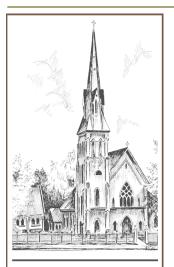
# THE STEEPLE



# CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

Office Closings
The Church office will
close at noon on
Good Friday
for Paschal Triduum
and will be closed on
Monday, April 25
in observance of
Easter.

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#### The Church of the Nativity

April 20, 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.

## Holy Week's Journey to Life

From Passion Sunday to Easter Sunday, we experience the entirety of the Christian life. Starting with the pomp and circumstance of the Palm Sunday Procession and proceeding through the intimacy of Christ's suffering and death powerfully portrayed in our own Palm Sunday liturgy, the story of our own lives collides with Jesus' story. Our stories, too, move from exuberance to despair and suffering to resurrection.

And throughout our lives, even in our own experiences of suffering and despair, God is present; God's grace meets us where we are at every moment of the way.

The Church invites us to journey in the way of the Cross during Holy Week to discover anew God's abiding love and mercy as Jesus discovered and knew it. We walk with Jesus, not only to remember what he has done for us 2000 years ago, but what God in faith is doing and will do for us again and again.

Through the power and drama of our Holy Week worship, we realize that whenever we go through our own *Holy Weeks* of trial and suffering, God sustains us and is always raising us to life. Our song is no longer "in the midst of life we are in death" but rather, "in the midst of death we are in life." Always...

My prayer is that you will experience God's grace this week in these powerful moments of worship we share at Nativity. But I especially pray that you will know God's grace throughout your life, with all of its "Holy Week" and "Good Friday" moments. No matter where you are, look to God and look for grace, even as Jesus looked to God, especially on the Cross. In your exuberant moments of life's joy, be aware of God's provision and sustenance. And be grateful.

And remember, our Nativity community provides guidance, help, and strength in your search for grace and God. Life springs forth for the world from Nativity. We are about naming and claiming Resurrection, not only for ourselves, but for the world God calls us to serve in Christ's name. The Church has been observing the mystery of Holy Week for a long time—in more ways than one! So join with us. Participate with us in knowing and sharing God's love. Share the gift of your life remembering those moments when God's grace touched you.

In the midst of whatever life brings us, may we cling to hope and resurrection life. The poet Gerard Manly Hopkins phrased our Easter destination this way in his poem "Carrion Comfort:"

Not, I'll not, carrion comfort, Despair, feast on thee; Not untwist—slack they may be—these last strands of man in me 'or, most weary, cry **I can no more.** I can, can something, hope, wish day come, not choose not to be.

Easter assures us that we cannot choose "not to be." Christ overcomes despair, brokenness, fear—even our fear of death—taking us by the hand and raising us with him to life that eternally springs forth hope, joy and peace. Now this is some journey we make!

Andy +

## PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS



# **Farmers' Market**

every thursday 4pm - 8pm may 19<sup>th</sup> - september 29<sup>th</sup>

## the Know who grows the food you eat.

Nativity is starting a farmers' market in the parking lot at the corner of Greene Street and Eustis Avenue . Starting May 19 and continuing each Thursday afternoon through September 29 from 4 pm until 8 pm, the market will sell locally grown & made fruits, vegetables, meats, breads, cheeses, honey, relish and many other confections.

This is a producer-only market so the farmers who grew the products will be on hand for you to meet and to answer any questions that you have.

Come to the market and bring your friends and neighbors We will have music, cooking demonstrations, good food and lots of fun.

If you can help, please email us - <u>greenestreetmarket@gmail.com</u>

Marilyn Evans



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.

## Greetings from your Just Do It Arch Agent for April and May!

We can all be Agents of Grace by responding to requests for volunteers from the community. Individuals or groups can respond to me and I will forward your response to the community agent requesting help. Currently we are seeking volunteers for:

- reading and math buddies at Ridgecrest School
- Adult Learning Center located at Huntsville City Library needs reading and math tutors.
- Bill Giardini can always use volunteers for Habitat for Humanity.

Email me at JustDolt@nativity-hsv.org and I will forward your offer to the community agent.

Kathy Hill, Arch Agent for Just Do It!!

Friends of Music at Nativity present **Reveire Friday, May 6, 2011 8:00 p.m.**Katherine Newman, Harp

Evelyn Loehrlein, Hute

Sidney King, Bass



Photo taken while cross is on display in Ridley Hall. You are welcome to observe its beauty while at eve-level.

# Lift High the Cross!

A beautiful, historically accurate, and appropriate budded cross has been given to be placed atop the Steeple. The original Wills and Dudley ornate cross was destroyed in the 50's due to major wind damage to the entire Steeple. The plain stainless steel cross put in place then will be replaced by the new cross. We will utilize the old stainless steel cross on the campus in an appropriate location. Historic research shows that a budded cross (a cross with trefoil designs on the side and upper arms), symbolic of the Trinity and reflecting the many Trinitarian symbols found in side the church in the tracery work and in the stained glass windows, was frequently utilized in Frank Wills' church designs. Our thanks to Skipper Colin for his extensive historical research that has led to the design. This budded cross sitting atop a pedimented orb will "crown" our restoration efforts.

The cross, fabricated in Germany by Kaufman Ltd., is made of copper clad stainless steel and covered in 24 kt. gold leaf. The cross is a Memorials Gift and the Huntsville Historic Development Board and the Nativity Memorials Committee both enthusiastically accepted the design.

Kaufman's representatives have told us we must have a still and calm day with almost no wind in order to position the cross safely. We were hoping to raise the cross on Palm Sunday, but the weather interfered with the preparation work that must be done prior to placing the cross atop the Steeple. Hopefully, this will happen during Easter Week and we will let parishioners know via e-mail if they would like to be present.

## May is near... and NATIVITY OUTREACH sponsors our Annual Spring Ingathering for a **Special Project**



## "May I Help You?"

#### We can be a POWER SOURCE! This year our request is easy!!!

We want to supply every client at First Stop with batteries for the entire summer. Area Homeless Persons need batteries for their flashlights, lanterns and radios.

Please bring New Batteries sizes: AA, AAA, C, and D. Containers will be available in the Parish Hall the entire month of May.



## Update by Bill Giardini, April 17:

Habitat for Humanity® We had a great workday thanks to some volunteers from a couple of North Huntsville churches. The roof is ready for shingles and the interior is ready for roughing in the plumbing, electrical and

HVAC. We were able to start the vinyl siding at the two ends of the house. Hopefully the subs can get their work done and inspected by Saturday so we can put up insulation then. In the meantime we will be continuing the vinyl siding. I will keep you informed as to our progress. Lunch Saturday will be provided by First Presbyterian.

Apr. 26,28,30	Paint walls, continue vinyl siding, install shutters
May 3,5,7	Clean floors and windows, install vinyl tile, landscape
May 10,12,14	Install and paint interior doors and trim, install cabinets, plumbing, electrical fixtures
May 17,19,21	Install closet hardware, window blinds, storm doors, bathroomaccessories
May 24,26,28	Catch up work, touch up paint, clean and wax floors
May 31, Jun 2,4	Work punch list, DEDICATION CEREMONY: Sat. 4th

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.

Directions to site: Go North on Parkway to University Dr. Go west on University to Pulaski Pike. Go North on Pulaski Pike to Stringfield Rd. Go west on Stringfield passed Alabama Concrete. Look for Banks on the Left opposite the last rock quarry. Turn left onto 6333 Banks

# FIRST SUNDAY IN MAY is a busy day, something for everyone



# "Children and Youth Sunday"

Kachi Ezeibe, preaching all services

# "Bike to Church Day."

Our children and youth will lead the 8:45 service.

We encourage all to dress casually and those who are able to ride your bike to church.

# "Stewardship of **Creation Sunday**"

We will focus on "green" activities for the children on the playground during the Sunday School hour.

Adults will be invited to Ridley Hall to learn more about the upcoming "Greene Street Market at Nativity."

Please mark your calendars and get your bikes ready!! "HAP Sunday" - The following items are needed: Canned Meat, Canned Fruit, Dried beans, Shelf Milk, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Spaghetti and Sauce, and Cereal.

School will soon be out and this means kids will NOT receive school lunches and will depend on these items. Let's bring MORE!

### "Just Stuff It" Part IV

With blessings and funds from our Outreach Committee we once again will be stuffing meal packs for the homeless on Sunday, May 1, after the 11 o'clock service in Ridley Hall. Those of you who have stuffed before, come again! And those who haven't, come join the fun around another of God's tables.

**"Senior EYC"** remember you have your evening meeting off-site this day. Contact Minda Alexander or Bartlee Linton for more information and/or directions.

# **Bishop Parsley announces Stewardship of Creation Sunday 2011**

At our 2008 Convention we adopted the last Sunday in April each year as Stewardship of Creation Sunday in our diocese. Because of the lateness of Easter Day this year, it will be observed on Sunday, May 1. this is a very important observance in our environmentally-challenged time.

As the Prayer book authorizes the bishop do on occasion, I am sending liturgical appointments to you for use on May 1 this year. Please use these scriptures, litany, and hymn suggestions appropriately. There are two litanies enclosed—you are free to choose either one.

A bulletin insert for the scriptures as been prepared for your use. It is enclosed and is available on our website, http://dioala.org by clicking on "Stewardship of Creation Sunday is May 1."

I hope this observance will be a blessing to us all.

(Signed) + Henry

Nativity will observe May 1 as Stewardship of Creation Sunday, the insert mentioned above will be included in the service leaflet.



## **THE MUSTARD SEED HOURS:**

Sunday 9:00—12:30

Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday 10:00—3:00

Mustard Seed Remember to check us out to find gifts for confirmation, graduations, weddings. We have an excellent book collection!

#### PRAYER LIST

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

Sylvia Garth, Ellery May, Gilda May, Rosie Little, Ralph Petty, Jeri Newman, Julene Miller, Scott Shelton, Angel Colin, Vernon Lucas, Joan Olson, Diane Holcomb, Kit Carlton, Joy Gass, Chesley Smith, Matt Fowler, 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:

Afghanistan: Robert Sampson, Lourie Formby, John Orosz

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

- 4/25 Hutson Chilton
- 4/27 Jackson Anglin
- 4/30 Thomas Aldag
- 5/1 Ian Braudaway
- 5/2 Rachel McCoy
- Christopher Lanev 5/7
- Kachi Ezeibe 5/8

#### 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.

#### FINANCIAL CORNER

A note from the Finance Committee: We would like to offer our sincere thanks to everyone who pledged to Nativity in 2011. It is only through your generosity that we are able to plan the annual budget for the church. While Nativity's operating expenses remain relatively constant month-to-month, our monthly pledge revenue shows a high degree of variability. If possible, please consider a more even distribution of your pledge throughout the year.

Rusty Stephenson Chair, Finance Committee Russ Alexander Treasurer

#### **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 guestions, you may call Andrea at 539-2673.

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

Altar Flowers are \$40 or \$20 for shared dedi	Cations
Date desired	
Your Name_	
Phone #	
Would you share a dedication?	Do you wish to have your name listed in the bulletin?
•	lining or circling above your desired dedication below: ations read "To the glory of God and
in loving memory o	of or in thanksgiving for or in celebration of

# Mother's Day Heifer Art Project



On Mother's Day, May 8, we will remember our dear friend, Dr. McCurdy. For those of you who may not know, he was a Veterinarian and he brought his farm animals for Nativity's Heifer Market. He helped us raise thousands of dollars for Heifer Market International over the years and Mother's Day was when "Doc" would bring his wonderful animals. Dr. McCurdy recently departed this life and Nativity children are going to work on a piece of art depicting the joy he shared

with us. The finished art work will be displayed at the church.

### Dining with Friends—May 13



The 12th Anniversary of Dining with Friends to benefit the AIDS Action Coalition of North Alabama will be at Nativity on Friday, May 13. We are looking for hosts to help with the dinner. Please contact Chris Jackson for more information and how you too can be a part of this great cause:

256-880-1627, 256-337-1871, cbj1871@gmail.com Over the past six years, Nativity has raised approximately \$72,000!

# Have you made your pledge for 2011?

Your Stewardship Committee is working hard to close out the 2011 campaign so that the Vestry can finalize the 2011 Nativity budget. If you've already sent in your pledge, THANK YOU! If not, we want to take this last opportunity to encourage you to join us in supporting the work of Christ through the mission and ministry of the Church of the Nativity.

Here are a few facts about finances at Nativity:

- It takes about \$25,000 each WEEK to run the church
- Most of our expenses are relatively fixed (e.g., personnel, building and grounds, our covenant with the Diocese and Sewanee) and account for the vast majority of our budget
- Outlays for education, programming, and outreach are "squeezed" when revenues fall below expectations

The Vestry has high hopes for improving our support for youth and children, seniors, outreach, historic preservation, and our covenant with the Diocese. However, with our current pledges, they are unable to do so and will be forced to fund these programs at a level that is below what was requested. We know that you do not want to see these (and possibly other) programs cut or under-funded, but the reality is that we will have no choice if more people do not generously make and keep a pledge to the church.

How has Nativity touched your life? Maybe it is through our many worship services in our historic buildings. Maybe is it through a sacrament of baptism, confirmation, marriage, or burial for a member of your family. Maybe it is through one of the many fine educational offerings at Nativity for you and/or your children. Or, maybe it is through the sharing or joy, recovery, or grief through our pastoral care services. In whatever way you have been touched through the many ministries of Nativity, please thank the more than 435 families who have committed to supporting the continuation of these ministries through gifts of their financial resources.

Again, if you have already submitted your pledge for 2011, THANK YOU! If you have not, we NEED your pledge and strongly encourage you to join us in strengthening the Body of Christ by supporting His work through the Church of the Nativity. To make your pledge for 2011, please call the church office (256 -533-2455) today. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

#### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE MAY 2011

# May 1

8:45

C Ian Braudaway
C Elizabeth Moody
T Meredith Walker
T Alexander Young
T Windham Hunter
T Savannah Watson

S Harrison Hunter S Hanly Ward
AS Maria Caprio AS Shep O'Neal

## May 8

8:45 11:00

C Andrew Dunn
C Reece Baugher
T Jackson Anglin
T Neill Luther
T Jackson Grelier, Scott Louis Miller

5 Tindall Morring 5 Nancy Kate Baugher
AS Spencer Anglin AS Elise Nelson

#### May 15

8:45 11:00

C Hutson Chilton C Drew McDonald

T Gillianne Sharp, John Chilton T John Laney, Foster Shrout

T Anna Chilton, Steuart Evans T Powell Stockton,

5 Rosie Chilton 5 Mary Margaret Ragland

AS Laurel Sharp AS Rachel Joffrion

## May 22 NOTE DIFFERENT SERVICE TIMES!!

8:00 10:00 Confirmation with the Bishop\*\*

C Katherine Walker C Rachel Quillen, Bird Sherrill
T Chase Rodgers T Jordan Cozby, Karl Schneider

T Franklin Aldag T Allison Taylor, Emily Ellison

S Sabol Rodgers S Julie DiFranco
AS Carter McDonald AS Trace Markwalter

Thurifer: Kachi Ezeibe

Banners: Will Ellison, Paul Naumann, F Naumann

## May 29

8:00 10:00

C Katherine Walker C Cat Kelly
T Robert Walker T Palmer Ford

T Cassidy Bates T Karsten Correale

S Susan Purvis S Travis King
AS Walker Purvis AS Tripp Ford

			WORSHIP SCHEDULE May 2011 published	d 4/20/11	
SUNDAY, Ma	y 1 Second S	unday of East	er		
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Akin out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Landry	Youth	John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
8:45 AM	Landry	Youth	Lane Mickle, Walter Thames, Lewie Bates	Dianne Nettles, Lee Hicklen	Youth
11:00 AM	Anderson	Youth	Roy Gowman, Bryan Bennett, Merrilee Allen	Rich Goodwin, Sally Ann Culver	Youth
WEDNESDA			, , , ,	, , ,	
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12:00 PM	Landry	Landry	Don Askins		
THURSDAY,	May 5, HE				
Service	Celebrant	Preacher			
6:00 PM	Anderson	Anderson			
SUNDAY, Su	nday May 8 TI	nird Sunday o	f Easter		
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Akin & Landry out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 AM	McCown	Anderson	Cheryl Watts, Bob Serio, Pearline Gilpin	Ed Greene, Melissa Kirkindall	Lane Mickle
11:00 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Don Askins, Robin Cozby, Ed Vaughn, Pat Sampson	Roy Gowman, Lee Coggins	Deborah Baker
WEDNESDA	Y, May 11, HE				
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12:00 PM	Anderson	Anderson	Marilyn Lands		
THURSDAY,					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher			
6:00 PM	Landry	Landry			
SUNDAY, Ma	y 15 Fourth S	unday of East	er		
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 AM	Anderson	Anderson	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 AM	Akin	Anderson	Lee Hicklen, Lewie Bates	Buddy Moon, Stacy Moon	Lee Hicklen
11:00 AM	Landry	Anderson	Lea Ellison, Mike Ward	John Conover, Mary Johnson	Adalene Bledsoe
WEDNESDA'	Y, May 18, HE			•	
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
Service 12:00 PM	Celebrant Akin	<b>Preacher</b> Akin	LEM Mary Hendricks		
	Akin				
12:00 PM THURSDAY, Service	Akin May 19, HE Celebrant				
12:00 PM THURSDAY, Service 7:00 PM	Akin May 19, HE Celebrant Akin	Akin  Preacher Akin	Mary Hendricks		
12:00 PM THURSDAY, Service 7:00 PM	Akin May 19, HE Celebrant Akin	Akin  Preacher Akin			
12:00 PM THURSDAY, Service 7:00 PM	Akin May 19, HE Celebrant Akin	Akin  Preacher Akin	Mary Hendricks	Lector	Intercessor
12:00 PM THURSDAY, Service 7:00 PM SUNDAY, Ma	Akin May 19, HE Celebrant Akin y 22 Fifth Sur	Akin Preacher Akin day of Easter	Mary Hendricks  Bishop's visit, Confirmation & Baptism	Lector Lane Mickle	Intercessor Lea Ann Barnett
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#### DATES TO REMEMBER:

May 21—Parish will be invited to a reception in honor of Bishop Parsley and Nativity Choir. This affair will take place at the home of Leslie and Moss Crosby at 8:00 in the evening. This will be catered heavy hor d'oerrves and Episcopal beverage buffet. Tickets will be available at \$25 per person. More information forthcoming.

# 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

The deadline for the next issue is Monday noon, May 2.

#### **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 EMERGENGY

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

# THE TRIDUUM

Maundy Thursday ~ April 21 Jesus the Servant
6:00 p.m. Agape Meal, Ridley Hall
6:30 p.m. Nursery opens for reservations
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

This year's 89th Good Friday offering will be sent to the Domestic & Foreign Missionary Society as we continue to support the Episcopal Church in Jerusalem and the Middle East.

Holy Saturday ~ April 23 Waiting for Jesus' Resurrection

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

Remember to bring a small tuneful bell with you to the Vigil (but wrap it in a handkerchief and hide it away in your pocket until the signal!)

At that great moment of Easter the entire church will break out in joy and alleluias, in songs and in bells!

# 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 under age10

Please gather in Ridley Hall for instructions

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

\*indicates nursery available