

# THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

April 6, 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.*

## A Few Thoughts on Sabbath Keeping

Holy Scripture show us that good Sabbaths make good Christians. During Lent, we are reminded that disciplined attention to the spiritual life is the foundation of faithfulness. But not only for Lent, our faith tradition calls us to pay attention 52 weeks a year by directing that one day in seven focus on this reality. Good Sabbaths make good Christians by regularly reminding us of God's creative, liberating and redeeming presence.

It is not easy, however, for 21<sup>st</sup> century Christians to step off the treadmill to keep Sabbath. Economic forces are nibbling away at the freedom of the day. In a vicious circle, people who spend more hours at weekday jobs need the other days for shopping, which prompts businesses to hire more Sunday workers, who join the growing percentage of the workforce who toil long, irregular hours, some trying desperately to make ends meet, others for the sake of more shopping. Keeping Sabbath, we will grow in our longing for a system in which all people have work at a living wage, and have time for rest and worship too. Something God desires for all.

Sabbath keeping in today's culture requires a good deal of inventiveness. For most, Sundays will usually make the best Sabbaths. Joining fellow Christians for the celebration of Word and sacrament reminds us that Sabbath keeping is not about taking a day off, but about being recalled to gratitude for God's activity in creating the world, giving liberty to captives, and overcoming the powers of death.

But what, besides churchgoing, is Christian Sabbath keeping? Three millennia of Jewish reflection on the Sabbath commandment shows that **not good are work and commerce and worry**. To act as if the world cannot get along without our work for one day in seven displays pride that denies the sufficiency of our generous Maker. To refrain from working—not every day, but one in seven—opens the temporal space within which a grateful relationship with God and a peaceful relationship with nature and other people can grow. Refraining from work on a regular basis should also teach us not to demand excessive work from others.

What about shopping and commerce? Buying and spending depend on work, create the conditions for more work, and often *are* work. Could you refrain from shopping on Sundays, making a choice that might complicate the weekly schedule at first but should soon become a refreshing habit? And worry? It may be difficult to banish cares from our minds, but we can refrain from activities that we know will summon worry—activities like paying bills, preparing tax returns, and making lists of things to do!

**And what is good on a Christian Sabbath?** Most important is joyful worship that restores us to communion with the risen Christ and our fellow members of his body, the church. For Christians, every Sunday is Easter Sunday, a time to gather together to hear the Word proclaimed and to recognize Christ in the breaking of the bread. It is a festival, a spring of souls, a day of freedom not only from work but also from condemnation. Sunday worship is not just about "going to church"; it is about taking part in the activity by which God is shaping a new creation. It is a foretaste of the feast to come.

After worship, what many of us need most is time with loved ones—not useful time for planning next week's schedules, but time "wasted" on the pleasure of being together, perhaps while sharing our enjoyment of art, nature or athletics. For others, and for all of us at certain points in our lives, hours of solitude beckon, hours for sleep, reading, reflection, walking and prayer. In addition, we might explore the long tradition of visiting the homebound or inviting lonely ones to our table on the Sabbath.

Rest and worship; eating, playing, and taking delight in nature and one another... one day a week—not much, in a sense, but a good beginning. One day to resist the tyranny of too much or too little work and to celebrate with God and others, remembering thereby who we really are and what is really important. One day that, week after week, anchors a way of life that makes a difference every day.

*(with gratitude to Dorothy Bass in shaping these thoughts on Sabbath keeping)*

Andy +



CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY,  
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

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## **PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS**

### **NIGHTS AT NATIVITY LENTEN SERIES WEDNESDAYS 2011**

**Dinner\*** is served beginning at 5:15 p.m. Lenten Speaker will begin at 6:00 p.m.

**\*Nursery** opens at 5:30 p.m. for reservations only

Call 256-533-2455 for dinner and nursery reservations by noon each Tuesday.

#### **April 13, The Rev. Paul C. Elliott**

The Rev. Paul Elliott was baptized and confirmed at Nativity. He earned a Master of Divinity degree at The General Theological Seminary in New York City. He was sponsored by All Saints' Episcopal Church in Atlanta and was ordained priest in 1996. His first assignment was as Associate Rector and chaplain to the school St. Martin in the Fields Episcopal Church located in northeast Atlanta. While at St. Martin's, he began studies at the Candler School of Theology at Emory University, working toward a doctorate in pastoral counseling. In 2003 he became a full-time counselor at the Care and Counseling Center of Georgia. In 2007 Father Elliott was called to be the Rector of St. Andrew's in the Pine Episcopal Church in Peachtree City, GA.

#### **CHILDREN: OH, The Places We Will Go During Lent**

A children's midweek Lenten Program designed around the Dr. Seuss series of books

*"Lent is our season. We're off to Great Places! We don't know which way, but the Holy Spirit will lead us we are here to say!"*

**WHEN:** April 13, from 6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m. **WHERE:** The WoRM



**FRIDAY April 29, 7:00 p.m. Young Parent Mixers** at the home of Elizabeth and Mike Knight (2707 Tammerack Lane, Hampton Cove, 256-536-6913). BYOB and an appetizer to share. Mixers meet each month in parishioner homes, so find a babysitter and join other parents with young children for a time of fun, fellowship, and grownup conversations! If you have questions about Young Parent Mixers please contact Elizabeth Foster 256-533-2455 or [efoster@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:efoster@nativity-hsv.org)

**As I met the great people volunteering for Habitat, I realized how misinformed I had been about Huntsville.** It had been easy for me to carry on my life forgetting that people need help everywhere, not just in Third-World countries and disaster zones. (*excerpt from The Huntsville Times, April 4 article by Nina Ramachandra, Randolph senior*)

**We had a great workday today. Lots of help a good kickoff ceremony and beautiful weather and a fine lunch courtesy of Molly Grisham and her friends at Aldersgate Methodist Church.** We put up all the walls, have most of the sheathing up and half of the trusses raised. Hopefully, we will be able to put up the remaining trusses Tues and Thurs. and deck the roof on Saturday. If we have enough help Saturday, we will also install hurricane clips, house wrap, deadwood and maybe some of the windows. Pray for cooperative weather and a good turnout of volunteers. (*email from Bill Giardini Habitat for Humanity, Nativity parishioner*)

**You too have the opportunity to experience the satisfaction of helping a local family. For more information you may contact Bill Giardini at 256-539-0973 or**

**[giardiniw@bellsouth.net](mailto:giardiniw@bellsouth.net)** Our homeowner family is Djunna High. DeJunna grew up in Huntsville for the first half of her life, before moving to Detroit for 8 years. Since returning to Huntsville she has begun working at Kmart and is looking to add a second job in the coming weeks. DeJunna and her two-year old daughter joined the Habitat program in July of 2010. Ms. High is a member of Eagles Nest Ministry where she serves in several positions, including working with under privileged girls in the community.

#### **Location: 6333 BANKS ROAD**

Regular working hours are from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM with a break for lunch around noon. Lunches are provided on Saturdays only. Bring carpentry tools, a utility knife, gloves if you have them. Below is April schedule:

Apr. 12,14,16	Install porch beams, barge rafters, fascia, attic access, electrical rough-in
Apr. 19,21,23	Install wall insulation, start vinyl siding, (sheetrock by sub)
Apr. 26,28,30	Paint walls, continue vinyl siding, install shutters

## Youth Minister

### Search Status

Fr. Brad and the youth ministry discernment group have met to articulate and focus on the priorities of our youth ministry. We are greatly thankful for the talents and time given to us by Catti, Minda, and Bartlee who have been working with our youth! We are now in the stage of accepting resumes with the hope of calling a full time youth minister by July 1st. Please check out the full job description on the church website for more details.



Mustard Seed

## THE MUSTARD SEED HOURS:

**Sunday**

**9:00—12:30**

**Tuesday,**

**Wednesday,**

**Thursday**

**10:00—3:00**



**H O L Y · W E E K**

## **and THE TRIDUUM**

### **Palm Sunday ~ April 17**

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

\*8:45 a.m. Parade of Palms and Holy Eucharist

Gather outside the front of the church for Processional

\*11:00 a.m. Parade of Palms and Holy Eucharist

### **Monday in Holy Week ~ April 18** *The Anointing of Jesus*

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

### **Tuesday in Holy Week ~ April 19** *The Refusal to Believe in Jesus*

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

### **Wednesday in Holy Week ~ April 20** *Judas' Betrayal of Jesus*

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross, Church

### **Maundy Thursday ~ April 21** *Jesus the Servant*

6:00 p.m. Agape Meal, Ridley Hall

7:00 pm. Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar\*

8:30 p.m. Prayer Vigil until 11:00 p.m., Bibb Chapel

### **Good Friday ~ April 22** *The Crucifixion of Jesus*

6:00 a.m. Prayer Vigil continues, Bibb Chapel

12:00 noon Good Friday Liturgy

### **Holy Saturday ~ April 23** *Waiting for Jesus' Resurrection*

\*7:30 p.m. Great Vigil of Easter; Holy Eucharist, Baptism

### **Easter Day ~ April 24**

*The Risen Lord Gives Us a New Life in Him*

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

\*8:45 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist and Flowering of Cross & Mite Boxes

10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for children age 3-10

*Please gather in Ridley Hall for instructions*

\*11:00 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist

\*indicates nursery available

256-533-2455; [www.nativity-hsv.org](http://www.nativity-hsv.org)



## **PRAYER LIST**

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

Fisher Hutchens, Angel Colin, Bob Hale, Joan Olson, Marian Delaney, Debbie Collette, Diane Holcomb, Kit Carlton, Joy Gass, Chesley Smith, Vernon Lucas, Matt Fowler, Gale Limbo, Eileen Sullivan, Donald Perry, Jack Wilson, Gail Rogers, Charlie Vowell, Luann McCarty, Sara Welch, Emile Joffrion, Jeanne Dowd, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl, John, Nancy Kelly, Julie Kirk, Joan Bennett

### **We pray for our Military:**

Lourie Formby, Afghanistan; John Orosz, Afghanistan

### **We pray for our parishioners:**

Judy and John Heacock attending Cursillo #177 this weekend at Camp McDowell

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

4/11 Kendall McCallum  
4/12 Preston Heritage, Greer Heritage  
4/13 Brantley Johnson, Elizabeth Walker  
4/14 Sadie Anglin  
4/16 Austell Baker  
4/17 Ava Allen  
4/18 Alex Ahearn, Mary Ellis Alison, Madelyn Alison, Bradford Hall  
4/22 Sellers Rawson, Lily Cantey  
4/25 Hutson Chilton  
4/27 Jackson Anglin  
4/30 Thomas Aldag  
5/1 Ian Braudaway  
5/2 Rachel McCoy  
5/7 Christopher Laney  
5/8 Kachi Ezeibe



On Saturday April 2, (Serving the City) Nativity parishioners treated residents of the Russel Erskine to a cookout and fun-filled afternoon. Residents found gift bags on their doorknobs when they returned to their apartments. Each bag had kitchen supplies and a stained glass window ornament made by the Church School Children. Thanks to all who contributed to this wonderful celebration for our neighbors!



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## **“Let all guests that come be received like Christ.” - St. Benedict**

Martha must have been a Southerner at heart. When Jesus and his disciples arrived in her village, she welcomed them warmly into her home. Never mind the fact she hadn't been to the market in a week, the rugs needed a good beating, and Lazarus had just had *his* buddies over last week. Jesus and his disciples were guests, and she was going to show them what hospitality in Bethany was all about!

The only problem is that Mary, her sister, is in there with the guys. Instead of helping her in the kitchen she's out there listening to Jesus tell another one of his stories. Her resentment boiling over she complains to Jesus "Do you not care that my sister has left me to do all the work by myself!?"

Doubtless, there is a time for action, and a time for contemplation; a time to reach out and a time to search inward. With Jesus in their presence, Mary chose the better part. You see, hospitality is not just about food and entertaining. True hospitality, gospel hospitality, is about listening to Jesus, looking for him in the face of our guests.

At most any Benedictine monastery or convent you will find the following inscription at the entrance to the guest house: "Let all guests that come be received like Christ." These words were written by Saint Benedict, the father of monasticism, and they hit at the true heart of hospitality. The visitors among us are our very Lord in our midst. They should be received with the same reverence and attention as

we receive him in the bread and the wine.

Nativity's Blue Apron volunteers are here to offer just that sort of gospel hospitality. They wear aprons as a way to be identified as one who is there to serve. Nativity and the Episcopal Church have experienced a great thaw. No longer are we the "frozen chosen" (if ever we were). As we offer gospel hospitality the visitor, the guest, the stranger among us will be surrounded by a very warm welcome indeed. Will you be the one to greet our Lord?

**If you are interested in becoming a Blue Apron Hospitality volunteer, please contact Kim Kerr, Blue Apron Hospitality Chair, or Fr. Brad, clergy liaison.**

## **SEVENTH ANNUAL PARISH WEEKEND—Huge Success!**

Thanks to all of you who contributed to a Wonderful 7th Annual Parish Weekend at Camp McDowell. We came home with lots of great memories! A special thanks to our Parish Weekend chairs, Kelley Copeland and Kim Huskey. And a big thanks to Michael McClung, Chris Whitney, Holly Ellis, Michele and Mike Banish, Sarajane Tarter, Pat Goodson (and all the pasta salad ladies). It takes a village and we appreciate everyone who helped!

If you attended Parish Weekend, look for an on-line survey to be emailed to you. Also, we are always looking for folks to help out with this event. If you are interested, please email me at [elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com).

### ***The Vine – Lending Library***

The Vine now has a lending library which makes self-help and devotional guides available to people free of charge. We feel this could be a valuable resource to the community and to members of our supporting churches. There are times when we come across that one book or that one devotional guide that speaks so directly to us that we want to hold on to it. Those are the books that we go back and read again and again. There are also so many books that we have on our shelves that we could easily pass on to others. What if one of these books contained information or help that someone else needed? We want to collect these books. The library is located in the waiting room of our new downtown office at 333 Franklin Street. The idea is that people can take a book, keep the book, bring it back or pass it on to others. Will you help us by donating your books? Are you interested in volunteering to help with this ministry? Do you need information about how to get your books to us? Please call us at 256-461-8580.

## **A MUST SEE FOR ALL OF US ---- WAITING FOR “SUPERMAN”**

On March 16, Minda Alexander, Susan King, Don Wheeler and Lane Tutt attended a screening of this documentary at UAH. You can also view this movie through Netflix, On Demand or buy in your local stores. This documentary is about education reform and is highly recommended by all that have seen it. The movie begins with Geoffrey Canada, the CEO and President of Harlem Children's Zone (a model which has proven success in Central Harlem, NY and is now being replicated throughout the country.) **PLEASE SAVE THE DATE TO HEAR GEOFFREY CANADA IN HUNTSVILLE ON SEPTEMBER 22, 2011 AT THE CIVIC CENTER.**

The VILLAGE OF PROMISE is presenting this event on September 22. The Village of Promise was created as a non-profit organization to address the needs of children in distressed, high- poverty neighborhoods with a vision to expand the success realized to other neighborhoods in Huntsville and Madison County overtime. Their approach is to plan, implement and prove the model for success, based on the Harlem Children's Zone

### **FINANCIAL CORNER PLEDGES**

2011 Pledges by April 3, 2011

\$ 500 or <	48
\$501 - \$999.99	51
\$1,000 - \$2,999.99	186
\$3,000 - \$4,999.99	78
\$5,000 - \$9,999.99	52
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	9
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	7
\$25,000 or >	3

Total Number of Pledges 434

Total Dollar Amount of Pledges  
\$1,258,794.26

Average Pledge \$ 2,900.45

### **LOOK FOR THE GRAY NAMETAGS to find answers to your questions!**

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.

#### **A prayer for the Election of a Bishop:**

Gracious God,  
as our Diocese looks toward the election of a Bishop this summer,  
send down the comfort of your Holy Spirit upon the Church.  
Lead us in our time of transition.  
Let us seek your wisdom as we choose a bishop who will  
walk in your ways and draw our hearts to you.  
Guide the members of the search process as they  
seek and discern your will.  
In all our works, may we glorify your Name.



God willing and the people consenting  
The Right Reverend Henry N. Parsley, Jr.  
Bishop of the Diocese of Alabama  
Will ordain  
M. Basye Holland-Shuey  
To the Sacred Order of Deacons  
On Monday the sixteenth of May  
Two Thousand and Eleven  
At six o'clock in the evening  
Church of the Nativity  
Episcopal Church  
208 Eustis Avenue Southeast  
Huntsville, Alabama  
Your prayers and your presence are requested  
The festal color is red. Reception following.

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
The Most Reverend Katharine Jefferts Schori  
*Presiding Bishop and Primate*

Epiphany 2011

*For the Congregations of the Episcopal Church*

Dear brothers and sisters in Christ:

For almost a century, the Good Friday Offering has been a source of support, love, and hope for our brothers and sisters in the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This year's 89th Good Friday Offering offers us the opportunity to join in deepening the bond we have with the churches and people in the land of the Holy One. I have been deeply moved by the stories of pain that conflict and division bring to the loves of every person in that Province of the Anglican Communion.

The Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East was founded in 1841 with the purpose of forging friendships with the ancient churches and serving the expatriate communities in the area. The people of the Church continue to witness to the hope and love of God in times of conflict and times of peace. Since 1922, members of the Episcopal Church have given thanks for the extraordinary work, commitment, and relationships through their generous giving to the Good Friday Offering, which supports the mission and ministries of the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East. This offering expresses our own commitment to seek and serve Christ in all persons and to walk with the church of the Middle East as they continue to work toward justice, reconciliation, and peace. Through our prayers for and support of these churches we are helping to realize God's vision of shalom.

More information on this offering is available online at [www.episcopalchurch.org/gfo](http://www.episcopalchurch.org/gfo). There you can find additional resources about the work happening on the ground in the Middle East.

Again, please join with me in giving thanks for the work of the Good Friday Offering by generously sharing the gifts we have been given with our sisters and brothers throughout the Middle East. I remain

Your servant in Christ,  
*Katharine Jefferts Schori*

**The Episcopal Books and Resources closed on December 31, 2010.** Unfortunately, this means we no longer have the resources to provide individual Good Friday Offering envelopes this year. We will continue to collect funds for our sisters and brothers in the Middle East. We ask you to make your checks payable to Church of the Nativity with **"Good Friday Offering"** indicated on the memo line. We will collect all of the checks and send the total donated amount to the Domestic and Foreign Missionary Society.

### Centering Prayer weekend retreat to be held

The Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman and Contemplative Outreach, Birmingham are sponsoring an Intensive Centering Prayer retreat to be held in Cullman, AL April 15-17.

This retreat, designed for those who have already attended an introductory retreat or workshop, will focus on developing further the discipline of Centering Prayer, a form of Christian prayer rooted in the ancient Christian contemplative tradition.

The cost for the weekend is \$195/person for a private room and includes lodging, meals, and linens. For more information or to register, please contact the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center at (256) 734-8302 or by e-mail at [retreats@shmon.org](mailto:retreats@shmon.org).

### SUMMER ACTIVITIES AT ALABAMA FOLK SCHOOL AT CAMP MCDOWELL

June 12-16 Camp Fasola (Sacred Harp Singing)

June 21-24 Craft Week

July 22-24 Irish Weekend

105 DeLong Road  
Nauvoo Ala

256-563-9990  
[www.campmcdowell.com/folkschool](http://www.campmcdowell.com/folkschool)

Summer fun for the  
entire family



**The Mission Guild will meet Monday, April 18 at 10:00 a.m. at home of Sue Rowan** (1121 Harrison Avenue) with Mildred Lane and Mary Jean Diehl as co-hostesses. The speaker will be Gayla Kidd, director of the Huntsville Assistance Program. Reminder: Bring Bingo prizes for Aquarius Club. (Sue Rowan, 536-1811)

**A Quest for Hosts** The 12th Anniversary of Dining with Friends to benefit the AIDS Action Coalition of North Alabama will be at Nativity on Friday, May 13. The Church of Nativity has raised approximately \$72,000 over the past six years! We hope to continue this success! ***We are looking for hosts to help with the dinner.*** It's a fun way to dine while giving to a great cause. For more information, please contact Chris Jackson, 256-880-1627, 256-337-1871, or [cbj1871@gmail.com](mailto:cbj1871@gmail.com).



### EASTER FLOWERS 2011 DEDICATION FORM

Flower dedications for Easter are being accepted from now until Sunday, April 10 for a contribution of \$20. Your check should be made out to "Flower Guild" and mailed 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.**

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

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

Do you wish to have your name listed in the bulletin? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

All dedications read The flowers are offered to the glory of God and in ...

***memory of or honor of or celebration of...***

***Please print Christian names of persons for your dedications to be printed in the Easter Service Booklet***

### 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.

**The following dates are available: August 7, October 16, and November 20**

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

**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:** \_\_\_\_\_

# Transformation Yoga

*And we, who with unveiled faces all reflect the Lord's glory, are being transformed into his likeness with ever-increasing glory, which comes from the Lord, who is the Spirit.*

*2 Corinthians 3:18*

## **Yoga from a Christian Perspective Workshop**

*Breath Work, Yoga Postures, Centering Prayer*

**Saturday, April 16<sup>th</sup> 9 a.m.- Noon in Ridley Hall - Cost - \$20 - Please call 256-533-2455 to register.**

**This workshop is sponsored by Nativity Centering Prayer Groups**

**Led by Lori Smith, RYT (Registered Yoga Teacher)**

**Wear soft, moveable clothing. Bring your yoga mat and a yoga blanket if you already have them.**

**Some yoga mats will be available Avoid eating a heavy meal prior to attending.**

**For more information call Lori Smith at 256-534-9988.**

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## **STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP**

Now that we are nearing the last average frost date for our area, which is April 15<sup>th</sup>, it is time to think about what we want to plant in our gardens, lawn, and landscapes. So

### **Go Native!**

Native plant species offer homeowners a natural alternative, to enrich their lives and gardens and save time and money.

Why choose native plants?

Because they:

1. are less likely than non-native plants to be invasive or overly competitive
2. provide nectar, pollen, seeds, leaves and stems for butterflies, insects, birds and other wildlife
3. Reduce the need for mowing when used in landscapes
4. reduce or eliminate the need for pesticides
5. enhance aesthetics and visual quality
6. provide biodiversity and stewardship of our natural heritage

Good resources to help you learn more about native plants include:

- Alabama Extension Service
- The Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center web site, which offers an interactive map that provides state-specific lists of recommended native plants. Just "google" the Center to find the Alabama plant list. There is a printer-friendly version under "Species list" which would be good to have with you when you go plant shopping. Their list gives the scientific name, the common name(s), duration (annual or perennial), growth habit, sun (light needs), and water needs.
- PlantNative, a group dedicated to promoting awareness of native plants. This web site provides lists of native plants divided into trees, shrubs, flowering perennials and perennial ferns. This list would also be a good resource to have on hand when you are plant shopping. This list also gives the plant details along with comments on each plant.

North American native plants, defined as those that existed here without human introduction, are disappearing at an alarming rate due to human activities, such as urban development, agribusiness and the introduction of invasive species. The loss of native plant communities has reduced wildlife habitat and the genetic diversity necessary for balanced ecosystems.

With properly selected native plants, it may not be necessary to modify soil characteristics at all to have thriving gardens. The great variety of plants native to any region give gardeners options that work well in any type of garden design. Because maintaining native plants requires less work, they provide excellent choices for large commercial landscapes as well as residential gardens.

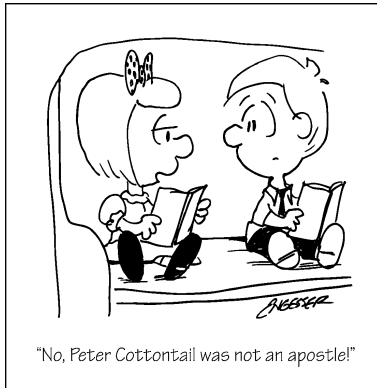
*Non-native invasive species* are of concern because they can literally overrun native species, reducing numbers and biodiversity of native plants and the insects and animals that depend on them. Infestations of invasive species can also change the way ecosystems work – altering fire regimes, water cycles, soil characteristics, and the regeneration of forests and other natural areas. Infestations may also reduce crop and forest productivity, impact wildlife, and hamper hunting, fishing and other outdoor activities.

Look for native plants at local nurseries, and at the upcoming Huntsville Botanical Garden plant sale. The Sale is open to the public on:



**Friday - April 15, 9 – 5**  
**Saturday - April 16, 9 – 5**  
**Sunday - April 17, 1 – 5**  
**MEMBERS ONLY DAY is**  
**Thursday - April 14, 10–5**  
**(One of the special perks of membership to the Gardens!)**





## CHILDREN'S CORNER

- **Mite boxes are in the Banister Room in the big cross.** When you are at church, stop by and grab one. ***This year, the money is being donated to Japan for earthquake relief.*** You will bring your mite box filled with money back to church on Easter Sunday. Remember to bring flowers to decorate your Mite Box so we can "flower the cross" on Easter Sunday.
- Don't miss our beautiful **PALM SUNDAY PARADE & SERVICE, April 17.** We will meet outside the front of the church before 8:45 and process with *Prince Charming*, the sweet Welch pony owned by Martha, Vivian, and Steve Brouse. He is gentle and loves children.
- Remember our annual **EASTER EGG HUNT, April 24, 10:15** for children age 3-10. Please meet in Ridley Hall and the children will be led to the playground for the hunt. Children will need to bring their own baskets. Refreshments will be served on the playground.

- **VACATION BIBLE SCHOOL DATES** are July 12, 13, 14; SHAKE IT UP Café begins at 9:00 a.m. through 12:00 p.m. We will have fun exploring how the Bible is the most wonderful "cookbook" of all! Imagine the fun we will have as our days are jam packed with recipes, fun crafts, food experiments, great music, and exciting games. We will have a very unique wrap-up party will be on Thursday July 14 at 5:30 p.m. for the entire family.

## NATIVITY CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

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

The Seekers' Class	Bibb Chapel
The Zimmerman Bible Study Class	Joffrion Library
Art and Poetry April 10, Lynne Berry, Jeannie Robison, and Walther Thames will help us search out the deeper meanings of the events of Holy Week and Easter using beautiful works of art and poetry.	Ridley Hall
<i>The Heartbeat of God</i> book by Presiding Bishop Schori	Joffrion 2 West
THE SOUL AND RELATIONSHIPS: <i>Dancing with Rumi on the Mystic Path</i>	Choir Room
<u>Youth Christian Formation Classes</u> Grades 7-8 Grades 9-12	Ridley 2nd Floor Joffrion 3rd Floor
<u>Children's Christian Formation Classes</u> 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

### WEEKDAY MORNING & EVENING CHRISTIAN FORMATION CLASSES

#### MONDAY

Young Adult Small Group 7:00 p.m. Contact Brad Landry

#### TUESDAY

"The Heart of Lent" with The Rev'd King Oehmig, March 22, March 29, and April 5  
Centering Prayer 5:30 p.m.—7:00 p.m. Bibb Chapel  
Bibb Chapel

#### WEDNESDAY

- Men's Bible Study led by Father Anderson 7:15 a.m. Library
- The Good Book Women's Bible Study 1:00 p.m. Library
- Nights at Nativity during Lent\* 5:15 p.m. dinner (Reservations by noon each Tuesday)  
5:30 p.m. Nursery opens (Reservations Only)  
6:00 p.m. Lenten Speaker Series Ridley Hall

#### THURSDAY

- Reflections Bible Study\* 9:30 a.m. (nursery by reservations) Joffrion 2 East
- Centering Prayer 12:00 noon—12:45 p.m. Bibb Chapel

PLEASE CALL THE CHURCH OFFICE FOR MORE INFORMATION or RESERVATIONS OR 256-533-2455

## 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, April 18.

### 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**

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Sexton

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Verger/Wedding Coordinator

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**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.

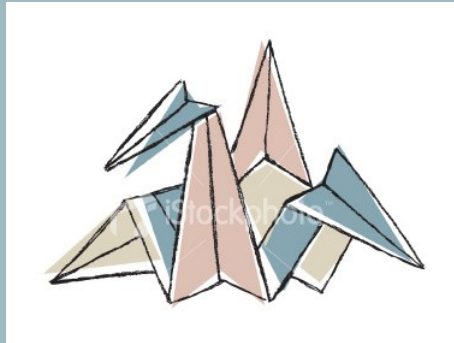
The number to call *In Case of an  
Emergency Only* is 256-533-7007.

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)

## One-Thousand Cranes In-flight to Japan



Join Nativity's youth in creating 1000 cranes to send to youth in Japan. In Japanese culture the crane has a fabled lifespan of 1000 years. The bird is also a symbol of hope and longevity and has come to be an icon in times of disaster. After the events of September 11, 2001 the Japanese American National Museum's staff and volunteers, along with many students and visitors folded thousands of cranes, and in a gesture of support and hope for peace sent them to fire and police stations, museums, and cultural institutions throughout New York City.

We will be folding cranes during Sunday School, and have instructions and supplies to send home with anyone who wants to join the effort. ***Look for special paper and instructions on the table in the foyer.*** (please don't take more than you think you will realistically use - each crane takes about 15 minutes to fold). **Return completed cranes to the box, and when we have 1000 we will mail them to Japan to distributed there by Episcopal Relief and Development.**

Well wishes and prayers can be written on the paper to be folded into the crane, a simple cross, your name, or nothing at all can go on the outside.