00–9:00 p.m. at the home of Elizabeth and Lee Foster (915 N Cleermont Cir) 256-536-3678**

*A time of fellowship for parents of young children in the form of monthly parties that are held parishioners' homes. These parties are casual and relaxed and a way to socialize with new and old friends. Look for an e-vite each month for details. If you are new to Nativity and haven't received an e-vite, please contact one of our staff liaisons, Elizabeth Foster or Brad Landry at the church office 256-533-2455.*



### Nativity Women's Retreat

February 25 & 26, 2011



At St. Mary's, Sewanee Center for Spiritual Development  
Guest Speaker Kathy Phillips will present a program on Philippians...The Epistle of Joy

About the Speaker:

- Born & Raised in Memphis
- Has a B.A. in Art History from Vanderbilt
- Married with 3 grown children
- Resident of Houston, TX
- Founded "Prepare for Life" Bible Studies

Cost: \$130 per person, includes all meals & Accommodations

Registration Deadline: November 30, with full payment

More information: Contact Lane Tutt 256-533-2455

**Limited Space!**

### STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP

Going through this record-setting hot summer, when we've had extended periods without rain, has again made us very aware of water as a necessary and sometimes scarce resource. Here are some interesting and valuable water-saving facts:

#### Toilets, Taps, Showers, and Laundry

- 1994 was the year that federally mandated low-flow showerheads, faucets, and toilets started to appear on the scene in significant numbers.
- On average, 10 gallons per day of your water footprint (or 14% of your indoor use) is lost to leaks. Short of installing new water-efficient fixtures, one of the easiest, most effective ways to cut your footprint is by repairing leaky faucets and toilets.
- If you use a low-flow showerhead, you can save up to 15 gallons of water during a 10-minute shower.
- Every time you shave minutes off your use of hot water, you also save energy and **keep dollars in your pocket.**
- It takes about 70 gallons of water to fill a bathtub, so showers are generally the more water-efficient way to bathe.
- All of those flushes can add up to nearly 20 gallons a day down the toilet. If you still have a standard toilet, which uses close to 3.5 gallons a flush, you can reduce your water usage by adding something to your tank that will displace some of that water, such as a brick. Better yet, you can save even more by updating with a new low-flow toilet.
- Nearly 22% of indoor home water use comes from doing laundry. Save water by making sure to adjust the settings on your machine to the proper load size.
- Nearly 60% of a person's household water footprint can go toward lawn and garden maintenance. Be smart about your outdoor water use – 1) don't water in the heat of the day; 2) watch the placement of sprinklers/hoses to be sure you are not watering the driveway or street; 3) plant native plants around your home to reduce the amount of water and chemicals needed to maintain your landscaping – many native plants are drought and insect tolerant.

**Be mindful of the use of God's gracious gifts to us.**



## **ECW Bazaar and Bake Sale 2010 - Just around the Corner!**

This year's Episcopal Church Women's Bazaar will be Thursday, November 18.

The Bazaar begins at 10:30 a.m.

Luncheon seatings are offered at 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Take-out Lunches may be picked up between 10:30 and 11:30.

Produced by the ECW, the Nativity Bazaar is our parish's outstanding opener of the holiday season. Traditionally held on the Thursday prior to Thanksgiving, the bazaar offers great shopping for holiday gifts, crafts and baked goods. In addition, the Bazaar offers a delicious eat-in or take-out lunch. This year's Bazaar is chaired by **Amy Brooks, Minda Alexander, Renee Elliott, and Glinda Clardy.**

The success of the Nativity Bazaar depends on the help of our wonderful parish. You can help both by attending and by sharing your unique talents as a volunteer in any of the following areas.

Please contact the Chair listed below or visit the Bazaar Booth in Ridley Hall after each service.

### **Bake Sale**

Are you a baker? Do you have one of those amazing recipes that brings rave reviews? We need your help! Make your plans now to donate homemade baked goods, cakes, muffins, breads, rolls, canned preserves, pickles, cheese straws, or any wonderful homemade dish of your choice. **Sue Rowan** and members of the Mission Guild are organizing donations for the Bake Sale, which is chaired by **Lane Tutt** and **Andrea Vandervoort**. Please call Sue today at 256-536-1811 to let her know what you would like to donate.

### **Frozen/Refrigerated Foods**

If you love to cook and have a favorite casserole recipe, our Frozen Food Chairs, **Beezie Lindsey**, and **Louise Applegate** need you! We even have recipes that we can share with you if you need inspiration. Sue Rowan and members of the Mission Guild are also organizing the donations for this committee and will be happy to take your call for a donation at 256-536-1811.

### **Luncheon**

Tickets for the seated luncheon as well as take-out lunches are now on sale. Tickets are \$15 each. Please call **Marilyn Grundy** at 256-533-9546 for seated luncheon reservations OR order a take-out lunch by calling **Mary Beth Wilson** at 256-539-0361. Tickets may also be reserved at the Bazaar Booth after each service.

### **Crafts**

The ECW Bazaar will have an exciting Crafts section this year. Please contact **Beth Chenoweth** at 256-508-1191 or **Cassie Chenoweth** at 256-508-4409 as soon as possible if you are interested in participating in this year's Crafts Fair or pick up a vendor application at the Bazaar Booth in Ridley Hall.

### **Raffle**

**Pat Goodson, Sarah Gessler, and Jane Brocato** are busy acquiring wonderful items for this year's Raffle. If you have an item you would like to donate, please call Pat at 256-533-5202, Sarah at 256-534-4233, or Jane at 256-489-1694. Raffle tickets will be available for purchase as we get closer to Bazaar time.

### **Decorations**

**Minnie Lois Neal** and **Anne Conner** are creating beautiful table decorations which will be available for sale at the end of the event.

**MOST IMPORTANTLY please let everyone know that....  
all proceeds from the Bazaar will benefit  
Sawyer's Day Camp  
and Oscar Mason Center**

**NEXT ECW WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL AND PLANNING MEETING  
is scheduled for**

**Monday, October 25, 6:00—7:00 p.m. in Banister Room**

# MISSIONS



**The Mission Guild will meet Monday, October 18 at 10:00 a.m.** at the home of Marion Conover (1706 Greenwyche Road, SE) with Karen Scriven as co-hostess. Reminder: Bring bingo prizes for the Aquarius Club.

---

**Update on Haiti Mission Trip October 1, 2010** The Nativity sponsored medical mission to Haiti is scheduled for January 8-15, 2011. This coincides with the anniversary of the earthquake that brought so much destruction to this already impoverished country (January 12, 2010). This will be a joint mission trip with representatives from the Diocese of Alabama with an emphasis to remind everyone that the situation there still remains desperate and the people of our companion Diocese of Haiti need our assistance.

The team members from Nativity include Debbie Collette, Don and Marilyn Evans, Deacon Mary Groff and Bob Serio. We were not able to send the supplies generously donated by the Nativity parishioners last year and they have been in storage in anticipation of this year's trip. We are going to inventory the supplies and may need to issue an appeal for additional items to complete the inventory.

We were unsure what happened to the French Books of Common Prayer that were donated by our parish but they were found in a storage facility in Haiti that was not damaged and 92 books are now being used for the services. An additional 12 books were back ordered last year and we will be delivering these in January.

Updates and a blog on the mission trip will be available on the website [www.nativity.dioala.org](http://www.nativity.dioala.org).

We wish to thank all the members of the parish who have generously donated time and money to support this project and we ask you to keep us in your prayers as we move forward with the January trip.

The Haiti Mission Team

---

## JUST DO IT – AGENTS OF GRACE



**"Just as you did it to one of the least of these...you did it to me.** (Matthew 25:40) The life of the kingdom of God is a life in which we live by trusting God and serving God. But how can we do anything that really serves God? What we do for any person whom God loves, we do for God. **Christ calls us to serve through the needs of our neighbors.**

Many thanks to those who have responded to our first call to serve the needs of our neighbors! We now have nine reading/math buddies, one library aide, and one Habitat volunteer from our last Steeple and email appeal! However, volunteers are still needed:

- If you can give as little as ½ hour a week, you are needed as a reading/math buddy. You can make a difference in a child's life and be a part of helping to fix the education system in our country.
- If you can give just a couple of hours or a morning a week to do the simple task of checking out a book to a child who is learning to read and may have no books at home, you are needed.
- If you can give a couple of hours of your time, you can help renovate a Habitat house for someone in need of a place to live. (mopping, painting, cleaning windows, etc.)

If you can help, send an Email to [Justdoit@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:Justdoit@nativity-hsv.org). If you do not Email, call the Arch Agent on Call, Shirley Hale 256-536-5644. If you cannot respond to these requests, please stay tuned to your emails and articles in the Steeple for new volunteer opportunities.

---

## Just Grab 'Em!

The North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless will be conducting another city-wide blanket drive this fall. **Nativity will be a collection point during the month of October.** So grab one or more of those old, faded ones hiding in a closet somewhere and deposit them in the boxes that will be located in Ridley. In addition to the blankets we are accepting hats, socks, and thermal underwear. We'll put them to good use at First Stop or Salvation Army or other agencies.

Thanks, Bill Goodson, First Stop Volunteer

---

## 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.

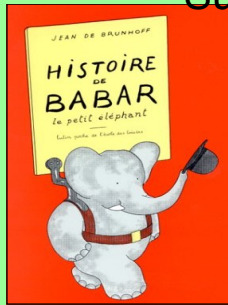


Friends of Music at Nativity

**Ron Roberts, Piano**

**Sunday, October 24th 5:00 p.m.**

**Bibb Chapel**



**Claude Debussy's "Images, Book Two" and  
Francis Poulenc's melodrama  
"L'Histoire de Babar, le petit elephant"  
narrated by Mrs. Barbara Phillips**

---

## **WORSHIP and CHRISTIAN FORMATION**

### **SUNDAY**

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

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

10:00 a.m.—Church School\* (see below)

11:00 a.m.—Holy Eucharist Rite II \*

### **NATIVITY CHURCH SCHOOL \* Sundays 10:00 a.m.**

#### **Adult Christian Formation Classes**

The Book Class

A Parenting Class (*The Blessings of a Skinned Knee*)

*The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness*

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

Zimmerman Bible Class (Letter to the Hebrews)

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)

Club 56 (Grades 5 & 6)

Joffrion 1st Floor

Angel Lane

Angel Lane

Ridley 2nd Floor

### **CENTERING PRAYER**

Tuesdays 5:30 pm - 7:00 pm in Bibb Chapel

Thursdays 12:00 noon - 12:45 pm in Bibb Chapel

### **WEDNESDAY**

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

7:15 a.m.

Library

The Good Book Women's Bible Study

1:00 p.m.

Library

Children's Choir and Pizza Supper

5:00 p.m.

Nights at Nativity Dinner \*

5:15 p.m.

Ridley (reservations required)

Nights at Nativity Programs for all ages\*

6:00 p.m.

Nursery is available at 5:30 p.m. BY RESERVATIONS ONLY

### **THURSDAY**

Reflections Bible Study

9:00 a.m.

Joffrion 2 East

## PRAYER LIST

### We pray for the search process of a Bishop

Almighty God; Send down upon your Church and the Diocese of Alabama the comfort of your Holy Spirit, that this same spirit may lead us in this time of transition. Guide us as we seek your wisdom so that we choose a bishop who will walk in your ways, and so draw our hearts to you, that in all our works we may glorify your Name. Through our Savior Jesus Christ. Amen.

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

Evan Powell, Henry Chase, Esther Yadegar, Terry Glevenger, Donald Perry, Marion Certain Loughhead, Prentice White, Jane Douthit, Angel Colin, Diane Harvey, Charlotte Laxson, Janet Lyle, Don Askins, Sara Welch, Emile Joffrion, Gerald McQueen, Donna McLawhorn, Dan Kinard, B. W. Dortch, Jeanne Dowd, Elsie Olsen, Perry McClain, 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 Nativity parishioners Peggy & Bob Serio who will be attending Cursillo #175 October 14-17 at Camp McDowell

We pray for the departed: Robert E. (Bob) Crump, parishioner

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

10/9 Anna Chilton, Sarah Whelden Hall, Paxtyn Whitney  
10/10 Chris Deming  
10/13 Chloe Parsons, Wyatt Fenstermacher  
10/14 Emily Ellison  
10/16 Lillian Khodabandeh  
10/20 Amelia Rosler  
10/21 Phoebe Duncan, Windham Hunter  
10/22 Morgan Havron

## OTHER EVENTS AND NEWS FROM LOCAL CHUCHES AND BEYOND

### The Language of Loss: Putting Grief into Words

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

**Place:** St Mary's, Sewanee

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

*"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. In this retreat 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.

"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.

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

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.

For reservations: call 800-728-1659 or 931-598-5342 or e-mail: [stmaryssewanee@bellsouth.org](mailto:stmaryssewanee@bellsouth.org)

For more information about this retreat or Amy please visit these Web sites: [www.stmaryssewanee.org](http://www.stmaryssewanee.org) or [www.amylyleswilson.com](http://www.amylyleswilson.com)



### St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

8020 Whitesburg Dr

**Saturday, October 9, 11:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.**

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

Centering Prayer as an 11th Step Practice - A 3-Day Retreat for anyone in a 12-Step Recovery Program: October 17-18 to be held at St. Mary's, Sewanee. Registration Fee: \$275. For more information: Carolyn Goddard at 615-438-3216 or [carolyn\\_goddard@gmail.com](mailto:carolyn_goddard@gmail.com)

St. Mary's Sewanee Program Committee announces "All Things Made New: On Being a 21<sup>st</sup> Century Christian" a Fall 2010 Retreat with The Very Reverend Dr. Samuel T. Lloyd, III, Dean of Washington National Cathedral  
**Date:** Friday-Sunday, October 29-31  
**Place:** St. Mary's Sewanee Center for Spiritual Development  
**Cost:** Residential \$275 Commuter \$175  
Additional details on the SMS website [www.stmaryssewanee.org](http://www.stmaryssewanee.org)

### Traditional Peruvian Feast

The Lord of the Miracles Association Birmingham-Alabama

**Date:** Saturday October 9, 2010

**Location:** Grace Episcopal Church 5712 First Avenue North (B'ham)

**Program:** 5:00 p.m. Mass of honor— 6:00 p.m. Procession and fireworks—7:00 p.m. Reception in the parish hall, traditional food and Peruvian music in live with the participation of the singer Wilma Cevallos, "Dance of the scissors", Andean folklore, "marinera" dance, and more. For information and reservations: (205) 937-2443 - (205) 401-9738; [Info.bham.al@senordelosmilagros.org](mailto:Info.bham.al@senordelosmilagros.org)

### Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell

Hi Folk School Friends, Fall is in the air at Camp McDowell. There's a little less humidity, a little less noise (from the "little" campers), and an eagerness for the cooler air, the colors, and the sounds of autumn. or the Alabama Folk School that means Folk Music & Watercolor Workshop week and our Old-Time Music and Craft weekend. Sessions October 17-21; November 5-9 256-563-9990 or [www.campmcdowell.com/folkschool/schedule](http://www.campmcdowell.com/folkschool/schedule)



## Grateful Giving Thoughts

Nativity is a very special place to me and has been a very important part of my life for almost 50 years. Wally and I began our life together here in 1961. We feel blessed to have been a part of this family of God's people for these many years. Wally was fortunate to serve as Acolytemaster, along with our beloved John Cotten for many years. In giving of their time and talents, they received so much more in return. I know how much they enjoyed going to Christmas Eve services and visiting with former acolytes who were home for the holidays.

It has been my honor to serve on the Altar Guild and be a part of ECW. Working on the Bazaar and cooking and serving ECW lunches with friends are ways that I have shared my time and talents with Nativity. The Wednesday afternoon Bible Study is a very important part of my week. Wednesday nights are great, with the programs and speakers that are offered. We have enjoyed being a part of Foyer Groups, and meeting parishioners that we didn't know before. We have a wonderful Church School program – there are ways for every one and every age to participate.

Music is a very important part of the worship service to me and I am so thankful for our talented choir. On Sunday mornings, when I walk into our beautiful nave and hear the organ playing, I feel a great sense of peace knowing that I can truly “be still and know that I am God.” (Psalm 46:10) My life has been and continues to be greatly enriched by Nativity, and the people I have gotten to know through the years.

Jewell Reynolds



Save the date!

**NATIVITY  
FIESTA**

**November 11**

**6:00 p.m.**

**Second Annual  
Stewardship**

**Jubilee**

**To be held at  
Early Works**

**Museum**

**Food &  
beverages  
catered by  
Rosie's**



## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FOR OCTOBER

### Sunday Oct 10

8:45

C Kachi Eziebe  
T Cassidy Bates, KN Hall  
T Franklin Aldag, SG Moore  
S Cat Kelly  
AS Karsten Correale

11:00

C Rachel Quillen  
T Karl Schneider  
T Emily Ellison  
S Will Ellison  
AS Patrick Quillen

### Sunday Oct 17

8:45

C Madeline Sharp  
T Gilliane Sharp, Neil Luther  
T Meredith Walker, Stuart Evans  
S Travis King  
AS Laurel Sharp

11:00

C Bird Sherrill, Dylan Joffrion  
T John Laney, Rachel Joffrion  
T Powell Stockton, Allison Taylor  
S Julie DiFranco  
AS Foster Shrout

### Sunday Oct 24

8:45

C Hutson Chilton, Ian Braudaway  
T Anna Chilton, John Chilton  
T Rosie Chilton, Chase Rogers  
S Sabol Rogers  
AS Carter McDonald

11:00

C Reece Baugher, Paul Naumann  
T Savannah Watson, SL Miller  
T Alexander Young, NK Baugher  
S Mary Mgt Ragland  
AS Foard Naumann

### Sunday Oct 31

8:45

C Andrew Dunn  
T Spencer Anglin, Windham Hunter  
T Jackson Anglin, HB Bryant  
S Harrison Hunter  
AS Maria Caprio

11:00

C Elizabeth Moody  
T Susan Purvis, Shep O'Neal  
T Walker Purvis  
S Hanly Ward  
AS Trace Markwalter

*There shall be for you and the resident alien a single statute, a perpetual statute throughout your generations; you and the alien shall be alike before the Lord. You and the alien who resides with you shall have the same law and the same ordinance (Numbers 15:15-16).*

*So [Christ] came and proclaimed peace to you who were far off and peace to those who were near; for through him both of us have access in one Spirit to the Father. So then you are no longer strangers and aliens, but you are citizens with the saints and also members of the household of God (Ephesians 2:17-19).*

Dear People of God,

Throughout our meeting in Phoenix, Arizona, we have reflected on the immigration crisis facing our host state, the United States, and all nations globally. A number of us visited the United States-Mexico border and saw first hand the many troubling and complex issues that face migrants, immigrants, the border patrol, local ranchers, and Christian communities seeking to minister to all of these groups. We are also mindful that similar border issues confront other nations represented in The Episcopal Church, especially countries in Europe, the Dominican Republic and Haiti, and Colombia and Ecuador.

Holy Scripture teaches us that all human beings are made in the image of God, and that Jesus Christ gave his life for all people. Furthermore, both the Old and New Testaments declare the importance of hospitality to resident alien and strangers, a hospitality that rests on our common humanity. All human beings are therefore deserving of dignity and respect, as we affirm in our Baptismal Covenant (Book of Common Prayer, p.305). So our gracious welcome of immigrants, documented or undocumented, is a reflection of God's grace poured out on us and on all. In this light:

(1) Ours is a migratory world in which many people move across borders to escape poverty, hunger, injustice and violence. We categorically reject efforts to criminalize undocumented migrants and immigrants, and deplore the separation of families and the unnecessary incarceration of undocumented workers. Since, as we are convinced, it is natural to seek gainful employment to sustain oneself and one's family, we cannot agree that the efforts of undocumented workers to feed and shelter their households through honest labor are criminal.

(2) We profess that inhumane policies directed against undocumented persons (raids, separation of families, denial of health services) are intolerable on religious and humanitarian grounds, as is attested by the consensus of a wide range of religious bodies on this matter.

(3) We call on the government of the United States and all governments to create fair and humane immigration policies that honor the dignity of people on all sides of this issue. In the United States, we seek a reasonable path to citizenship for undocumented workers; a plan to reunite families; and a viable system for receiving temporary or seasonal guest-workers, with clearly identified points of entry. These measures would free the United States border patrol to concentrate its efforts on the apprehension of drug traffickers, terrorists, and other criminals, and not on ordinary people who are simply seeking a better life for themselves and their children.

(4) We acknowledge the duty of governments to protect their people, including the securing of borders. The church has always respected this duty, which is grounded in government's God-given duty to protect innocent people and punish wrongdoers (Romans 13:1-7; 1 Peter 2:13-17).

(5) We recognize that racism and bigotry impact debates over migration and immigration. The Episcopal Church is committed to the eradication of all forms of racism, and decries the use of racial profiling in the arrest of persons suspected of being undocumented.

(6) We confess our own complicit sinfulness as people who benefit from the labor of undocumented workers without recognizing our responsibility to them. We passively tolerate an economic and political system that accepts this labor from millions of undocumented workers, and which has received approximately \$520 billion in social security revenue from them—revenue from which they will never benefit. Yet at the same time we treat them as a threat.

(7) We do not discount the concerns of our fellow citizens regarding the danger uncontrolled immigration poses to our safety and economic well-being. We insist, however, that these concerns be approached within the broader context of a national commitment and covenant to inclusion and fellowship across all lines for the sake of the common good.

(8) We take seriously our commitment to and responsibility for our fellow citizens, as we strive to face the spiritual, moral and economic challenges of life in all sixteen nations represented in The Episcopal Church. We call on our fellow citizens to remember that the good of a nation lies beyond its own self-interest, toward a vision of a humanity restored in Jesus Christ, for in him "you who once were far off have been brought near by the blood of Christ" (Ephesians 2:13).

(9) We offer for additional study a theological resource, "The Nation and the Common Good: Reflections on Immigration Reform." [Web Link: [http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/HOB\\_theological\\_resource\\_on\\_immigration.pdf](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/documents/HOB_theological_resource_on_immigration.pdf)]

God's grace be with us all.



# The Story of Nativity's Bell

This is the first in a series of stories about the bell that rings in Nativity's Steeple. We thought that the congregation should know more about its history and some of its stories.



Church bells across America have traditionally been rung by people standing on the ground pulling on a rope. That was true at Nativity Parish for over a century until one day. . . .

Elaine and I were assigned the bell-ringing duty on a fateful day in early 1992. We were watching for Prentice's direction to start ringing the bell as the choir and clergy and acolytes made their profound and distinguished way up the aisle toward the chancel. Prentice silently pointed to us, and "us" were intent on making Huntsville know that Nativity was about to invoke the Holy Spirit of God once again. We were going to carry out our bell-ringing duties with gusto. Elaine and I grabbed the bell rope, yanked on it with all our might, and



Oops!

We yanked a little too hard. The 150-year-old wooden bell wheel, having served its time, finally gave up the ghost and free-wheeled on the bell shaft. Nativity's bell stood silent on that early March Sunday morning in 1992. The bell didn't move. No sound came from the bell tower.

Rod Murray, the rector at the time, looked at me with that "you broke it, you fix it" kind of glare, and I looked back with that "please don't throw me in the briar patch" kind of grin, because I knew that I was in for a fun time with a major project that would involve electromechanical devices and lots of work 40 feet off the ground. That work eventually led to a new kind of bell striking system.

That unintentional bell wheel destruction occurred in early Lent, just after Ash Wednesday, in 1992. Rod asked us to please make the bell ring to a new sound by Easter. On Maundy Thursday, late at night, after a horrendous thunderstorm that caught us working up in the steeple at bell level, we called Rod and reported success. Rod came back to town, and we walked the wet streets of Eustis Avenue, under the light of a nearly full moon, listening to Nativity's bell tolling the sounds of the decades of history, now being struck in a new way.

Next issue: The history of Nativity's bell.  
Richard Hamner



A program of Huntsville Hospital Foundation &  
Huntsville Hospital Cardiology Services

**Heart disease is the number one killer of women in the United States.**

Prevention is important: two-thirds of women who have a heart attack fail to make a full recovery.

So let's work to **PREVENT** it.

Please join us for an evening of fellowship, light refreshments, and heart health education. And please...**bring a friend!**

When: Monday, November 1, 2010

6:00 p.m.: Heart Health Screenings (includes complete cholesterol, blood pressure, and Body Mass Index)  
*only \$5 per person*

*\* Plus, a 10-minute "how to" on hands-only CPR!*

7:00 p.m. Presentation by Sara James & Dr. Carl Gessler

Where: Church of the Nativity, Ridley Hall (entrance at 208 Eustis Avenue)

**PLEASE R.S.V.P. by October 29: 256-265-8077**

**Carol Ozier—*Discipline for Children*—**

**GUEST SPEAKER FOR PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN**

**during Nights at Nativity on October 13 and 20**

5:15 Dinner \* Reservations 256-533-2455

(6:00 \* p.m. in Joffrion 2 East (\*Nursery opens at 5:30 p.m. for reservations only)

## 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, October 18,  
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 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  
Permit # 511  
Huntsville, AL 35805

## Newcomers You're Invited...

As a way to say **WELCOME** to Nativity, we would like to host a dinner in  
honor of our visitors and new members on

**Thursday, October 14, 6:45 pm**  
**Ridley Hall**

The Blue Apron Ministry is hosting our annual newcomers dinner and we hope that you  
will join us. All children will have an activity and a nursery is available by reservation,  
so there's no excuse to not be here!

You will have the opportunity to meet Nativity Clergy, Staff, and Lay-leaders; take a tour  
of the church buildings while learning some of Nativity's interesting history.

If you have visited or joined Nativity since October 2009, we invite you to get to know  
other newcomers and their families.

Reservations for dinner and nursery are due by Tuesday, October 12 by calling the  
church office at 256-533-2455