

# 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.*

## A Few Things to Know and Do

### Great News for you to know:

- 12 faithful vestry nominees: **Leah Brambach, Pattie Cline, Sally Ann Culver, Lou Durnya, Brad Hall, Donna Joffrion, Kim Kerr, Tom Lydon, Harvey Pride, Rusty Stephenson, Kathy Woodard, and Don Wheeler.** Every fall we elect six new vestry members for a three year term. Thanks to the nominating committee for their hard work: David Collette, Phil Dotts, Christine Jackson, Robert Mullins, and outgoing Vestry members Steve Creech, Beth Moring, and Peggy Serio (Sr. Warden, Mac Phillips, *ex officio*). Voting begins when the Annual Parish Meeting opens Sunday, October 31, immediately following the 8:45 a.m. service and concludes November 7.
- The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center has partnered with Nativity and will be occupying space in the 333 Franklin Street Building as part of our outreach efforts. The Vine offers ecumenical, faith connected counseling services to individuals, couples, families and churches on a sliding fee scale. More about this new relationship in the next *Steeple*! We are providing the space formerly utilized by the Adult Learning Center, which continues to thrive in their new location in the downtown library and is one of Nativity's premier outreach ministries. .
- Seven babies will be baptized on All Saints' Sunday!

### Now, the "To Do" list!

- Pray about and reflect upon your sharing God's blessings of money with Nativity's mission and ministry. Take out a sheet of paper and write down how Nativity is touching your life with God's grace. Why is this important? What does Nativity do that touches other lives in significant ways? Giving begins when you know that you are participating in something significant. Nativity offers God's significant grace and love in many ways, but our hearts and treasure come together realizing the impact made upon us and the world.
- On that same sheet of paper write down your annual income. Multiply that by 10%. How does your stewardship pledge align with tithing? Is your treasure where your heart is? How can you more closely align your heart and treasure in 2011?
- Attend the Nativity Stewardship Jubilee, a Fiesta of Grateful Giving, November 11.
- Support HAP Pantry Sunday the first Sunday of each month; bring coats and blankets for the homeless during October.
- Participate in the Nativity Bazaar—realizing that this year the proceeds are directed toward outreach, supporting the Sawyerville Day Camp and the Oscar Mason After School Program. The Bazaar is ECW (Episcopal Church Women) led, but involves every member of the parish. So provide baked goods and help make and serve lunch. **Men of the parish: you can bake, too! You can also help with the men's special addition to the Bazaar efforts: The Thanksgiving Eve Turkey Fry!**
- When asked to participate in any of Nativity's ministries, "Just Do It!"

*Andy +*



CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY,  
EPISCOPAL

*Est. 1843*

### EXCITING EVENT FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY

What: All Saints Carnival & Costume Contest  
When: Wednesday, Oct 27  
Time: 5:15 p.m.  
Where: Dinner in Ridley  
Carnival in EYC Rm  
Cost: \$7 adults/\$5 children  
Hot dogs & all the trimmings,  
chips, desserts, drink.

Get your Halloween costumes ready, because it's time for a celebration! The winner of the costume contest will receive a front row seat at the Christmas service of their choice. So, make plans to join us for dinner and lots of fun!

*Nursery will not be available for this event.*

Everyone is invited to participate. What fun!

Call the church office for reservations 256-533-2455 no later than Tuesday Oct 27.

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

### NATIVITY FIESTA

November 11

6:00 p.m.



Second Annual  
Stewardship Jubilee  
To be held at  
Early Works Museum



Food &  
beverages catered  
by Little Rosie's

RSVP to church  
office 256-533-2455

### YOUTH HAPPENINGS and GATHERINGS!

1. 1. Sunday, Oct. 24th - 6-12 Grade EYC will carpool to Decatur for Fall District Days! This event is hosted by the Alabama Diocese Youth Department and is an opportunity to meet kids from other North Alabama Episcopal youth groups, and maybe bump into some old friends from Camp McDowell! Bring your own pumpkin to decorate and meet in the circle at 2:15 pm. Bring fast-food-dinner money and we will grab supper on our way home - arriving back around 7:30 pm. Bring a Friend! Contact Bartlee or Minda for more details.
2. 2. WEDNESDAY NIGHT SOUP VAN has openings for the December 15th run. Contact Minda to reserve your spots.

Top of the Hill Gang invites you to join them  
on Tuesday, October 26 for lunch and program.

Our speaker is The Reverend Jim Tuohy from Birmingham. He will talk with us about Celtic Spirituality and he will treat us to music on his accordion as we all sing along.

The event will be held in Ridley Hall beginning at 11:30 a.m. for a meet & greet time. Lunch will begin at 12:00 Noon with an Irish Cuisine Lunch catered by Walter Thames Cost: \$8 payable at the door



Reservations by noon Monday, October 25, 256-533-2455

**KITCHEN AMNESTY to be granted:** If you have borrowed and forgotten to return items from Nativity's Kitchen, you will be pardoned by returning the items (no questions asked!) We are missing an entire bin of stainless steel utensils, (tongs, knives, etc.) several large stainless steel casserole pans & bowls. Many of these items were quite new and we are in desperate need of all items to be returned in order to avoid another expense to replace missing items. You may bring the items and leave in the church office or Ridley Hall. We understand you may have borrowed the items for an off-site event and you forgot to return them. Please look in your kitchen cabinets, pantry, car trunk...anywhere you may have stored them. The Bazaar cooks depend on these items. If you have any questions or know the whereabouts of the MISSING COOKWARE please contact Sally Stockton.



### YOUNG PARENTS join the NOVEMBER fun!

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

When: Friday, November 19 at 7:00

Where: home of Leah and Drew Brambach 1514 Owens 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)

**NEXT ECW WINE & CHEESE SOCIAL AND PLANNING MEETING**  
**is scheduled for Monday, October 25, 6:00—7:00 p.m. in Banister Room**

**IT'S Just around the Corner! ECW BAZAAR AND BAKE SALE**  
**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.

**Bake Sale**

**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 Sawyerville Day Camp and Oscar Mason Center.**

**CCIB Report: Restoration Update**

The masonry restoration is well underway on the church and bell tower. The cutting of the old mortar from the brick is complete, except for the gable area above the altar. The upper north wall of the church has been re-pointed, pressure washed, cleaned with an acid and buffed. The improvement already is significant. Installation of cast iron dentils on the church front gable area is 90% complete. Round cast iron pieces are ready to be installed. Gaps between dentils will be filled in and painted. The only caps not removed for powder coating at this time are those located in the memorial garden area.

Most of the bell tower that requires the scaffolding has been re-pointed. Damaged wood and brick will soon be repaired on the bell tower. The masonry can then be cleaned with an acid and buffed. Then the bell tower dentils can be installed. The louver frames have been sanded and painted. About 95% of

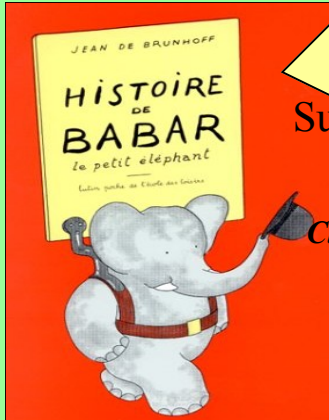
the oak louvers have been cut to length. Priority is given to the bell tower project so the scaffolding can be removed.

For safety reasons the bell tower exterior door will remain closed. Please observe and obey barricades and detours. Should you notice anything that appears a safety hazard, please inform Loch, Skipper, or John Buyse. If you have any questions, do not hesitate to give Skipper Colin or Loch Neely a call.

On October 1<sup>st</sup> the National Park Service approved Noblin & Associates as our consulting engineering firm. This approval was necessary to start the roof procurement. Several bidders have received the bid-packages. A pre-bidders conference for the roof replacement was conducted on October 20<sup>th</sup>. The bids are due November 2<sup>nd</sup>. A request will then be submitted to the NPS for their approval of the selected contractor.

Skipper Colin

**Friends of Music at Nativity present**



**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 éléphant"***

***Narrated by Mrs. Barbara Phillips***

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## **The History of Nativity's Bell**

**by Richard Hamner**



This is the second in a series of stories about Nativity's bell. This article tells about the origins of our bell (or rather bells, because there were two). To find the story, we have to go back to the years leading up to the American Civil War.

In my search for the origin of Nativity's bell, I got into the original minutes of the vestry meetings from 1858 to 1878. Bobbie Graham, the church archivist, and I opened the two-hour-fire-rated safe in the basement under Ridley Hall, and we looked through the original hand-written minutes of the Vestry meetings from the middle nineteenth century. It was an emotional time holding those documents in our hands.

We found beautiful handwriting, but no mention of a bell. We found vestry elections and a resolution that two dollars would be assessed against any vestry member who missed a meeting without a good excuse, but no mention of a bell.

The vestry minutes of 1859 have an exhaustive listing of all of the costs required to complete the 1859 church, including re-plastering a part of the building where the plaster fell off. No expenditure for a bell was listed.

The original church building was built in 1847 on the same property as the current nave. We couldn't find records that far back, but we know that the older structure was taken apart brick for brick in 1878, sold to a congregation two blocks north for \$700, and rebuilt. No mention of a bell. Bobbie recently visited the congregation that bought the building. The old building has long since been destroyed and a new building built, but a few artifacts remain from the original building. No bell was among them.

We went from the basement to the church archives room in the office building and found an entry in the church history records where a "bell had been hung in the belfry on January 18<sup>th</sup>, 1850, weighing 575 pounds and costing \$200". Pay dirt! So now we know that the original building, built in 1847 and dismantled in 1878, had a bell.

Next we went to the history book of our parish that was written by Frances Roberts, and voila! She mentions that our bell was taken to a foundry in Mississippi to be melted down and recast into cannon. So we immediately jumped on the internet for further research on The American Civil War. It turns out that in 1862 General Beauregard issued an appeal for churches to donate their bells.

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Our church, the Episcopal Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, Alabama, was specifically listed in a document of major events of 1862 as one of the churches across the South who donated their bell. (DONATED, as in voluntarily gave the bell to the Confederate war effort.) What I am saying is that the communicants of Nativity parish took the bell out of the bell tower, probably at great effort, loaded it onto a horse-drawn carriage, took it to the local train station bound for Mississippi, and waved bon voyage

It seems that the alloy that was used for church bells had abundant Tin, an element necessary for cannon but in short supply in the Confederate Army. A church bell could be used with additional copper, and the total amount of metal could be doubled when used for casting cannons, and copper was available to the Confederate foundries. So church bells and farm bells and doorknobs and anything bronze was in great demand.

So it seems that General Beauregard appealed, Nativity (and a whole bunch of other churches) responded, and bells went to a cannon foundry (in Mississippi, we think), and the "Bell Batteries" were born. Six cannons constitute a Battery of Artillery, and twelve cannons were made from the bells donated from Huntsville churches. Those two batteries of artillery were dubbed the "Huntsville Bell Batteries". Later on, however, when they fired those cannons during combat operations, I don't think anybody was thinking about the Call To Worship that the metal in those cannons once sounded.

Beauregard said that he would repay the churches after the war was over. Yeah. Right.

There is a Twelve-Pounder cannon somewhere in some Civil War park, turning green in the acid rain. That cannon was made from a bell that once was mounted in the first bell tower of Nativity Parish, Huntsville. The metal in that cannon once rang the Call To Worship for the faithful, later rang the booms of artillery in warfare, and is now silent.

To complete the story, sometime after 1865, Nativity bought a steel bell from Naylor Vickers in Sheffield, England, and that bell still rings in our bell tower. It sounds like a steel bell now rather than a bronze bell, but use your imagination. The soul of the old bell is still there.

Swords to plowshares? Bells to Cannons? I hope God understands. My theology says he does.

Next Issue: The changeover from swinging the bell to striking the bell with an automatically-actuated bronze hammer.

Richard Hamner

## **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.**

*Our Young people are getting involved in Just Do It. Thanks to Nativity's Youth Director Minda Alexander, our young people are pitching in to help with the Salvation Army soup van. Laura Mallett, The Salvation Army Community Agent of Grace for Nativity, is excited to have their help. They have signed up to work on the van on Nativity's one night a month for October, November and December. Way to get in there and Just Do It!*

We now also have twelve people who have volunteered for Ridgecrest math/reading buddies, volunteer library assistants, and pop-corn poppers for the reading fair date in October. First Stop also has a volunteer to straighten their closet and the First Stop breakfasts dates have been filled for October and November.

If you want to volunteer for something, 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. Stay tuned to your emails and articles in the Steeple for new volunteer opportunities.

**WORSHIP SCHEDULE November, 2010 published 8/17/10 (updated 10/20/10 by clg)**

**WEDNESDAY, November 3, HE**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 pm	Akin	Akin	Jeannie Robison

**THURSDAY, November 4, HE**

Service	Celebrant		
6:00 pm	Landry	Landry	

**SUNDAY, November 7, Twenty-Fourth Sunday After Pentecost**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 am	Akin	Anderson	Cheryl Watts, Warren Vann	Kachi Ezeibe	Virginia Kobler
11:00 am	Anderson	Anderson	Barbara Buice, Lea Ellison	Ed Greene	Susan Brown

**WEDNESDAY, November 10, HE**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 pm	Anderson	Anderson	Don Askins

**THURSDAY, November 11, HE**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
6:00 pm			Cancelled – Nativity Jubilee

**SUNDAY, November 14, Twenty-Fifth Sunday after Pentecost Stewardship Sunday**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Akin	Landry	John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
8:45 am	Anderson	Landry	Lewie Bates, Pearline Gilpin	Dianne Nettles, Lane Mickle	Lee Hicklen
11:00 am	Akin	Landry	Rich Goodwin, Ed Vaughn	Chris Jackson, Roy Gowman	Jeannie Robison

**WEDNESDAY, November 17, HE**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 pm	Akin	Landry	Cheryl Watts

**THURSDAY, November 18, HE**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
6:00 pm	Akin	Akin	

**SUNDAY, November 21, The Last Sunday after Pentecost (Christ the King)**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
8:45 am	Akin	Anderson	Robert Dunn, Lee Hicklen	Lee Hicklen, Amy Creech	Lane Mickle
11:00 am	Anderson	Anderson	Mike Ward, Janet Robbins	David Collette, Debbie Collette	Don Askins

**WEDNESDAY, November 24, HE Thanksgiving Eve Service**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 pm	Akin	Akin	Mary Hendricks

**SUNDAY, November 28, The First Sunday in Advent**

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Akin	TBD	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Akin	TBD	Basye Holland-Shuey, Ralph Shuey, Charlie Warren	Melissa Kirkindall, Jeannie Robison	Clay Sherrill
11:00 am	Anderson	TBD	Don Askins, Dianna Dabbs, Mike Knight	Ronnie Rogers, Elaine Hamner	RuthAnn Haymes

**ALTAR GUILD**

6	Emily Moody, Nancy Colin, Judy Vann, Louise Reynolds, Wanda Cobb	13	Mary Johnson, Lea Ann Barnett, Flo Stockton, Caffey Litkenhous, Sara Little
20	Judy Heacock, Rose Ann Shearer, Suzy Naumann, Laurie Noojin, Alice Lanier	27	Wimberly Watts, Emily Rodgers, Linda Watts, Laura Innes, Sara Little, Marcia Machek

**BLUE APRON**

7	8:45 – Kamelchuk & Luther	11:00 – Smitherman	14	8:45 – Elliott & Caprio	11:00 – Pinson
21	8:45 – Bryant & Windham	11:00 – Collette	28	8:45 – Moring & Ellison	11:00 – Briggs

**CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE:**

November 1 – 7	November 8 – 14	November 15 – 21	November 22 – 28	Nov. 29 – Dec. 5
Akin	Anderson	Landry	Akin	Anderson

## 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 to 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

Stephen Paul Creene, Evan Powell, Henry Chase, Esther Yadegar, Terry Glevenger, Donald Perry, Prentice White, Angel Colin, Diane Harvey, Charlotte Laxson, Ed Renner, Don Askins, Sara Welch, Emile Joffrion, Gerald McQueen, 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 the departed: Dr. Jane Nall Douthit, parishioner

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

10/23 Jacob Clute, William Keener  
10/24 Jessica Deming  
10/25 Maria Caprio  
10/29 Dylan Meyer  
10/30 Grace Molloy, Charles Warren, Mason Baggette  
10/31 William Post  
11/3 Rachel Quillen, Tucker McClung, Noah Landry  
11/4 Kathryn Banish, Neill Luther

### Transitions

**Membership Transfer in:** Katie Taylor, Kathleen Byrne, Tracey and Jason Berman, Jessica Smith, Davis Manning, Alisa and James Chilton

**Membership Transfer Out:** Katherine D. Noojin Collins to All Saints Episcopal, Atlanta, GA

**Births:** Teegan Stephanie Foley, born October 17, daughter of Annie & David Foley; granddaughter of Martha & Ed Bosworth  
Elizabeth Storres DeFiore, born on October 13, daughter of Cate & Michael DeFiore; granddaughter of Wilma & Jim Phillips

## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE NOVEMBER

Please check over this schedule carefully; questions to Ms Woodard [kwoodard01@comcast.net](mailto:kwoodard01@comcast.net) or call 256/881-5362.

### November 7

<b>8:45</b>	<b>11:00</b>
C Noelle Carter, Ian Braudaway	C Rachel Quillen
T Palmer Ford, Meredith Walker	T Celeste Nelson, Jordan Cozby
T Allie Starnes, KN Hall	T Emily Ellison, Elise Nelson
S Cat Kelly	S Will Ellison
AS Tripp Ford	AS Patrick Quillen

**Sunday November 7 5:00 Choral Evensong**  
**Arrive by 4:50 Service lasts approx 50 minutes**

C Elizabeth Moody  
T Karsten Correale, John Laney  
Thurifer Patrick Quillen

### November 14

<b>8:45</b>	<b>11:00</b>
C Kachi Eziebe, Katherine Walker	C Nancy Kate Baugher, Reece Baugher
T Franklin Aldag, Allison Taylor	T Dylan Clardy, Jackson Grelier
T Cassidy Bates, Robert Walker	T Powell Stockton, Savannah Watson
S Harry Hudson	S Julie DiFranco
AS SG Moore	AS Foster ShROUT

### November 21

<b>8:45</b>	<b>11:00</b>
C Madeline Sharp	C Hutson Chilton, Paul Naumann
T Gilliane Sharp, Steuart Evans	T Anna Chilton, John Chilton
T Chase Rogers, Tindall Moring	T Alexander Young, Foard Naumann
S Carter McDonald	S Rosie Chilton
AS Sabol Rogers	AS Trace Markwalter

### November 28

<b>8:45</b>	<b>11:00</b>
C Andrew Dunn	C Bird Sherrill, Drew McDonald
T Jackson Anglin, Windham Hunter	T Scott Louis Miller, Walker Purvis
T Neil Luther, Hall Blake Bryant	T Mary Mgt Ragland, Rachel Joffrion
S Harrison Hunter	S Hanly Ward
AS Spencer Anglin	AS Susan Purvis

## Holidays at the Pantry

### Hunstville Assistance Program

it all means **HAP !!!**

On **Sunday November 7**, HAP Pantry Sunday!

Nativity will collect Canned Hams and Canned chopped Chicken. HAP Clients need meat for the Holidays! Last year they loved the small canned hams - non refrigerated type. They may be found at Dollar General, Wal-Mart, and Publix. Bags of hard candy are welcome as a holiday treat.



### 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.

## Grateful Giving



## Grateful Giving Thoughts

While I have always considered Nativity to be my spiritual home and a holy place – a place to come and worship God, I don't think I came to appreciate it for what it really is, a place to experience and share God's love until a few years ago.

Stewardship for my church, that sense of ownership and responsibility, was also slow to dawn on me. I'm afraid that the church accountant would have a hard time finding "joy" in the pen strokes of the weekly checks we write to the Nativity. As we write these checks to the church, I have been guilty of giving out of a sense of obligation – my thinking is often "I owe God at least this small measure of my earthly treasure." But more recently, I have come to realize that it is both my responsibility and my *privilege* to help keep Nativity vibrant and to share the

incredible blessings that God has given me through my support of the church.

Reflecting on this year's stewardship theme of grateful giving, I'm reminded that God made us to work and He gave us certain talents that He intends for us to use in our work. We didn't ask for these capacities and we certainly have no say in how society values these talents. He simply gave these gifts to us. For many of us at Nativity, those God-given talents have helped to bring us an excellent quality of life.

All that I have and all that I am really did come from God. And when the opportunity to share those blessings comes around during our stewardship campaign, I need to let my appreciation for all that God have given to me and my family show. I need to give enough that it has an impact on how I live – that there is a feeling of sacrifice. Only then will my heart and my treasure be where "rust and moth cannot destroy."

The true joy of giving comes in the confirmation that we have been blessed and for recognizing, as St. Francis is credited with saying, "it is in giving that we receive."

Michael D. Ward



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.

What: Heart Health Screenings (includes complete cholesterol, blood pressure, and Body Mass Index)

Cost: *only \$5 per person*

7:00 p.m. Presentation by Sara James & Dr. Carl Gessler \*Plus, a 10-minute "how to" on hands-only CPR!

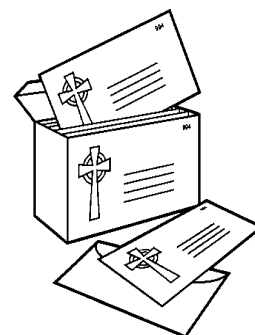
Where: Church of the Nativity, Ridley Hall (entrance at 208 Eustis Avenue)

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

### Parish Financial Report Period Ending 09/30/2010

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 78,048.00	\$ 99,791.67	\$ 747,037.73	\$ 898,124.99
Plate	\$ 2,999.85	\$ 3,750.00	\$ 32,618.63	\$ 33,750.00
Other Revenues	\$ 2,170.00	\$ 9,125.00	\$ 81,311.32	\$ 82,125.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 83,217.85</b>	<b>\$ 112,666.67</b>	<b>\$ 860,967.68</b>	<b>\$ 1,013,999.99</b>
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 18,071.62	\$ 22,583.33	\$ 154,167.04	\$ 203,250.01
Personnel	\$ 57,921.76	\$ 59,598.58	\$ 529,765.20	\$ 536,387.26
Other Expenses	\$ 41,378.93	\$ 30,456.28	\$ 264,327.03	\$ 274,106.16
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 117,372.31</b>	<b>\$ 112,638.19</b>	<b>\$ 948,259.27</b>	<b>\$ 1,013,743.43</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ (34,154.46)</b>	<b>\$ 28.48</b>	<b>\$ (87,291.59)</b>	<b>\$ 256.56</b>

"True generosity is not measured by the size of the gift but by the spirit of the giver."





## “Introduction to SoulCollage®”

**October 30, 9:30 -11:30 a.m. - Nativity Library**

Experiencing SoulCollage® can be both playful and powerful. In this facilitated workshop, participants will discover images that can foster greater self-awareness and spiritual growth. Facilitator, Linda Martin, is a LPC who completed SoulCollage® facilitator training in Montreat, NC. She is excited about this creative process which all of us can use to understand ourselves better and lead more meaningful lives.

Linda Martin is offering this workshop **FREE** for Nativity. She will be leading this workshop for Diocese of Alabama Retreat: *Taste and See on November 20* at Episcopal Church of the Ascension, Birmingham. All you need to do is call the church office to register 256-533-2455.

## MUSIC NEWS

### St. James Cathedral, Chicago

Historic St. James Cathedral in downtown Chicago welcomed thirteen members of Nativity's Choir on Sunday morning October 10th. Cathedral Choirmaster Bruce Barber was very welcoming and gracious host for the weekend's activities. Cathedral Dean Joy E. Rogers also thanked us for our contributions, took time to greet us and applauded us for bringing such warm weather to the North!

The Nativity Choir joined with the Cathedral Choir for the morning Choral Eucharist, while also attending numerous musical and cultural events in the windy city on the weekend of the Chicago Marathon! As the choir prepares for England in June of 2011 we ask you to keep us in your prayers and to speak with us often about our endeavors.

### ALL SAINTS EVENSONG—NATIVITY

Coming up next is All Saints Evensong on Sunday afternoon, November 7th, at 5 pm. We all enjoy singing this annual service for Nativity members, and the community. We hope you will come back from whatever afternoon activities you have undertaken that day and slip inside the church for about a hour to rest in the sound and beautiful space. All questions related to the choir, and other concerts or musical events at Nativity may be directed to Suzanne in the church office.

## VESTRY NOMINEES 2010



### **Leah Brambach**

Leah was born in Scottsboro, Alabama and has been a lifelong Episcopalian. She has been a member of Nativity for ten years. Leah is the General Manager for Office Interiors by Osco Inc. She is married to Drew Brambach and has one son Will Brambach age 7.

During Leah's time at Nativity she has loved the opportunity to teach Sunday school and Bible School. She has Chaired and Co-Chaired Parish weekend for the last four years. She has also chaired committees for the Bazaar. Presently she serves on Kids Council, Blue Apron Ministries, and teaches two Sunday school classes.



### **Pattie Cline**

Pattie is a Huntsville native and a cradle Episcopalian who was baptized, confirmed and married at Nativity. She is the mother of two grown children, grandmother of two beautiful grandchildren and the wife of John Cline. Having taught 23 of my 25 years in the Huntsville Public Schools, Pattie is presently a retired school teacher. Her activities at Nativity include: a Sunday school teacher, a YP sponsor, the Nativity Bazaar Chairman, the Stewardship Campaign Co-chair, and an Altar Guild member. She is presently a member of the Garden Guild and the Good Book Bible Study class.

"I am proud to be an EFM graduate. Through the years, I have devoted my time and energies to community service projects in Huntsville, including serving on the Harris Home Board. I am delighted with the opportunity to continue serving my church with a nomination for the Vestry."



### **Sally Ann Culver**

Sally Ann is a life-long member of Nativity- baptized, confirmed and married in the Church; is mother of 3 daughters, has 8 grandchildren and 6 great-grandchildren and claims to be "old as dirt"!

She currently serves Nativity as a Lector, an Intercessor, and an Office Volunteer Receptionist; participates in the Prayer Shawl Ministry, the Ladies Wednesday Night Bible Study; has served on the Altar Guild, as Chairman of the ECW Bazaar and on other Bazaar committees.

Sally Ann is a longtime employee of Lauren's Gift's, a sustaining member of the Huntsville Junior League, a member of the Greenwicke Garden Club, an Honorary Member of the Women's Guild of the Huntsville Museum of Art, and has served as past President of all three organizations.



### **Louis (Lou) R. Durnya**

Lou has attended Nativity for over 26 years. He has served on several stewardship campaigns, serves as an usher, and attends the Wednesday morning men's Bible study.

He retired as Assistant Chief Counsel for NASA's Marshall Space Flight Center in January 2010 and was rehired in March on a part time basis. He is a retired Army Reserve Judge Advocate General Corps' Colonel and was activated in 2003 for Operation Enduring Freedom serving as the Staff Judge Advocate for a mobilized unit.

Lou is a former president of the North Alabama Chapter of the Federal Bar Association. He also serves on the Board of Directors of the Historic Huntsville Foundation and the Kiwanis Club of Huntsville. He has attended executive programs at Harvard University and the Brookings Institution.

Lou is married to Beth and they have two children, Cameron and Sarah.

## VESTRY NOMINEES 2010



### **Brad Hall**

A member from childhood of Trinity Episcopal Church in Natchez, MS, Brad received an engineering degree from Mississippi State University and began his career in the automotive manufacturing industry in Jackson, MS, in 1989. "I married my wonderful wife, Holly, in 1995 and we moved to Huntsville about two years later becoming members of Nativity shortly thereafter." He worked for The Boeing Company on Space and Missile related programs until 2006 when he joined his present employer, Defense Acquisition Inc., a small Defense Contractor company.

At Nativity, Brad has served on the Building and Grounds committee, performed usher duties, volunteered for Christmas decoration setup, and an active member of the Blue Apron ministry. Holly and Brad are blessed with three wonderful children. Kate Noble (13) and Sarah Whelden (10) have enjoyed many years of the wonderful WORM and EYC Sunday school programs at Nativity and most recently acolyte duties, while their brother Bradford (2) is just getting started.

Brad's hobbies include hunting and fishing and anything related to quality time spent with family.



### **Donna Joffrion**

A native of Jasper, AL, after graduating from Birmingham-Southern in 1983, Donna moved to Huntsville to work in the technology industry. She became a member of Nativity in 1990 and throughout the years has served on various committees, including Altar Guild, and helped with stewardship campaigns. Donna has co-chaired the ECW Bazaar and co-hosted/chaired the AAC dining with Friends Dinner. Currently, Donna serves on the Nativity Friends Outreach to homebound parishioners.

"I feel very fortunate to be a member of such a loving church family."



### **Kim Kerr**

Kim has been a member of Nativity since 2003. She has headed the Blue Apron Ministry for the last two years, works with the Bereavement Guild, and served as publicity chair for the ECW Bazaar in 2009. A former English instructor at UAH and Calhoun, Kim is now a full-time writer. Kim and her husband, Peter (who co-chairs the Men's Breakfast Ministry), are parents to 9-year-old Mhairi.



### **Tom Lydon**

Tom was born in Boston and remained there through his undergraduate years receiving a Bachelor of Science in Mechanical Engineering. He went right into the Army from College. In one of those strange "coincidences", a guy from Boston and one from Tuscaloosa, Richard Hamner, were in the same class at Engineer School and Ranger school.

Tom received a Masters Degree in Nuclear Engineering after the Army and his 40 plus years career has involved making electricity either from Nuclear, Hydro, Coal, Oil, or Gas. He is now retired.

"Our life at Nativity started when I was transferred by Bechtel to work on the restart on Browns Ferry Nuclear Plant

My partner, Michael Shipley, and I started attending Nativity in the summer of 2003. We have been active in the Cursillo community. I am presently attending EFM. I am assisting the Just Do It program with software so that it can be used to connect groups with needs with volunteers from Nativity."

## VESTRY NOMINEES 2010

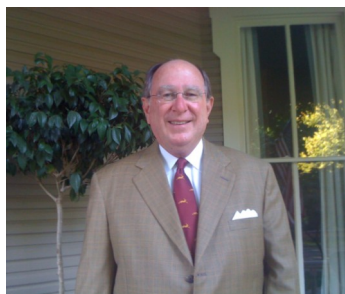


### Harvey Pride

Harvey Pride, Jr. was born in Decatur, Alabama and has been an Episcopalian for 36 years. An active member of St. John's in Decatur, Harvey served on the vestry for 3 terms, as Sr. Warden, Jr. Warden, and was co-chairman of the capital campaign. In addition, he served on the ushers guild, the finance committee and was a Sunday school teacher.

Harvey was instrumental in the formation of The Church of The Good Shepherd (Decatur) and St. Barnabas (Hartselle). He and his family transferred to the Church of The Good Shepherd in 2000. There, Harvey served as a lay reader, an usher, and on the search committee for a new priest.

Harvey and his wife, Bibi, and their two sons, Noah (15) and Nathaniel (9), moved to Huntsville and joined the Church of the Nativity two years ago.



### Rusty Stephenson

"After being away from Huntsville for 20 years in a banking career of 38 years, I am blessed to be back at Nativity now filling my time as a husband, a father of 2 adult sons, and 5 grandsons."

As a cradle Episcopalian, Rusty has served the church in many areas including Sunday School teacher, vestries, search committees, stewardship committees (both parish and diocesan), Lay Eucharistic Minister, Lay Eucharistic Visitor, Lay Reader, and parish visitor. Currently, he is participating in Nativity's Sunday School, Wednesday night programs, Top of the Hill Gang, and stewardship committee. In addition he is serving on the search committee for our 11th Bishop of Alabama.

"Nativity is a very special parish giving many opportunities that encourage me on my spiritual journey and in my service to others. What an exciting time to be a member!"



### Kathy Woodard

Kathy has been a member of the Church of the Nativity since 1998. She is an elementary teacher of the gifted with Huntsville City Schools. Kathy has two children, Matthew who is a second-year law student, and Ruth who is a second year at the University of Virginia.

Kathy has worked with the acolyte program for the past ten years and is currently co-Acolyte Master. She has also knitted with the Prayer Shawl Ministry and has been a driver for the Top of the Hill Gang.



### Don Wheeler

Don is a retired Obstetrician/Gynecologist. He and his wife, Kay, have two grown children, Beth Moring and John Wheeler.

During his years at Nativity he has served as past vestry member and as Senior Warden. He has also served as co-chairman for Capital Campaign, chairman for Stewardship Campaign.

He attended Cursillo #162. In addition to his service at Nativity, Don is and has been actively involved as past Board of Trustee (Randolph School), Twickenham Historic Preservation Board, Rotary Club and the Strive Mentoring program at Butler High School.



## 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, November 1.

### 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

Minda Alexander

Bartlee Linton

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 Gadomski

Worship & Ministry Assistant

Linda Wheeler

Assistant to the Rector

Communication/Publication Admin

Prentice White

Verger/Wedding Coordinator

Vestry

Mac Phillips

Senior Warden

Bland Warren

Junior Warden

### AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

A member of the clergy is  
on call each week.

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

The number to call in

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

**All other calls should be directed to  
church phone  
256-533-2455**

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

## Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

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

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### Nativity Women's Retreat

**REGISTRATION DEADLINE is November 30**

Retreat date: February 25 & 26

Place: St. Mary's, Sewanee Center for Spiritual Development

Guest Speaker Kathy Phillips will present a program on Phi-  
lippians...The Epistle of Joy

*Information and registration forms on church bulletin boards.*

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

Registration Deadline: November 30, with  
full payment

More information: Contact Lane Tutt  
256-533-2455

#### About the Speaker:

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