

# THE STEEPLE

## The Church of the Nativity

October 5, 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.*

### Nativity Grace in Fall's Comings and Goings

Enthusiasm and energy surround us at Nativity these past few weeks. Our return to the school year schedule bringing people to church school, Bible studies, EFM, choir rehearsals, and focused attention to our many ministries reveals much grace. We all share God's love greeting old friends and new ones this Fall in this holy place.

Even though the natural world begins to show colors of aging in the Fall, even though the tree leaves will blaze orange and red over the next month and disappear, the Fall season in the church is different. In the Church, Fall always represents new life and new faces. At Nativity, we have welcomed many new members this fall. Parishioners, with and without school-age children re-commit to church life and ministry at this time of year. We return to our routines of regularly seeing each other on Sundays. Even though it will be a few more weeks before we return to our beautiful and restored church, the true beauty of Nativity is known when we gather with each other on Sundays, even in the parish hall!

But this Fall at Nativity, we have had to say goodbye to a familiar face, Deacon Mary Groff. After serving faithfully for seven years, Mary has reached the canonical age for retirement from regular parish ministry. Mary has touched our hearts and lives through her presence in worship, pastoral care, Haiti Mission work, and among our seniors with the Top of the Hill Gang.

Nativity Grace was beautifully revealed at the reception honoring Mary on the Church lawn a few weeks ago. With Greene Street Market tents on the lawn and bright yellow mums and silver laden trays of food on the tables, her send-off was one of our best. And Nativity's gratitude and generosity was evident in the bounty of the purse we gave Mary. After three months of sabbatical from all ordained diaconal duties, Mary will explore new expressions of ordained ministry in other parishes and around the diocese, but she will remain a part of our Haiti medical mission and we will see her around Nativity from time to time.

As we say good-bye to Mary, we welcome newly ordained Deacon Jeannie Robison. The Holy Spirit's timing of grace is always on the mark! Most of us have known Jeannie through her service in many of Nativity's ministries, including her serving as a lector, intercessor, Lay Eucharistic Minister, EFM Mentor, and with our Reconciliation Ministries. In the wider Huntsville community, she volunteers with local tornado relief efforts and works as Director of the Interfaith Mission Service. We welcome Jeannie's warm, gracious, and loving presence

You will see Jeannie on Sundays at worship and for pastoral visits. She will continue to work with our Seniors' Ministry, and with our Reconciliation Ministries, especially with racial reconciliation. She will keep us informed and connected to the ongoing tornado relief efforts and other interfaith work. After we return to the church and can re-claim Ridley Hall, we will celebrate Jeannie's ordination with a grand Nativity reception.

We have also welcomed our new and enthusiastic Director of Youth Ministries, Liz Williams. Liz came on board in the summer and so many of you are meeting her for the first time. Liz has hit the ground running and her passion and joy are contagious. Brad Landry and Youth Council members did an outstanding job in helping us reach the decision to call Liz. She is wonderful!

Grace abounds at Nativity this Fall. Our community helps us claim and share God's love that is always new and renewing. **Your** week-in-and out return to Nativity is the most important one!

*Andy +*



CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY,  
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

### WORSHIP SUNDAY:

7:45 a.m.

Holy Eucharist  
Rite I  
(Bibb Chapel)

8:45 a.m.\*

Holy Eucharist  
Rite II and  
Children's Chapel

11:00 a.m.\*

Holy Eucharist  
Rite II  
(Ridley Hall)

Church School

10:00 a.m.\*

(\* Nursery available)

### THURSDAY:

6:00 p.m.

Holy Eucharist  
Rite II  
(Bibb Chapel)

## PARISH NEWS and EVENTS



*Linn Maxwell, mezzo-soprano*

[Spiritual Development at Nativity presents...](#)

### *Hildegard of Bingen and the Living Light*

*Wednesday, October 12 7:00 p.m.*

*\$5.00 per person at the door*

*Reception to follow*

*St. Stephen's Episcopal Church, 8020 Whitesburg Drive*

*A One Woman Play about the 12th Century German Abbess and mystic.*

### [Evensong, St. John's, Decatur at 5 pm on Sunday October 16th.](#)

The Nativity choir will sing Evensong at St. John's Episcopal Church,  
202 Gordon Drive SE, Decatur.

Music by Stanford, West, and Radcliffe.

### [Episcopal Parishes' Citywide Eucharist "Mass on the Grass"](#)

**WHERE:** St. Thomas Church Lawn

**WHEN:** Sunday, October 16<sup>th</sup> 5 o'clock pm

**MORE:** Followed by Dinner on the Grounds—Bring a Potluck Dish  
Water & Tea provided  
Bring Blanket or Chair for seating  
A time to share in Eucharist and Fellowship with other parishes.

### [Bazaar Wine & Cheese Planning Meeting Monday, October 17, 6:00—7:00 p.m.](#)

at the home of Kate Noble Purvis. We depend on your support as a volunteer and look forward to planning this year's bazaar with you. Please contact co-chairs for more information Kate Noble Purvis 256-303-7259 kpurvis@knology.net or Glinda Clardy Wagner 256-348-5410 glinliz@gmail.com

### [3rd ANNUAL NATIVITY WOMEN'S RETREAT at St. Mary's, Sewanee, TN](#)

**One Night Only – Friday, February 24—Saturday morning February 25<sup>th</sup>**

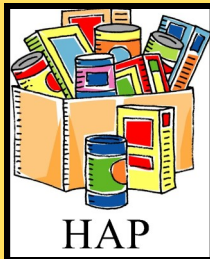
Linda Douty, our speaker will be using her book, *HOW CAN I LET GO IF I DON'T KNOW I'M HOLDING ON? SETTING OUR SOULS FREE*. Linda takes a close-up look at the letting go struggles all of us face - weaving together her own experiences and the stories of others. She offers specific strategies for letting go of all the things that keep us from a deeper relationship with God and with others.

Linda Douty is a member of the United Methodist Church in Memphis, Tenn. She is a conference and retreat leader and writes for a variety of religious publications, including Upper Room, Alive Now, and the Website, [explorefaith.org](http://explorefaith.org).

**Retreat Cost: \$120.00 per person- includes all meals and accommodations.**

**Reservation Deadline is Wednesday, November 30, 2011**

**Contact: Lane Tutt at 256-533-2455.**



## **SPECIAL FOOD COLLECTION EVERY SUNDAY FOR HAP**

Until the end of November we want to help HAP thru a fall crisis due to the suspension of The Angle Food Program. In nine Sundays, let's burst the seams of their Pantry! Please bring at least one of these items each week: Canned Chicken, Tuna or Spam, Peanut Butter, Spaghetti and Spaghetti Sauce, Bath Soap, Toilet Paper. Bins may be found outside Ridley or the Banister Room. Each time you go the Grocery, think "HAP BASICS"!

## **ECW Bazaar and Bake Sale 2011**

**Thursday, November 17th**

- The Bazaar begins at 10:30 a.m.
- Luncheon seatings are offered at 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.
- Take-out Lunches may be picked up between 10:30 and 11:30.

Produced by the ECW, the Nativity Bazaar is our parish's outstanding opener of the holiday season and, most importantly, is our gift back to our local and surrounding communities as the proceeds are used to benefit various charitable organizations.

Last year's Bazaar enabled the parishioners of Nativity to contribute thousands of dollars to the Oscar Mason Center and Sawyerville Day Camp. We are currently in the process of reviewing local community needs and will donate the proceeds of this year's Bazaar to organizations here in the Huntsville area.

Traditionally held on the Thursday prior to Thanksgiving, the bazaar offers great shopping for holiday gifts, crafts and baked goods. In addition, the Bazaar offers a delicious eat-in or take-out lunch. We're certain you won't want to miss it!

## *A Concert of Music for Soprano & Flute*

*Saturday, October 22  
5:00 pm*

*Bob Gifford, flute  
Christie Weber, soprano  
Suzanne Purtee, piano  
Eric Wilson, piano*

*Works by  
G.F. Handel, F. Liszt, J.S.  
Bach, H. Genzmer*

**Church of the Nativity**

## **Mark your calendars for Nativity's**

# **THANKS *for* GIVING**

celebration of stewardship!

Thursday, November 3, 2011

Huntsville Museum of Art

*Come enjoy an evening with your Nativity family as we celebrate...*

***An ATTITUDE of GRATITUDE!***



## **INTERCESSION REQUESTS**

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

Elaine Wood, Ernie Limbo, Chris Rodgers, Angel Colin, Charlie Lyle, Julie Kirk, Bill Marsh, Hap Welch, Genie Adams, Will Joyner, Steve Likos, John Cline, Eileen Sullivan, Barbara Chapman, Nancy Lackey, Nativity's Tornado Family, Jack Wilson, Leigh Wahl, Billy Johnston, Sr., Donald Perry, Elsie Olsen, Evin Yadegar, Scott Shelton, Joy Gass, Sara Welch, Emile Joffrion, John, Nancy Kelly, Joan Bennett.

### **We pray for those in Military Service and those serving with the Peace Corps:**

Kuwait: Spencer Colin, Greg Riddle; Afghanistan: Blake Lane, Robert Sampson, The Gambia, West Africa: Marisa Benzle

### **We pray for the departed:**

Wally Reynolds, parishioner  
Paul Morgan, brother of Joyce Adams

**We give thanks for the birth of a child:** Julia Gwen Chynoweth, granddaughter of Brenda Chynoweth born September 27.

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

10/10	Chris Deming
10/13	Wyatt Fenstermacher, Chloe Parsons
10/14	Emily Ellison
10/16	Lillian Khodabandeh
10/20	Amelia Rosler
10/21	Phoebe Duncan, Windham Hunter

**We give thanks for new members of Nativity:** Shari Parnell Williams, Holly and Harry McCarty Family

## **YOUTH CONFIRMATION NEWS**

There will be an information meeting for both parents and high school youth who are interested in confirmation on October 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:00pm in the Library. There will be a second meeting in November to wrap up the final details. Both meetings must be attended for confirmation. If you cannot make the October meeting, please let Liz Williams know.

## **"Reaching Out" from OUTREACH**

Three moments of giving:

1. **"Words cannot possibly express what I felt when I opened the check you sent and realized what was inside...I was close to tears with heartfelt gratitude. Many people here feel forgotten, yet this little town was truly traumatized by the earthquake and all we lost".**

- Rev. Ann B. Davis, Rector, St. James Episcopal Church, Louisa, VA

This little town was 5 miles from the epicenter of the Virginia earthquake – the elementary school and the high school were a total loss.

OUTREACH sent a gift to the Rector. She is buying appliances, and providing dry wall and roof repair. She is Mary Anne Akin's former student at the seminary in Sewanee.

2. **"I could not believe the number of people who kept coming to receive things, nor all the items donated."**

- Lee Hicklen, Nativity parishioner and OUTREACH Treasurer at the  
Monrovia Community Center Tornado Family Give-away, September 24, 2011.

OUTREACH purchased and delivered \$700.00 worth of paper products for this county-led response. It was sponsored for the ongoing needs of those affected by the April Tornadoes.

3. **"Thank you for your generous gift in our struggle to keep our multi-cultural preschool open for poor children!"**

St. Timothy's Episcopal Church, Athens, AL

OUTREACH provided tuition for one child for ten weeks. The enrollment of immigrant children has decreased and funding is down. The program is considered a wonderful asset in the town – preparing children for learning in early grades. It was named an Episcopal Jubilee Center for Ministry several years ago.

## STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION TIP for October 5, 2011

What organic material is full of nutrients - essential for the natural processes of soil rejuvenation - and arrives absolutely free of cost to millions of homeowners every autumn? You guessed it—the colorful liberated leaves of deciduous trees. Recycling leaves and turning them into mulch or compost offers a great alternative to removing this resource from your property.

### **Leaf Mulch How-To**

by Clarissa Sharp

#### **WHAT TO GATHER:**

Fallen leaves, pine needles, spent blooms.

#### **WHAT TO DO:**

- To speed up the composting process, mow over the big leaves. You can use a bag on your mower and just mow them up.
- You can also rake them into low piles and just mow those piles.
- You can put the leaves into a metal trash can and use a weed eater to chop them.
- Most sustainable would be rake them by hand and use a battery or electric mower to reduce their size. OR just rake them and leave them full size for no carbon footprint.
- Make low piles somewhere in your yard to decompose. I put them on the property line by the wooded area. If you put them near a fence, leave a bit of space

so they don't rot a wood fence.

- In late spring, you can use them to mulch in your beds. You can put a thin layer of leaves and then, if desired, can use a prettier mulch on top. This will reduce the amount of bought mulch you will need. You can mulch your vegetables to help conserve water.

#### **LEAF LITTER:**

If you are going to buy some new trees for your yard, think about the leaf litter. Big leaves take a lot longer to break down. Some great trees that have small leaves are:

Chinese Elm  
Chinese Pistache  
Willow Oak  
Shumard Oak.  
Japanese Maples are good too - but expensive!  
Bald Cypress tree: will give you gorgeous fall color and when the needles fall, you can just leave them.

Some of the benefits of recycling leaves:

- Reduces waste going to landfills
- Encourages improvement of soil through natural processes
- Reduces need for fertilizer, which saves money, and also reduces the environmental impacts of fertilizer use

There are several bulletins on composting available from the Alabama Cooperative Extension Service. You can find more information and detailed instructions in Bulletin Numbers:

- ANR-0794, Commonly Asked Questions About Composting;
- ANR-0692 Recycling Leaves;
- ANR-0638, Backyard Composting.

These are available for free downloading as PDF files from the ACES site – type in the bulletin name, then scroll down, past the top of the first screen that pops up when you get to each bulletin, to find the PDF file downloading option on the lower left.



## FALL FLING for 5th & 6th at Camp McDowell

### **What is Fall Fling?**

Fall Fling is a time for fun & fellowship in the context of Christian community at Camp McDowell, the camp and conference center for the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama. Hiking, canoeing, singing, arts & crafts, hayride, program time, worship time, and canteen will all be a part of this fall retreat for 5<sup>th</sup> & 6<sup>th</sup> graders. Children of all races and faith backgrounds are

welcome to attend this event. Campers are encouraged to bring a friend, two, or three! Details, registration and directions to Camp McDowell are on camp's website.

**When is Fall Fling?** Begins: Friday, Oct 14 4:30--5:30 PM Ends: Sunday, Oct 16 12:45 PM

**Cost for the weekend?** \$95 per person; \$3 suggested canteen Financial Assistance is available

**Questions?** Contact Liz Williams, Nativity Youth Minister [lwilliams@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:lwilliams@nativity-hsv.org) or Susanna Whitsett, Program Leader and Event Coordinator at [susanna@campmcdowell.com](mailto:susanna@campmcdowell.com) or 201.281.1903

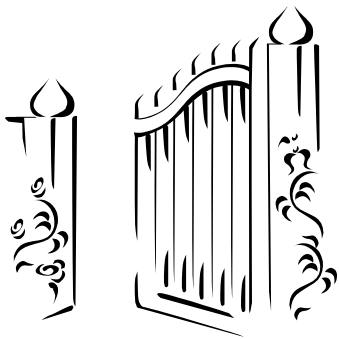
## PRAYERS & COOKIES FOR KAIROS #53

Dear Nativity Members,

Don Wheeler and Michael Shipley will serve on Staff for Kairos # 53 at Limestone Prison the weekend of Oct 20<sup>th</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> 2011. They are asking for your prayers and your help. They need to show up Thursday with lots and lots of cookies for the men in white at Limestone. With all the great cooks at Nativity we are sure you are up for the task.

There are very specific guidelines for the cookies and a sheet with all the specifics can be found at the church office. But the main points are as follows: no fruit, no sugar toppings (powdered or regular sugar ) and no sprinkles of any kind. The cookies or brownies must be in zip lock bags, a dozen to each bag. *This is very important.*

Michael will be picking up the cookies on Wednesday October 19, 2011 at the church office at 1:00 p.m. If you have any questions please don't hesitate to call Michael Shipley @ 256 520 8741 or e-mail at [MichaelShipley@aol.com](mailto:MichaelShipley@aol.com) Thank you for your help with this great ministry.



## ALL SAINTS' MEMORIAL DEDICATIONS

All Saints' Sunday, November 6, 2011 is a splendid time to honor your loved ones by making a memorial gift in their honor. Your gift supports the purchase of annual and perennial plantings, shrubbery, and trees that help make the garden and our church grounds one of Huntsville's most beloved spots for respite and contemplation. Please make your donation by Sunday, October 23 to be included in the special All Saints' Sunday Memorial Service insert. Checks should be payable to Church of the Nativity with annotation, Memorial Garden Fund.

## NEWS AND EVENTS FROM OTHER PARISHES and DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

### **Registration is now open for October & November Folk School at Camp McDowell**

Old-Time Music & Crafts 21 hours of instruction to be held November 4-8. To register or for more information contact Danielle Dunbar, 205-563-9990.

### **2011 Fall Retreat November 18-19 THERE IS MORE TO YOU THAN YOU THINK**

The Commission on Spirituality of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama is proud to sponsor and invite you to attend this retreat featuring the guest speaker, Right Reverend Larry Maze. The retreat, "There is More to You Than You Think," will be conducted at the Church of the Ascension in Vestavia Hills. The retreat begins Nov. 18, 2011 at 6:30 p.m. and ends Nov. 19, at 3:00 p.m. Full schedule and more information can be attained by contacting Sarah Sartain at [ssartain@dioala.com](mailto:ssartain@dioala.com) or 205-715-5060 extension 305

### **Fall Workday Planned at Community Labyrinth Volunteers Needed**

The Mental Health Center of Madison County is in need of volunteers for a work day at the Community Labyrinth located on the Center's campus on Saturday, October 22 from 9:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon. Plans are to weed the beds around the labyrinth, spread grass seed and mulch, and help with stone maintenance. Please call Marilyn Lands at 256.705.6338 or e-mail at [marilyn.lands@mhcmc.org](mailto:marilyn.lands@mhcmc.org) to let us know your availability for planning purposes. Please bring shovels, rakes and gloves if possible; and wear boots or suitable shoes. You may also want a hat and sunscreen. Snacks and water will be provided.

### **Dreams: A Path to Healing and Wholeness**

Join us as we explore our nightly dreams as a means of communication with the Divine. In the morning we will review the history of dreams, particularly Biblical dreams. After lunch, participants will learn about common dream symbols and be given practical methods for working with dreams. Workshop will take place at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church October 22 9 a.m. until 3 p.m. Cost for the workshop is \$25 which includes lunch. For more information contact Beth Cook 256-653-1070 or [bethcook@knology.net](mailto:bethcook@knology.net).

As promised, the Vestry Nominating Committee presents more information about our six nominees. We are pleased to have this talented and skilled group willing to serve on the vestry. The Annual Parish Meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. November 6.

### **AMY BROOKS**

Amy has been very active at Nativity since being confirmed following her marriage to Taylor Brooks twelve years ago. She has chaired the parish retreat and the bazaar and been involved in various other projects. She is an active school parent at Jones Valley school where Caroline and Mary Kate, her two girls, go to school. She has also chaired the Santa's Village at Early Works Museum and she was a member of the Junior League.



### **HANNAH BOON**

Hannah is the Director of Medical Records at Huntsville Hospital. Though she is a native Arkansan, she moved to Huntsville as a sixth grader. She has been a member of Nativity since her confirmation over twenty years ago. She has been a member of the Chamber of Commerce Leadership class and the Symphony Guild. Hannah has worked this summer with the Greene Street Market. She has been an usher, taught Sunday School, served on the visitation committee, and is a graduate of EFM.



### **FREDERICK LANIER**

Frederick is a native Huntsvillian and a life long member of Nativity. He is married to Alice Manning and he has one son, Logan, who is in high school at Randolph. Professionally he is with J. Smith Lanier Real Estate and Insurance. Frederick's work in the community includes the YMCA Board, Huntsville Hospital Foundation Board, and Randolph School Board. At Nativity, he has served on the Finance Committee and the Capital Campaign Committee.



### **TOM LYDON**

Tom is a professional engineer and has degrees in nuclear and mechanical engineering. He has served in the army as a captain and a ranger. He joined Nativity eight years ago after moving to Madison with his partner, Michael Shipley. At Nativity, Tom has worked to provide technical support for the Just Do It program. He has participated in Cursillo and is now in an EFM class.



### **GINNEY MCDONALD**

A nurse by education, Ginney has most recently been working with the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra in development. She has served as President of the Symphony Orchestra Guild and co-chaired the 2009 CrescenDough Auction. She has also volunteered at Randolph School and the Huntsville Youth Orchestra. Ginny has been a member of Nativity since 1999 and served on the organist/choirmaster search committee.



### **ROBERT MULLINS**

Robert has lived in Huntsville since he was a small child and came to Nativity after his marriage to Madeline. They have two little girls, Anna Crawford and Mem. Robert is the area president of Premier Bank. He has served as chair of the Playground Committee for CCIB, been an usher, a member of Blue Apron, cooked with the Men's breakfast group and has been active in the parish retreats.





## 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, October 17, 2011

### 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

**Liz Williams**  
Youth Christian Formation

**Elizabeth Foster**  
Children's Formation

**Cassie Chenoweth**  
Assistant Children's Formation

**Audrey Clayton**  
Nursery Coordinator

**John Buysse**  
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)

### ADULT STUDY GROUP SCHEDULES

For more information please call the church office 256-533-2455

*\* indicates Nursery available, located Joffrion Hall 1st floor*

### Sunday Church School Classes 10:00 a.m. \*

The Zimmerman Bible Study Class meets in Joffrion Hall Library  
*THE LETTER TO THE ROMANS* and *THE ACTS OF THE APOSTLES*  
by William Barclay

A Parenting Class meets in Joffrion Hall Room 2 East  
*Prodigal Sons & Material Girls: How Not to be Your Child's ATM*  
By Nathan Dungan

The Book Class meets in Bibb Chapel  
*The Gift of the Jews* by Thomas Cahill

All Things Spiritual Class meets in Joffrion Hall Room 2 West  
*Falling Upward: A spirituality for the Two Halves of Life* by Richard Rohr

### Weekday Bible Study Groups

#### Monday

7:00 pm Young Adults Small Group (off-site)

#### Wednesday

7:30 a.m. Men's Bible Study (Library)

1:00 p.m. The Good Book Women's Bible Study (Library)

6:00 p.m. Libba Walker Bible Study (Library)

#### Thursday

9:30 a.m. Reflections Bible Study\* (Joffrion Hall 2 East)