

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

May 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.

The Risen Lord's Life and Peace

Last week's events, from Easter to tornados to Osama Bin Laden's death, have confirmed and challenged our response to the Risen Christ. I'm not sure when I've known a more joyous Easter celebration than ours at Nativity this year. But the rest of the week didn't quite turn out as expected. What was supposed to have been a week of rest and enjoyment with the Bishop's annual clergy conference (at wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell!), topped off by a Royal Wedding was anything than what was planned.

On Wednesday, many of us, like the disciples after Jesus' resurrection locked themselves away in fear, found ourselves in protective surroundings; our own "locked doors," as we waited out the fierce and indiscriminately devastating tornados ripping through Alabama and Huntsville.

What I hope you discovered, as the staff of Nativity discovered together in the basement of Joffrion Hall, is that the Risen Lord comes to us in our fears and speaks words of peace. His risen presence is the catalyst for healing and hope in the midst of life's destruction and death. And in spite of the minor inconveniences of no power and interrupted communications, the Risen Christ was at work in our community as scores of people went to the places of devastation and loss with love, hope, and support.

Like Jesus' disciple we have come to call "Doubting" Thomas, we know the risen Lord as we place our hands in his wounds and touch his pain now seen in the suffering people who have lost so much. I hope you have found and are finding ways to do that. Please review the helping opportunities listed on the inside pages of this Steeple. We can generously respond as our Lord has generously reached out to us giving us life in the midst of our fears and even death. A simple way to help is through giving to our Diocesan fund for tornado relief. Our hearts, prayers, and resources go out to those who are suffering and who have experienced loss.

Our response to the storms last week is clear. But how are we followers of the Prince of Peace supposed to react to the news and details of Osama bin Laden's death? I heard everything from jubilation to vengeance; both revenge and justice. Some were quoting that the one who lives by the sword will die by the sword (Matthew 26:52). Others remembered Ezekiel 23:11, "I take no pleasure in the death of the wicked, but that the wicked turn from their ways and live."

My initial reaction was relief and a visceral satisfaction that Bin Laden's life of hatred and violence has ended. Then I found myself feeling solemn and quiet. I think the death of any human being is not to be joyfully celebrated. At the same time, I do believe that justice was done. And I salute the brave operation that found this person responsible for decades of terror and fear, attempting to bring him to the process of justice. I give thanks for such courage.

Diana Butler Bass, a Christian writer and educator, asked on her Facebook wall, "What if we responded in reverent prayer and quiet introspection? That would be truly American exceptionalism. Sometimes I realize that I'm really a biblical literalist at heart: 'Do not rejoice when your enemy falls, and do not let your heart be glad when he stumbles.' (Proverbs 24:17)"

Unfortunately, violence is a part of this fallen world. We have a choice to be fascinated with it or to focus on the mystery of healing and hope. The mystery of healing and hope is harder, but it is much more gratifying. It turns our fascination into the energy of grace and blessing. May God's grace and blessing known in the Risen Christ be with us all during the weeks to come.

Andy +



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

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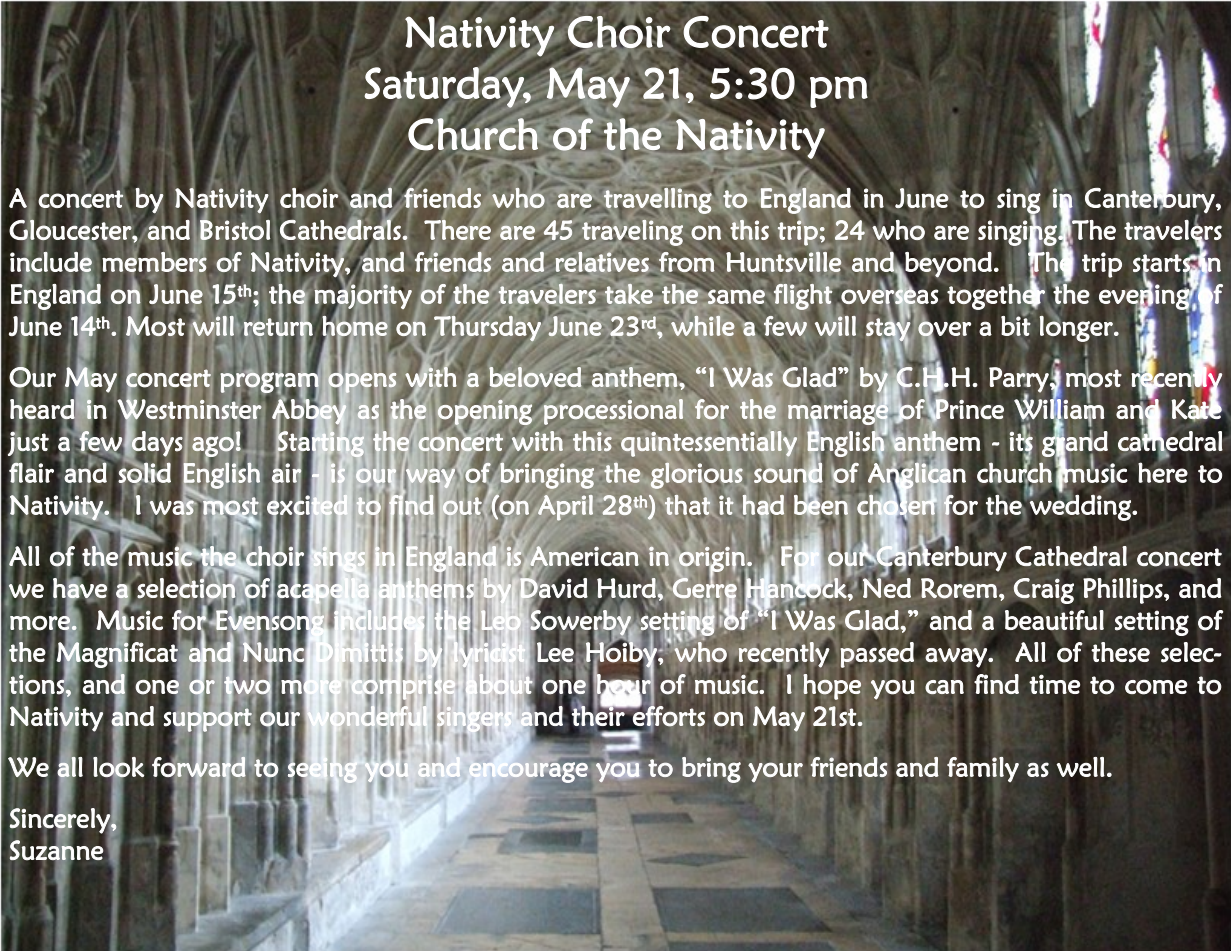
PARISH NEWS AND EVENTS

**Please join us for an Evening Reception
to honor Bishop Henry and Becky Parsley
& the Nativity Choir
on May 21, 7:00 p.m.**

**at the home of Leslie & Moss Crosby.
The reception will immediately follow the
Nativity Spring Concert
which begins at 5:30 p.m.**

**The Crosby home is located on 603 Adams St.
which is walking distance from the church.
Reservations are required and can be made
today in Ridley Hall Narthex or in the church
office next week. Cost for the cocktail buffet
and Episcopal beverages is \$25.00 per person.**

Deadline for reservations is May 17, 12:00 noon



Nativity Choir Concert Saturday, May 21, 5:30 pm Church of the Nativity

A concert by Nativity choir and friends who are travelling to England in June to sing in Canterbury, Gloucester, and Bristol Cathedrals. There are 45 traveling on this trip; 24 who are singing. The travelers include members of Nativity, and friends and relatives from Huntsville and beyond. The trip starts in England on June 15th; the majority of the travelers take the same flight overseas together the evening of June 14th. Most will return home on Thursday June 23rd, while a few will stay over a bit longer.

Our May concert program opens with a beloved anthem, "I Was Glad" by C.H.H. Parry, most recently heard in Westminster Abbey as the opening processional for the marriage of Prince William and Kate just a few days ago! Starting the concert with this quintessentially English anthem - its grand cathedral flair and solid English air - is our way of bringing the glorious sound of Anglican church music here to Nativity. I was most excited to find out (on April 28th) that it had been chosen for the wedding.

All of the music the choir sings in England is American in origin. For our Canterbury Cathedral concert we have a selection of acapella anthems by David Hurd, Gerre Hancock, Ned Rorem, Craig Phillips, and more. Music for Evensong includes the Leo Sowerby setting of "I Was Glad," and a beautiful setting of the Magnificat and Nunc Dimittis by lyricist Lee Hoiby, who recently passed away. All of these selections, and one or two more comprise about one hour of music. I hope you can find time to come to Nativity and support our wonderful singers and their efforts on May 21st.

We all look forward to seeing you and encourage you to bring your friends and family as well.

Sincerely,
Suzanne



the
**Greene
Street
Market**
at Nativity

Farmers' Market

every thursday 4pm - 8pm
may 19th - september 29th
www.greenestreetmarket.com

Locally grown fruits, vegetables,
meats, breads, cheeses, honey,
relish, & other confections.

This is a producer-only market so
the farmers who grow 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.

Are you a hero?

Recently a bright young girl who is a
member of our parish was telling her
mother about a project at school in
which the class was studying people who
were "heroes". So the family started
talking about people who are considered
heroes. The younger brother chimed in
and said, "Mom, you're a hero!" The
mother was certainly pleased to be
considered a hero by her son but a bit
puzzled. "How am I a hero?" The
answer came back: **"YOU RECYCLE!!!"**

You can be a **HERO** also, and the Solid
Waste Disposal Authority is giving all of
us more ways to be **"RECYCLING
HEROES."**



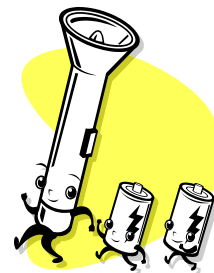
NATIVITY OUTEACH PROJECTS

• HAP NEEDS FOR MAY

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!

• MAY I Help You? our Annual Spring

Ingathering Special Project is an easy request
this year! We can be a **POWER SOURCE**. 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. We need **HUNDREDS** of batteries – *please help us
collect enough to make a difference in their lives!*

NATIVITY'S DINING WITH FRIENDS

- "A Southern Supper" benefitting the AIDS Action Coalition
- Friday, May 13 at The Church of Nativity in Ridley Hall
- Silent Auction begins at 6:00 p.m.
- Dinner begins at 7:00 p.m.
- Dessert Reception the following weekend Saturday, May 21,
9:00 p.m.—midnight at Hudson Alpha's Jackson Center
 - \$50 per person. For tickets contact Chris Jackson
256-880-1627, 256-337-1871, cbj1871@gmail.com

We now have a broader curb-side
**recycling program in Huntsville and
Madison County** which includes almost
anything made of paper, and specifically
the following:

- cereal boxes
- cardboard – boxes must be small
enough to fit in your blue bin
- office paper
- junk mail
- brown paper bags
- envelopes
- stationery
- paperback books – but you might
want to donate these to the Friends
of the Library book store!
- comic books
- newspapers and inserts

Note: things such as sauce/cheese-
stained-pizza boxes should still go in the
trash. If you have large cardboard boxes,

they can still be taken to Allied Waste's
recyclery in southwest Huntsville – the
street is A Cleaner Way.

**ANOTHER OPPORTUNITY TO BE A
RECYCLING HERO:** remove the twist off
bottle caps found on many things and
collect them in a separate container and
drop them off at any Huntsville fire
station. (Note: Allied Waste is not set up
to recycle the plastic caps in the regular
recycling program so please do not put
them in your blue bin.) This extra
opportunity to recycle another resource
came out of a city-sponsored contest
among local elementary schools to
collect the most twist-off caps.

Next time: glass recycling

**PLEASE JOIN US THIS SUNDAY, MAY 8TH,
FOR STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION AND
CHILDREN AND YOUTH SUNDAY
ACTIVITIES.**

Transitions in our Children's Ministry

As some of you may know, our beloved co-director of the Children's Ministry, Madeline Mullins, has begun to transition out of that role, back into her role as a "regular" Nativity parishioner as she pursues other vocational dreams. There will be a time and place in the coming weeks to celebrate and thank Madeline for all her creative and hard work through the years. She has been key in making our ministry with children here at Nativity vital, and for that we are immeasurably grateful. Our children here at Nativity are a great gift to this parish, and she has tended these little lambs well.

Elizabeth Foster, formerly the co-director with Madeline, will now take on the full role of Director of Children's Ministries. We are also very grateful for Elizabeth and the compassionate talents she brings with her. She will be ably helped by Cassie Chenoweth, who has graciously stepped up to the plate during this time of transition.

I ask for your prayers and support for our Children's Ministry, Madeline, Elizabeth, and Cassie especially during this time of transition. We have a good thing going with the joy and happiness the children bring to church. Elizabeth may soon be calling on you to help out with Children's Chapel, down in the WoRM, or with Vacation Bible School. These are perfect opportunities to live into our baptismal covenants, and the promise we make at each baptism: "Will you who witness these baptismal vows do *all* in your power to support these persons in their life in Christ? **We will!**" (BCP 303).3

The Rev'd Brad Landry

EASTER FLOWER DEDICATIONS as printed in the Easter Service Programs

The flowers on the altar are offered to the glory of God and in loving memory of W.H. (Buster) Pollard by his friends.

The flowers on the front doors are offered to the glory of God and in loving memory of Donald Emmett Neil and Peter Howland Monfore by Lisa and Brian Andrews.

The flowers in the bell tower are offered to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sharon Barbour Rhett, Nancy Benham Steenhuis, Benton "Sonny" Stockton, Jr., and Jane Hurt Yarn by Nannette Stockton Yarn.

The flowers on the font cover are offered to the glory of God and in loving memory of Sara Landman Whitworth by Jerry Whitworth, Charles and Sherry Whitworth and family.

The flowers on the pulpit are given to the glory of God and in celebration of Dr. Tim Wilson and John Gilino by Wendy Wilson and Curt Benzle

The flowers in the church are offered to the glory of God and In Loving Memory of:

- ✠ Mary Dee Shahan by the Flower Guild
- ✠ Robert and Mary Beirne Cook by Mary Johnson and family
- ✠ John Carroll Hay, Jr. and Ann Brown Bledsoe by Adalene and Ted Bledsoe
- ✠ Rosemary Powers by Megan and Brandon Smith
- ✠ Paige Powers by Megan and Brandon Smith
- ✠ James Gaffney by Tracy Brown
- ✠ Doris Lasmar by Christine and Bill Starnes
- ✠ Susan Berman and Robert Kelly by Tracey Berman
- ✠ Ethel Robinson by the Mission Guild
- ✠ Elizabeth Walker and David Crow by The Crow Family
- ✠ Keith Anton Scriven by Karen Scriven
- ✠ Betty Sutherland Field
- ✠ Doyle and Emogene Harvey, Luke and Wudie Anderson by Tippy and Andy Anderson

The flowers in the church are offered to the glory of God and In Honor of:

- ✠ Mary Anne and Joe Akin by Blair and Wayne Glenn
- ✠ Our daughter Suzanne by Iva and Aaron Purtee
- ✠ Marion Certain Loughhead by the Mission Guild
- ✠ Haley Joan Sutherland by Mark Sutherland

The flowers in the church are offered to the glory of God and In Thanksgiving for:

- ✠ Our grandchildren Rowan Evamae Cline, Everette Lawson Horton, and Cline Daniel Horton by Pattie and John Cline





A Litany of Supplication in Time of Trouble

Gracious God, arise, help us;

And deliver us for your Name's sake.

We have heard with our ears and our ancestors declared unto us the noble works of lovingkindness and healing that you have done in their days, and in the old time before them.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

With breaking hearts and deep sadness at the tragedy of the tornadoes in our state,
(and especially in this community of the State of Alabama,) we pray for all who have died and all injured, for those who have lost their homes, and for those who are alone and afraid.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

Guide and strengthen all who are providing food and water, shelter and care for those in need; grant your wisdom to those coordinating relief efforts and generosity to those who offer 'gifts' and 'funds' for 'support' and 'assistance.'

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

Embrace all those who have lost loved ones, friends, and neighbors with your comfort and compassion; bind us all in deeper community and as we join hands to support one another and rebuild our life together.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

Renew our trust in your presence in the midst of loss, and in your power of hope and healing in our midst. Grant that no storms and clouds of this world may ever hide from us the light of your love, which is eternal and heals our hearts, world without end.

Gracious God, arise, help us;
And deliver us for your Name's sake.

Let us pray:

Loving Father of all, we humbly pray you to look graciously upon our hurts and heartaches, and especially upon those in the greatest need in this time of trouble. Grant that we may put our whole trust and confidence in your mercy; bind us together in mutual love and service, and make us instruments of your healing and peace; through our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

Amen.

Episcopal Diocese of Alabama
The Rt. Rev. Henry N. Parsley, Jr.
April 29, 2011

Proposed Amendment to the Bylaws

Please join us on Sunday, May 8 at 10:00 a.m. in Ridley Hall for a presentation and discussion about the proposed bylaws change for the nomination and election of the vestry at Nativity. There will be a **Special Parish Meeting on Sunday, May 15 10:00 a.m.** to vote on amending those sections of the bylaws. We encourage your attendance to vote on this important issue.

Proposal to Amend Bylaws of Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

Old Wording:

III. PARISH MEETINGS

G. Nominations from the floor for Vestry candidates at the Annual Parish Meeting shall always be accepted in addition to nominees proposed by the nominating committee

V. COMMITTEES

E. The Vestry Nominating Committee shall consist of the following:

1. Three retiring members of the Vestry appointed by the Rector; and
2. Four members from the Parish at large, appointed by Senior Warden.
3. The committee shall select its chairman from its membership.
4. The Vestry Nominating Committee shall nominate qualified communicants for the Vestry to be submitted to the annual Parish meeting and shall nominate at least twice the number to be elected.

Proposed Wording:

III. PARISH MEETINGS

G. At the Annual Parish Meeting, the slate from the Nominating Committee shall be presented on a ballot to the parish for a vote. Nominations from the floor for Vestry candidates at the Annual Parish Meeting shall be accepted in addition to the slate proposed by the Nominating Committee. Any nominations from the floor shall require a second. If there are no nominations from the floor, the slate may be elected by a vote of acclamation.

V. COMMITTEES

E. The Vestry Nominating Committee shall consist of the Rector as a non-voting member and the following seven voting members:

1. The Senior Warden.
2. The three most recent former Senior Wardens who are in good standing with the Parish and available for this duty.
3. Three non-Vestry members of the Parish who are in good standing. Each of these members-at-large shall serve a 3- year term. Before the end of each year, the retiring six Vestry members shall select one new member-at-large to serve the following year to replace the retiring member. In the inaugural year, the retiring Vestry members shall select 3 members: one for a 1 year term, one for a 2 year term, and one for a 3 year term.

The Nominating Committee shall select a chairman from its membership.

The Nominating Committee shall meet regularly throughout the year to maintain a list of eligible Vestry candidates and to facilitate communication with the congregation to identify and solicit names of appropriate candidates.

At least a month before the election, the Nominating Committee shall publish to the Parish a slate of six Vestry candidates to be presented at the Annual Parish Meeting.

NATIVITY LIFTS THE CROSS



On Wednesday, May 4, the weather conditions were favorable for the laborious task of lifting the beautiful, historically accurate, and appropriate budded cross given to be placed atop the Steeple. Word traveled fast that COPPERWORKS, Inc. were ready to begin. Several parishioners (lifted voices in song) and downtown lookers watched patiently as the workers placed the cross on the elevator, then transferred it onto a lift for the trip to the tip-top. With upmost respect and care it was raised it to its new home.

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. Additional photos will be available next week on the church website.

Installation Completed



The Rector's view from the top



After partial scaffolding removal



View while on display in Ridley

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 16.

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

SPECIAL EVENTS TO REMEMBER

Special Parish Meeting

will be held on Sunday, May 15, 10:00 a.m. in Ridley Hall.

Ordination Service at Church of the Nativity

M. Basye Holland-Shuey to the Sacred Order of Deacons on
Monday May 16, 6:00 p.m.

Your prayers and your presence are requested

Reception following in Ridley Hall.

Nativity Choir Spring Concert Saturday, May 21

Followed by Evening Reception to honor

Bishop Henry and Beck Parsley and Nativity Choir

(invitation inside this edition)

Nativity Confirmation 2011 and Baptism

May 22, 11:00 a.m. with Bishop Parsley, officiating

A Reception in honor of Nativity Confirmands 2011 will take place in
Ridley Hall immediately following the service. Episcopal Church

Women will host this lovely welcome to our new members.