

# THE STEEPLE

## The Church of the Nativity

February 2, 2011

*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.*



CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY,  
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

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## Pursuing Happiness at Nativity: A Vestry Invitation

Nativity is blessed again with strong leadership on the vestry. Taking a volley from Sunday's homily on the pursuit of happiness and Jesus' prescription for the happiness of blessing discovered in the Beatitudes, we have a happy vestry. The recent vestry retreat at Camp McDowell attests to that! Our vestry leaders are extraordinarily committed God's deep purposes advanced through Nativity's life and ministry. They are committed to empowering a larger number of Christ's flock at Nativity to discover the joy and passion of service they know.

Paraphrasing former Harvard President Derek Bok, on the average, the happiest people are those who connect to others and sustain lasting relationships of love and friendship; they give their money to altruistic purposes, as well as give their time to help others in need; and they recognize and nurture spiritual values promoted through the regular practice of their faith tradition. In the Sermon on the Mount, beginning with the Beatitudes, Jesus tells us to pay attention to these matters of how we live our lives.

Our vestry leaders are people who have discovered through Nativity what Bok's research reveals about happiness. They connect the dots between these contemporary ideas and Jesus' timeless message of life. There is deep joy, blessedness, and yes, the possibility of this elusive hope for happiness when we know and share Christ's love through our parish family.

Nativity exudes a vibrancy, energy, and faithfulness at this time like no other time in our recent history. Outreach and inreach caring ministries continue to draw people in, but there are more and growing needs than the current response can meet. Thankfully, more people are faithful stewards of their time and talent through the Outreach Ministry's renewed approach as well as through the new stewardship of time and talent ministry, "Just Do It." Christ just needs more hands and feet.

We are growing larger numbers of financial stewards faithfully and generously giving their money as God calls us to give. Children, youth and family ministries, music, worship, education, and fellowship are thriving. But the reality is that the still sluggish economy resulted in a 10% attrition in pledges actually paid in 2010 instead of our historic 5% attrition. We were unable to fund outreach, our critical building reserve, and the diocese at the needed and planned levels for 2010. The Vestry has approved a conservative budget for 2011 that reluctantly underfunds these items in 2011, as well as underfunds our personnel expenses with no cost of living increase for the staff (hopefully inflation will remain at its low levels throughout the year).

As of this past Monday, we have received 389 pledges totaling \$1,187,000 toward a goal of 460 pledges and a dollar goal of \$1,300,000. We can do this! With over 850 households calling Nativity home, we have the generosity and faithfulness enabling more of us to live into God's purposes through financial stewardship. The vestry and stewardship team, all faithful and cheerful stewards, have made encouraging phone calls to about 125 households who have not pledged yet for 2011.

If you haven't discovered the joy, won't you join your vestry and other faithful parishioners in knowing the blessedness and yes, happiness so many know at Nativity? Pursue happiness! Share Christ's love by giving your time and pledging your money to God's abundant life through Nativity.

*Andy +*

The Church of the Nativity, Interfaith Mission Service,  
and Temple B'nai Sholom invite you to attend

## The Sacred Art of Lovingkindness

Saturday, February 26, 2011 8:30 a.m. until 4:00 p.m.

Registration in Ridley Hall

Program in the Chapel



We are all born in the image of God, but living out the likeness of God is a choice. This inspiring, practical workshop provides you with the tools you need to realize the divinity within yourself, recognize the divinity within others, and act on the obligation to manifest God's infinite compassion in your own life.

Guided by Rabbi Rami Shapiro, you will explore Judaism's Thirteen Attributes of Lovingkindness as the framework for cultivating a life of goodness. Shapiro translates these attributes into practices--drawn from the teachings of a variety of faith traditions--that allow you to actualize God's glory through personal deeds of lovingkindness. You will enrich your own capacity for lovingkindness as you:

- Harvest kindness through compassionate honesty
- Make room in your heart for reality
- Recognize the manifestations of God
- Embrace the paradoxical truth of not-knowing
- Be present in the moment
- Do right by others

With candor, wit, and honesty, Shapiro shows you that by choosing to act out of love rather than fear, with kindness rather than anger, you can transform how you perceive the world and ultimately lead a more complete spiritual life.

**Cost \$30 per person (lunch is included) You must register by noon Friday, February 25 by calling 256-533-2455.** Scholarships are available upon request.

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## WORSHIP & CHRISTIAN FORMATION

\* indicates nursery available (note reservations required for some events)

### SUNDAY

7:45 am - Holy Eucharist Rite I Bibb Chapel

8:45 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II \* and Children's Chapel

10:00 am - Church School \*

11:00 am - Holy Eucharist Rite II \*

### WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon in Bibb Chapel

## WEEKDAY CHRISTIAN FORMATION

### WEDNESDAY

- |   |                |                  |
|---|----------------|------------------|
| •Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study          | 7:15 am        | Banister Room    |
| •The Good Book Women's Bible Study            | 1:00 pm        | Library          |
| •Children's Choir and Pizza Supper            | 5:00 pm        | Choir Room       |
| •ECW FACETIME                                 | 6:00 pm        | Off-site         |
| •Nights at Nativity * (programs for all ages) | 5:15 pm Dinner | 6:00 pm Programs |

### THURSDAY

- |                            |         |                 |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|
| •Reflections Bible Study * | 9:30 am | Joffrion 2 East |
|----------------------------|---------|-----------------|

### Centering Prayer

Tuesday 5:30 p.m. - 7:00 p.m. in Bibb Chapel

Thursday 12:00 noon--12:45 p.m. in Bibb Chapel

## **SUNDAY MORNING CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES 10:00 a.m.** (aka Church School)

### **The Seekers' Class**

**Bibb Chapel**

Clergy and lay members of our parish will be leading these classes designed to include church history, our prayer book and hymnal, our worship practices and etiquette (like when to kneel or bow or make the sign of the cross!), and our views about scripture and the sacraments. Classes will also describe the many varieties of ministry opportunities available in the parish.

### **The Zimmerman Bible Study Class**

**Joffrion Library**

Join us each week as we explore the Gospel according to Mark. The Zimmerman Class has been a Sunday morning Bible Study since 1947, when it was first established by Anna Zimmerman. The class is led by a diverse teaching team.

### **Prayer for Us All**

**Ridley Hall**

*"Be joyful always, pray continually, give thanks in all circumstances, for this is God's will for you in Jesus Christ."*

Presenters: February 6th—Rabbi Bahar, 13th—Sally Stockton, 20th Fran McKendree, 27th Lisa and Frank Caprio

**The Heartbeat of God** by Presiding Bishop Schori

**Joffrion 2 West**

**THE SOUL AND RELATIONSHIPS: *Dancing with Rumi on the Mystic Path***

**Choir Room**

### **Youth Christian Formation Classes**

Grades 7-8

**Ridley 2nd Floor**

Grades 9-12

**Joffrion 3rd Floor**

### **Children's Christian Formation Classes**

Nursery

**Joffrion 1st Floor**

Godly Play (3 and 4 year olds)

**Angel Lane**

WoRM (K-Grade 4)

**Angel Lane**

Club 56 (Grades 5 & 6)

**Ridley 2nd Floor**

**WEDNESDAY NIGHTS AT NATIVITY** Come to dinner\* for fellowship with your families and friends at Nativity then onto study!

Nursery\* by reservations only, Children and Youth programs each week

**February 9— March 2**

Libba Walker Bible Study in Library

Men's Bible Study in Joffrion 2 West

Seekers class in Ridley Hall

Children and Youth Classes

**March 9<sup>th</sup> – Ash Wednesday**

**March 16th through April 13—Lenten Speakers**

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## **FINANCIAL CORNER**

### **2011 Pledges by January 31, 2011**

\$ 500 or <	41
\$501 - \$999.99	44
\$1,000 - \$2,999.99	162
\$3,000 - \$4,999.99	74
\$5,000 - \$9,999.99	49
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	9
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	7
\$25,000 or >	3
Total Number of Pledges	389
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	\$1,186,539.26
Average Pledge	\$3,050.23

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## **Give up the Steeple for Lent**

We are not suggesting that you stay in the dark about the events happening at Nativity but are asking you to give up the printed copy of the Steeple. The Steeple will be e-mailed to you and is available on the website nativity-hsv.org) in full color. If you do not have access to electronic communication you can continue to receive your Steeple in the mail but you will need to fill out the form that will be enclosed in the next Steeple and mail back to the church office. We will discontinue routine mailing of the Steeple after Ash Wednesday-March 9. So **Give up the Steeple for Lent**, help us cut costs and do your part for the environment.

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**OPERA TRIP** sponsored by the **TOP OF THE HILL GANG OF NATIVITY**. Open to everyone in the parish...Reserve your place **NOW** to see Susanna Phillips in *Lucia di Lammermoor*, Birmingham.

Date: Sunday, March 20, 2011 Departure: 11:00A.M following the 8:45 a.m. service

Cost: \$55 (includes opera ticket, bus fare, and Jason's Deli box lunch upon departure.) Bring your own beverage, water will be provided.

**INFORMATION:** You may come to the church office to make your reservations. No reservations will be accepted over the phone & no reservation is confirmed without payment in full. Make checks payable to Church of the Nativity with notation "Opera Trip." Deadline for prepaid reservations is Friday, February 11th 2011.

There will be a Dutch treat dinner stop on the return trip (place and price information will be announced later.)

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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**HAP SUNDAY is February 6**—The Huntsville Assistance Program is in need of non-perishable items: **Canned Meat, Canned Fruit, Canned Vegetables, Peanut Butter, and Cereal.** Nativity Outreach Ministry continues to support HAP and with your generous donations many receive monetary and pantry assistance.

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**AN EVENING with SISTER MARY McGEHEE**, Benedictine sister from the Sacred Heart Convent in Cullman, will meet with Nativity's Centering Prayer Groups on Tuesday, February 8 at 5:30 PM in Ridley Hall. Sr. Mary has been meeting with the Tuesday Group for more than ten years. She will talk with the group about "Spirituality and the Body," sharing her experience and expertise as a massage therapist and practitioner of spiritual touch. Supper will be served by Sally Stockton at a charge of \$7.00. Call the church office at 533-2455 to reserve supper. The schedule is:

5:30 PM, Centering Prayer, 6:00 PM, supper, 6:30 PM, presentation by Sr. Mary.

This evening is open to any interested person. Experience in Centering Prayer is not necessary.

**CENTERING PRAYER** is offered in Bibb Chapel each Tuesday 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m. and each Thursday 12:00 noon—12:45 p.m. All are invited. Call Betty Giardini at 256-539-0973 for more information.

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### TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 22

Top of the Hill Gang Luncheon, 11:30 a.m. in Ridley Hall, Luncheon (Cost \$8) reservations required by calling 256-533-2455. Featured Speaker is **Ginny Langbehn from Hospice Family Care.** Information that's good to know.

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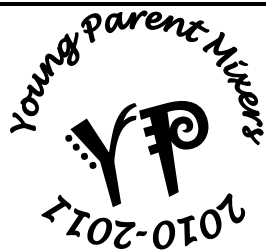
**The Mission Guild will meet Monday, February 21** at the home of Traudel von Spakovsky, 316 Lady Jane Court, SW with Jimmy Lou Horton as co-hostess. Susan Smith will speak on the Aquarius Club and Operation Santa Claus. Remember to bring Bingo prizes for Aquarius Club. Newcomers are welcome! Contact Sue Rowan 256-536-1811 or Mary Vann 256-881-2927.

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### Support Group offered by The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center: Surviving Suicide of a Loved One.

The Vine is offering a new support group: "Surviving Suicide of a Loved One" to begin Monday, March 7, 11:45 to 1:00, at Church of the Nativity. MORE information forthcoming in The Steeple February 16. Meantime for more information, please contact Dr. Amanda Ragland of The Vine, 256-461-8580 or Jane Troup, parishioner Church of the Nativity, 256-508-8801.

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Join other parents of young children each month for a time of socializing (without your children!) This month we will meet at the home of Madeline and Robert Mullins (1203 Tunlaw ) Friday, January 21, 7:00 p.m. Please BYOB and an appetizer to share. If you've never attended and would like more information contact Elizabeth Foster, 256-652-9063.

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**WHAT:** Cursillo informational dinner  
**WHEN:** Sunday, February 13, 2011  
**TIME:** 5:30 pm  
**PLACE:** Ridley Hall  
**DINNER:** Provided  
**RESERVATIONS:** 256-533-2455

### Are you interested in finding out more about CURSILLO?

The Nativity Cursillo Community is hosting an informational dinner for those who are seeking more information about this exciting movement. If you are interested in attending Cursillo this year or if you are simply seeking more information, we invite you to attend this event. Dinner will be provided and several Nativity parishioners who are involved in Cursillo will be present to answer any questions you may have.

Next Baptism for Nativity is March 6, 8:45 a.m. Please contact Linda Wheeler in the church office for baptism information. (256-533-2455)

# PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

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## MORE SMALL GROUPS FORMING AS YOUR READ:

### Young Adults Small Group Begins February 7

The Young Adults of Nativity will begin meeting in a small group on Monday, February 7 at 7 pm (call church office @ 256-533-2455, or email Fr. Brad - [blandy@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:blandy@nativity-hsv.org) for address/directions of the host home). The aim of this group is simple, but profoundly rewarding: study scripture & pray for one another.

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### Men's Wednesday Night Bible Study Reconvenes February 9

Last Fall the Men's Bible Study digested with both soul and stomach the book *The Search for God & Guinness*. Affectionately nicknamed "The Beer Class" we can now move on to the abbreviation "Men's BS." **Join us each Wednesday night up to Ash Wednesday (that's 4 Wednesdays) as we take a look at the "Wired Word."** This is a great chance to see what ancient Scripture might say about contemporary headlines. **Dinner is at 5:15, Men's BS starts at 6 pm in Joffrion 2 West.** *Reservations for dinner are due by noon each Tuesday prior to 256-533-2455 or you can make dinner reservations for all sessions.*

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### CCIB Report: Restoration Update



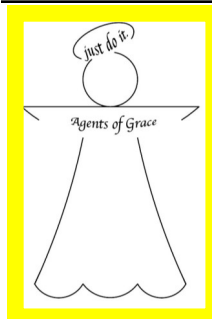
Scaffolding installation for the steeple and altar end of the church has started for the roofing project. The steeple scaffolding will rest on beams inserted through the steeple roof. These beams will rest on the steel structure internal to the bell tower/steeple. An elevator will be mounted on the Eustis Avenue side of the bell tower and stairs mounted on the Greene Street side of the bell tower. The goal is to complete the steeple project before Palm Sunday, April 17, 2011. The roof above the altar area should be completed in March. The nave upper and lower roofs will start on May 23<sup>rd</sup> and should be completed by the late summer.

Weather has delayed completion of the masonry project. The masonry restoration is near completion on the church and bell tower. Re-pointing of the brick is nearly complete. Installation of cast iron dentils and caps is complete. Gaps between dentils and round pieces will be filled in and painted. The buttress cap painting has started. Work has been temporarily suspended until weather allows painting and pointing to be continued.

*Please observe and obey barricades and detours.* Should you notice anything that appears to be 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.

Skipper Colin

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**We are in need of a few more volunteers for Just Do It. We have had a great response but a few positions are still open. Please review and see if your heart leads you to be a helping hand.**

- **We have a new request.** Friends Inc has several volunteer opportunities available: Providing Transportation to Medical appointments, Errand and Grocery Assistance, Respite Care, Friendly Visits and Friendly Phone Calls. They also have opportunities in the areas of Fund Raising, Computer Assistance and Office Help. If you have any interest in helping Friends Inc please let me know and I will pass your information on to the volunteer coordinator at Friends Inc. Sherry Bryant.

- We are in need of Popcorn Poppers for Ridgecrest School on Jan 28, Feb 25 and April 29. We need 3 poppers for each date. The job entails measuring the popcorn, oil, salt into the popper, filling individual bags and count out the number of bags for each classroom and put the bags for each class in a large

garbage bag for pick-up or delivery. You will be there about 3 hours. If you can help with this request please let me know and I will forward your e-mail to Sarajane Tarter.

- We have a continuing need for volunteer reading and math buddies at Ridgecrest School. Again, I will forward any response to Sarajane. Sarajane will have to let you know how much time this will take each week.

- We have a need at the Adult Learning Center for reading and math tutors. This would be a 2 hour a week commitment for tutoring in either reading or math. The Adult Learning Center is open Tues-Thurs 9-3. If you can help with this need I will forward your interest on to Deborah Baker Meinecke.

Please pray and think about all of these very important needs and see where your time and talents might come in handy and "Just Do It". Thank you!

Arch Agent for Jan/Feb Michael Shipley

### LOOK FOR THE GRAY NAMETAGS

Have you got questions about something at Nativity? Concerns? Do you want to make a suggestion? Do you want to let us know about some program you really like and want to see continued? Look for the gray vestry nametags. Your 2011 Vestry is here to help you and we can do it best if we know what you think and want. We want to hear from you.

# *Nativity's 7<sup>th</sup> Annual Parish Weekend*

## *March 25-27 @ Camp McDowell*

Registration for Parish Weekend is now open! Please complete the form below and return it with payment (checks payable to Church of the Nativity annotated *Parish Weekend*) to:

Church of the Nativity, ATTN: PARISH WEEKEND, 208 Eustis Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801.

If you would like to discuss any questions, receive a detailed brochure or assign your family to a particular cabin/room, please join the committee members in the Foyer of Ridley Hall from 10-11am on February 6 or February 13.

### *Registration Form*

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone number (s) \_\_\_\_\_

Names & Ages of ALL family members attending:

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

#### **\*\* OPTIONAL PURCHASE #1 - \$15 each**

*Parish Weekend Tshirt*

**Tshirt Size (please place total # needed in blank beside size)**

**Youth**      \_\_\_S    \_\_\_M    \_\_\_L

**Adult**      \_\_\_S    \_\_\_M    \_\_\_L    \_\_\_XL    \_\_\_XXL

#### **\*\*OPTIONAL PURCHASE #2 - \$4 each**

*Environmentally Friendly BPA free water bottle with Parish Weekend logo*

**# of water bottles requested** \_\_\_\_\_

**Sunday brunch\* # of people** \_\_\_\_\_

\*this is included in your meal price – we need to get a headcount for camp

### *Cost of Weekend*

**Lodging:**

\$170 x \_\_\_\_\_ rooms = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Meals (children 6 and under eat free)**

# people \_\_\_\_\_ x \$35 = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Mandatory Activity Fee = \$ 20.00**

**(optional purchases)**

**\*\* T-shirts**

\$15 x \_\_\_\_\_ ordered = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Water Bottles**

\$4 x \_\_\_\_\_ ordered = \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**FAMILY TOTAL** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

## PRAYER LIST

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

Kelly Berger, Wesley Lavender, Anne Robinson, Bette Moon, Charles Abney, Gail Rogers, Nancy Lackey, Gripp Luther, Sarah Taite Kelly, Joy Gass, Charlie Vowell, Charlotte Laxson, Leslie Kastens, Luann McCarty, Cecil Chandler, Alexander Sloane, Elizabeth Weaver, Angel Colin, Katherine Berger, Terry Clevenger, Donald Perry, Sara Welch, Emile Joffrion, 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:

Tim Fuhrman, Pakistan; Lourie Formby, Afghanistan; John Orosz, Afghanistan

### We pray for the departed:

Charles Hill, brother of George Hill

Muriel Denby Gazverde, mother Verna Rizvi

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

2/5 Will Brambach  
2/6 Patrick Quillen, Julia Pinson  
2/8 Clara Keener  
2/9 Millicent Harry  
2/10 Trace Markwalter  
2/11 Bird Sherrill, Cooper Gunter, Andrew Rawson  
2/13 Alex McCarty  
2/14 Robert McCown  
2/16 Mary Elizabeth (Mem) Mullins

## PARISH WEEKEND

2011

Sign-ups

Sunday, Feb 6, 13

Ridley Hall Foyer

DON'T DELAY

## NATIVITY'S FLOWER GUILD SHARES ITS JOY WITH OTHERS

The Flower Guild at Nativity takes an active role in both the chapel and the church floral arrangements. During Advent and Lent, the Flower Guild uses subdued arrangements, gradually building to a glorious celebration. Emphasizing a natural look, the talented members use garden blooms and leaves when available. Hothouse flowers are used as well, adding to the beauty of, or replacing garden flowers when not available.

For a \$40 donation, you may dedicate the altar decorations in memory of loved ones, in celebration of a joyous event, or in thanksgiving for a special blessing. The money goes into the Flower Guild fund and is used to purchase additional flowers needed during the year, including special arrangements for Palm Sunday, Easter, Thanksgiving, and Christmas. The Flower Guild strives to accommodate every request and will work out any special needs that arise; as the flower chart is arranged. Expect desired date unless called to find another suitable date.

A Flower Dedication Form is included in *The Steeple* (newsletter) periodically. If you are interested in making a dedication for flowers in the Nave, simply complete the form and mail it to Andrea Vandervoort with your check as soon as you determine the date of your dedication. Dates are filled in the order of arrival, and may be shared for \$20 per family. Please indicate on the form if you are willing to share should there be two requests for the same date. The dedications, limited to two per Sunday, will appear in the Sunday service leaflets.

## ALTAR FLOWERS 2011 DEDICATION FORM

If you are interested in dedicating **Altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2011**, please complete and mail this form with your check made out to "Flower Guild" and mail to: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801. If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 539-2673.

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, THANK YOU.**

### 2011 Altar Flower Order Form

**The following dates are available: March 27, April 3, April 10, May 22, May 29, June 19, June 26.**

**Altar Flowers are \$40 or \$20 for shared dedications**

Date desired \_\_\_\_\_

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Would you share a dedication? \_\_\_\_\_ Do you wish to have your name listed in the bulletin? \_\_\_\_\_

***Please be specific by underlining or circling above your desired dedication below:***

All dedications read "To the glory of God and..."

***in loving memory of or in thanksgiving for or in celebration of...***

**Name for this altar flower dedication:** \_\_\_\_\_

## STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP for FEBRUARY 2, 2011

### Green Your Kitchen: Third in the series

The kitchen is at the heart of many American households. But, as we stated in the last two Steeple tips, waste there can be a real problem. This week's tip is the third in a series on how to green your kitchen by reusing everyday items.

#### 1st idea: Green Your Old Stuff: Glass Jars

Repurposing old household items is a good way to reduce waste and avoid making new purchases:

**How to reuse glass jars** With concerns over the levels of BPA in some plastics, storing left-overs in reused plastic containers is a concern.— In a study from Harvard School of Public Health (HSPH), researchers found that participants who drank for a week from polycarbonate bottles - the popular, hard-plastic drinking bottles and baby bottles -- showed a two-thirds increase in their urine of the chemical bisphenol A (BPA). Exposure to BPA, used in the manufacture of polycarbonate and other plastics, has been shown to interfere with reproductive development in animals and has been linked with cardiovascular disease and diabetes in humans. The study was the first to show that drinking from polycarbonate bottles increased the level of urinary BPA, and thus suggests that drinking containers made with BPA release the chemical into the liquid that people drink in sufficient amounts to increase the level of BPA excreted in human urine. Glass, on the other hand, is a safe, multifunctional, and reusable alternative. Good not only for storing last night's dinner, glass jars make excellent vases, storage containers for bulk ingredients, even to-go drinking cups if you add the lid. Smaller jars, like those for baby food, can help organize your toolbox; use 'em to store nuts, bolts, and nails. Empty jars can also become vessels for homemade gifts: Just layer with baking ingredients, sweets, or homemade treats.

#### 2nd idea: Green Your Old Stuff: Egg Cartons

Another item in the kitchen that can be re-purposed is egg cartons. Why throw away a valuable resource? Here are some ideas for reusing egg cartons:

**Paper** egg cartons are already environmentally friendly. They are made from recycled materials, and they're processed minimally to have an even better impact on the planet (thus their grainy gray appearance.) But before you recycle them once again after the eggs are gone, try some other uses.

##### Organization

Use your egg cartons (paper, foam or plastic) for crafts. Those who enjoy bead crafts know that multiple products are sold for bead organization during stringing. Instead of these products that cost \$10 and upwards, **try an egg carton**. Sort the beads in order in each compartment of the egg container and close the lid. The cartons can be stacked with multiple projects easier than the bead trays that are sold in stores, and these are free. Kids can even paint the containers to make them look prettier or coat them with glue and roll them over seed beads to create a glitzy craft storage container.

##### Small Pet Feeders

Small pets like hamsters, mice, hermit crabs, and land turtles all require small food bowls. It's nice to have two bowls to offer a variety of foods. Yet, these pet bowls sell for several dollars each at pet stores. By cutting the individual egg holders from the cartons, you can create a small food container that can be quickly replaced. For pet hamsters, you can also try to offer the individual "cups" as beds, filling them with shredded paper or straw. The little guys will enjoy nesting in the space.

### Seed Starters

There is no need to buy those expensive seed starter pots when you have egg cartons around. The carton, paper, plastic or foam, can be used to start seeds. The wells aren't very deep, so you have to keep that in mind when starting your seeds, but they work really well with small sunflowers, herbs, tomato seeds, etc. When you are ready to transplant your seedlings into the garden, it is easy to just peel away the carton, protecting the delicate seedlings from being yanked from a regular pot. You can also cut the paper egg carton into separate cups and just plant the seedling, **paper** cup and all.

One of the easiest uses for **paper** egg cartons, in particular, is that they can be used for compost for your garden. Don't try this with the foam or plastic cartons, of course. When you are composting, don't forget to throw in some egg shells, too. Roses love egg shells. Or shred the paper egg cartons and use them as an inexpensive mulch.

Egg cartons can also be used to store your bulbs over the winter until you are ready to plant them. This is an easy way to keep the bulbs organized and dry. The cartons can be stacked in your garden shed or wherever you keep your gardening supplies. The egg cartons can also be easily labeled, so there won't be any more "mystery bulbs."

Next time: Composting 101

## 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, February 14.

### CLERGY & STAFF

**The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson**  
Rector

**The Rev'd Mary Anne Akin**  
Associate

**The Rev'd Brad Landry**  
Associate

**The Rev'd Mary E. Groff**  
Deacon

**Suzanne Purtee**  
Organist/Choirmaster

**Lane Tutt**  
Adult Christian Formation

**Minda Alexander**

**Bartlee Linton**  
Interim 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**  
**Bland Warren**  
Senior Warden

**Pat Goodson**  
Junior Warden

**Russ Alexander**  
Treasurer

**Donna Joffrion**  
Clerk

### 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)

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