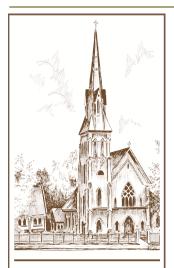
## THE STEEPLE



## CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

#### WORSHIP TIMES

(\* Nursery available)
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

Church School 10:00 a.m.\*

THURSDAY:

6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist Rite II (Bibb Chapel)

#### The Church of the Nativity

January 18, 2012

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.

#### Speak Lord, for your servant is listening

A word from Andy †

Oh really? Patrons of the New York Philharmonic were in Avery Fisher Hall last week to hear the sublime beauty of Mahler's 9th Symphony. But the soft and spiritual notes of the symphony's final measures were interrupted by a marimba ring on someone's cell phone. When the annoying sounds continued and continued, the conductor stopped the performance, something almost unheard of. The beauty communicated in this holy moment was interrupted by a careless distraction. A patron had failed to make adequate preparations to be fully present that night. The music ended until the uninvited noise was quelled.

I have sometimes wondered if God stops the music and goes silent during my own failures to be present in life's moments of holy communication. Am I sometimes distracted by too many interrupting sounds of my own careless attentiveness? Our world offers many ways for discordant noises to disrupt us, often allowing the urgent to take precedence over the important.

The staples of modern life bring new responsibilities. The intruding cell phone's owner last week didn't know how to use his own phone, the *New York Times* reported (an excuse, perhaps, but a weak argument for the situation). The same thing happened to me at Rotary not too long ago. But at least my phone rang during the concluding announcements and not during the speaker's driving point (and note: NO marimba tone!) Is my cell phone of anxiety, scheming, and fear emitting interruptive noises because I choose not to turn off the addling device when God is speaking to me...when I need for God to speak to me above all else? Do I realize the impact the world we live in affects my ability to listen to what I most need to hear the most?

This past Sunday's Old Testament reading, <u>1st Samuel 3:1-10</u>, couldn't be more timely. The story of the boy Samuel in the Temple attempting to hear God's voice speaking to him sheds light upon our modern predicament. Want to hear God speaking to you? Take a closer look.

We hear that Samuel sleeps in the presence of the Lord in the Temple. The more we deliberately choose to be in those places God is present, the better our chances of hearing God's speaking. God's presence is all around us, but God is especially present in the celebration of the Eucharist. You can't get to church this Sunday? We have opportunities for you to be in Christ's presence on Wednesdays and Thursdays, too! Another way God is present is when we serve God in our neighbors. When we unselfishly give ourselves to others, we are giving ourselves to God. And God will speak to us in these moments.

God speaks to Samuel in the silence of the night. The world is so noisy, we need some silence in our lives to hear God speaking. God is present in the silence. Often our prayers are a one-way conversation with our doing all the talking. Find a way for holy silence to be a part of your day. It takes discipline. When I follow the Centering Prayer discipline twice a day, I hear God's voice more regularly. There are many other ways this can work for you. Find a way.

Listening, sometimes we hear God speaking difficult words to us. That was true for Samuel. And so he needed his mentor Eli to encourage him and to help him know God's voice. We need each other to help us discern God's voice. That is why Bible Study, Reunion Groups and EFM and other regular gatherings with the faithful are germane to hearing God's voice.

But hearing God begins with one simple instruction of making ourselves available, giving God permission to speak. Speak Lord, for your servant is listening. And then be quiet!

#### PARISH NEWS and EVENTS

PLEASE HELP! Donations for this project is very low, please consider helping with the work of Nativity's Medical Mission Team in the medical clinics in our companion villages of Haiti. The team leaves February 4<sup>th</sup> and would appreciate the following:

Toothbrushes Antifungal Creams Eyeglasses (new and gently-used)

Children's Vitamins Pre-natal Vitamins Adult Vitamins

Look for large clear plastic bins in Ridley Hall.



#### Prayer Box in Ridley Hall

The Daughters of the King prayer box has been moved to the literature rack in Ridley Hall. All those who desire that prayers be offered for themselves or loved ones may place their requests in the box. All requests are confidential.

The Daughters of the King is a religious order within the Episcopal Church. Through its emphasis on spirituality and prayer it hopes to encourage others to have a deeper relationship with our Lord Jesus Christ.

#### Tea and Information given by the Daughters of the King

You are cordially invited to an informational tea given by the Daughters of the King. This is an opportunity to explore what it means to be a Daughter and to follow their Rule of Prayer and Rule of Service.

Please join us on Sunday January 22, at 1 PM at the home of Pam Rogers at 2225 DeRussey Rd. SE For information or reservation contact Mari Zimmerman 256-520-0881 or <a href="mailto:zimmerman@nehp.net">zimmerman@nehp.net</a>

#### The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama presents...

#### MUSIC CONFERENCE FOR CHILDREN



Workshop Leaders: Suzanne Purtee, Anne Chelekis, Donna Clark, and Jennifer Jonas Who? Area Young People in grades K-5th

What? One-day workshop

Why? Celebrate our Liturgical Musical Heritage and

traditions with the playing of instruments, singing of the Psalms, and learning of a wonderful African gospel

anthem.

Where? St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Huntsville, Alabama

When? January 28, 9:45 AM-2 PM

Cost: \$10 per young person, maximum \$25 per family (w/lunch)

Please contact Ms. Suzanne Purtee for Registration Forms & more information.

#### Nativity Banister Room Art Gallery presents new artwork



Janet Stewart Lindsay has a studio in her home in the Coldwater Community in southern Lincoln County. She works in several mediums, but her specialty is painting oil portraits of children or adults. She has studied portrait painting under Michael Shane Neal and Gordon Wetmore. One of her abstract paintings was recently chosen to hang in the Huntsville City Mayor's office. Contact and price list are located in red binder on table in The Banister Room.

IT IS NOT TOO LATE to make your 2012 pledge before your Vestry begins the work of planning worship, musical, educational, programmatic, outreach, and other offerings for 2012. Your financial support funds ongoing commitments as well as strengthen several target areas and allow new requests.

#### Annual Newcomers Welcome Dinner on Sunday, January 29 at 6 p.m.

New to Nativity? You are invited to a casual dinner held in your honor at the home of Don & Kay Wheeler. The clergy and staff of Nativity would love to have the chance to get to know you better. Please contact the church office at 256-533-2455 or RSVP to linda.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org. Please note that child care won't be provided for this event.

<u>2012 Offering Envelopes are available in Ridley Hall.</u> Please help save postage by getting your envelopes either on Sunday or during office hours (M-Th 9-4; Fr 9-12:30.) If you have not requested preprinted, dated envelopes you can request them from Beverly Franklin, 256-533-2455.

#### Parishioners' gifts to Foster Children brought another year of happiness!



Gail and Ronnie Rogers (FOCAL Volunteers) want to thank all the parishioners of Nativity who so generously gave gifts to the foster children in the FOCAL program. Your generosity never fails to amaze us. We also thank all the children and adults who helped us carry the gifts into the church and offer them at the altar. And lastly we thank the ones who stayed and help us organize the gifts for distribution.

### 2012 Pledges by Dollar Range January 18, 2011

\$1,000 or <	103
\$1,001 - \$2,999.99	132
\$3,000 - \$4,999.99	71
\$5,000 - \$9,999.99	43
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	10
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	7
\$25,000 - \$39,999.99	3
\$40,000 or >	1
Total Number of Pledges	370

Total Dollar Amount of Pledges

\$1,180,676.32

Average Pledge \$3,191.02

The Source Books and Gifts invite you to stop by to check out our new book inventory, gifts, and consignment art creations by Nativity's artists:

- Monogrammed wall crosses created by Holly Ellis.
- Portraits by Jerry Whitworth.

Requests welcome! Please note the new phone number for the store: 256-771-3716. Our operating hours are Sunday 9:00 a.m.—3:00 p.m., Tuesday—Saturday 10:00 a.m.—6:00 p.m.

#### ALTAR FLOWERS 2012 DEDICATION FORM

If you are interested in dedicating **Altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2012**, 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. **Altar Flowers are \$40 or \$20 for shared dedications.** 

	Dates Available: Aug. 5, 12, 26 & Sept. 2, 9
PL	EASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, THANK YOU.
Date desired	
Your Name	
Phone # Do you wish to have your name listed	
<b>J</b> ,	of God and in loving memory of or in thanksgiving for or in celebration of" fic by underlining or circling your desired dedication above:
Name for this altar flower dedication	on:



#### NATIVITY YOUTH WEBSITE, check it out to stay informed www.nativityyouth.org.

#### Hi all!

January seems to be trucking along, and with it our youth programs! Read on for some great stuff going on for our youth!

Did someone say Super Bowl? Everyone loves to hang out, watch the game, eat some fun food, and even more importantly, watch the commercials. We'll meet up at my house for the game and general hang out time on February 5<sup>th</sup>. Bring your favorite football eating snack to share, too!

BIG NEWS!!! We are going on a mission trip to NEW ORLEANS!!! We will be in New Orleans from July 21-July 27, 2012. I only have 8 spots open, so let me know if this is something you want to do. The total cost for the trip is \$500 with a deposit of \$100 due by

February 5. We will be doing a fundraiser or two to lower that cost (details to come later).

There are also a couple other things to know about this trip: In order to go, you must attend at least 8 youth events before the trip (Sunday School and/or EYC). You can bring a friend, but priority will be given to active members first. If you are a rising 9th grader through graduating senior, you are eligible to participate. I do encourage you to talk about this with your parent/youth if you are interested. We will have an information meeting on January 22 at 12:30 in the Library. IT'S GOING TO BE AWESOME!

Ever hear of Sawyerville? I'm sure you've heard about all the awesome things that happen during those two weeks in Hale County and want to be a part of the greatness. They are still accepting staff applications so check it out!

http://sawyervilleworkproject.org/Staff.php

Peace, Liz

#### Your Foyer Mixer Invitation 2012!

Foyer Mixer - Sunday February 12, 6:00 p.m. at home of Gail and Ronnie Rogers; 2121 Greenslope Trail RSVP welcomed but not required Any and all welcome, bring a finger food and BYOB.

Questions: call Gail: 256 539 8044 or email Gail: gailandronnierogers@juno.com

Curious about Cursillo? Looking for more info?

Come and learn!

DATE: Sunday, February 12, 2012

TIME: 5:30 pm

PLACE: Nativity's Ridley Hall

**MEAL:** Dinner catered by Sally Stockton

RSVP: drc3898@knology.net or church office 256-533-2455 by February 6

#### **Dear Clergy of Nativity,**

I would like to thank you for the beautiful service Christmas Eve. Our daughter grew up at Nativity, and is now a 'lapsed Episcopalian.' The beauty of the service, Susanna's singing, Andy's message of joy, and the open invitation to the Lord's Table nearly did her in. She said to me, "That was the first positive experience I've had with anything calling itself Christianity in years."

I have no idea where this may lead her, but for one glorious night she experienced the faith she grew up in, accepting, joyous, and beautiful.

Thank you, A Nativity Parent

#### INTERCESSION REQUESTS

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

June Thomson, Rhiannon Jackson, Mary Ann Bryan, Kristi Allen, Donald Perry, Elsie Olsen, Eileen Sullivan, Ernie Limbo, Bill Marsh, Angel Colin, Leigh Wahl, Scott Shelton, Joy Gass, Emile Joffrion, John, Nancy Kelly.

#### We pray for the departed:

The Rev'd Deacon Elaine DiFranco, mother of Dennis DiFranco:

Carolyn Cunningham, mother of Diane Cunningham;

Walter Fisk, brother of Lorene Dilworth; Robert Boerner, father of Beverly Farington

#### We pray for those in Military & Peace Corps:

Kuwait: Spencer Colin;

Afghanistan: Lane Sampson-Jackson Blake Lane

The Gambia, W Africa: Marisa Benzle

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

1/25 Harrison Hudson, Andrew Dunn

1/27 Christopher Lovejoy

1/29 Palmer Ford, Evelyn Roche

Emery Windham 1/31

Brooke Sherman, Celia Farrell, 2/1

Caroline Avolese

Paul-Michael Williamson, Edward Rosler 2/2

2/3 John Bohan

Will Brambach 2/5

#### ACOLYTE SCHEDULE FEBRUARY 2012

Feb 5 Sunday		Feb 19 Sunday	
<u>8:45</u>	<u>11:00</u>	<u>8:45</u>	<u> 11:00</u>
C A Dunn. I Braudaway	C R Baugher, NK Baugher	C T King, C Kelly	C E Moody, C Douthit
T C Bates, J Grelier	T JS Evans, E Evans	T HB Bryant, F Aldag	T Jordan Dunn, C Nelson
T J Anglin, J Laney	T P Naumann, F Naumann	T P Ford, C Rodgers	T J Laney, H Shrout
S Spencer Anglin	<b>S</b> R Joffrion	S S Rodgers	S E Nelson
AS M Caprio	AS Steuart Evans	AS KN Hall	AS F Shrout

#### Feb 12 Sunday

<u>8:45</u>	<u> 11:00</u>
C M Sharp, K Walker	C Harrison Hunter, Bird Sherrill
T R Walker, G Sharp	T W Hunter, L Markwalter
T SG Moore, L Luther	T A Taylor, P Stockton
<b>S</b> L Sharp	S Trace Markwalter
AS Neill Luther	AS S Watson

#### Feb 22

#### **ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE**

6:00 P.M.

C W Ellison T E Ellison, S Purvis S H Ward AS Emily Ellison

#### Feb 18 SATURDAY 8:30 A.M. DIOCESAN CONVENTION SERVICE

#### Arrive by 8 A.M. for instruction for this IMPORTANT SERVICE

С	R Quillen, N Carter	<b>S</b> K Correale
Т	J Cozby, C Bates	AS K Schneider
Т	C McDonald, J DiFranco	Thurifer P Quillen
Ba	anners: T Morring, M Walker, H	Hudson

#### Feb 26 Sunday

<u>8:45</u>	<u> 11:00</u>
C I Braudaway, R Chilton	C MM Ragland, S O'Neal
T A Chilton, J Chilton	T K Schneider, A Taylor
T J Grelier, C Bates	T J Cozby, H Ward
<b>S</b> A Young	<b>S</b> SL Miller
AS Meredith Walker	AS Allie Starnes

4400

#### Hello friends,

After the short hiatus over the holidays, we will soon be starting our young adult small group again.

- Beginning February 1st, we will meet every 1st & 3rd Wednesday night, 6:00—8:00pm (Feb-May)
- We will be preparing a simple meal together sharing stories, breaking bread, giving thanks. I'll be calling on some of you to help coordinate the cooking.

We will be joining together with The Rev. Wren Miller (associate pastor of 1st Methodist) and their young adult group.

I'll send a reminder out the week of, but I hope you'll go ahead and mark your calendars. I hope to see you all soon!

Grace & peace,

Brad+

#### Stewardship of Creation Note for January 18, 2012

As the new year settles in and we look forward to plans and activities for the year and think about how we want to live out our faith in the "day to day" of our lives, let's take a look at an important question:

#### Why Do People of Faith Care About Creation?

Caring for the Earth is a fundamental part of religious faith. Nearly every major faith tradition and Christian denomination has a statement about the need to respect, enjoy, and protect God's gift of the world around us. Underlying these statements is a set of core values that speak to the heart of religious morals and ethics: spirituality, stewardship, sustainability, and justice.

#### **Spirituality**

Creation itself inspires us and calls us to care. Many people have had their most profound spiritual experience in nature. As we behold the power and love of God in a mountain range, a sunset, or in the timelessness of the ocean, we can't help but be moved. But creation also includes humans – our families, communities, and created landscapes. God created all things of Heaven and Earth and God is our inspiration to care for both wild places and our own cities and backyards.

#### **Stewardship**

Psalm 24 states that "the Earth is the Lord's and all that is in it, the world, and those who live in it." Humans simply hold the Earth in trust for God. We are tenants here, called to care for the creation on behalf of future generations and all species. The Bible calls us to "till and keep the garden" and names human beings as the trustees of creation. Because God created all the Earth and all of us, creation is beautiful and good and sacred. We are called by our devotion to God and our love for God's works to protect it.

#### Sustainability

At the heart of sustainability is the goal of meeting the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs. In a world of finite resources, those among us who have more than enough must address patterns of consumption so that we can provide for all. Acquiring more "stuff" has a direct effect on the sustainability of the planet and on the quality of life for people around the globe. The good news is that more and more people are realizing that spiritual emptiness can't be filled by consumption. What makes us happy is intimacy – intimacy with God, with self, and with others. In the end, sustainability means seeing ourselves and our neighbors as children of God, not as consumers or competitors for Earth's resources.

#### Justice

Justice means that in addition to providing aid to our neighbors, we are called to change societal systems that cause poverty, injustice, and environmental damage in the first place. It goes beyond helping to meet physical needs to creating a society with laws and policies that allow the needs of all Earth's inhabitants to be met. Care and responsibility for the "least of these among us" is a central tenant of Christianity and has a direct connection to environment issues. The impact of environmental degradation falls most heavily on the people around the world who are least able to mitigate these impacts — poor and vulnerable populations. It also disproportionately affects fragile plants, animals and ecosystems. Working for justice calls us to channel our faith into power, to call for social and environmental justice at the local, state and national level.

#### Cinema retreat to focus on the film Into Great Silence

Listening to God in Holy Silence: A Cinema Retreat will be held January 27-29 at the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman, AL. It will be led by Sister Priscilla Cohen, OSB. In the retreat, participants will pray and reflect with the film Into Great Silence (Director Philip Gröning) which portrays the strict silent life of the Carthusian monks.

The program will begin Friday evening and will end after the noon meal on Sunday. The cost for the weekend is \$195/person for a private room and \$175/person for a shared room; lodging, meals, and linens are included. For registration information, please contact the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center at (256) 734-8302 or by email at retreats@shmon.org.

#### January 12, 2012 Port au Prince, Haiti

Dear Friends,

Greetings from Haiti in the Name of our Lord Jesus Christ.

As we transition from Advent season and welcome 2012, it is an apt time to remark new beginnings. We are pleased to be celebrating many new beginnings in the Diocese of Haiti. This year we do this while evaluating progress in light of the two-year anniversary of the devastating 2010 earthquake.

The earthquake of 2010 will be fixed in our national consciousness for decades to come and has thus been integrated into the national vernacular. When referring to events, Haitians almost always specify whether it occurred 'before or after the Twelfth'.

We are thankful this year, and always, to be a part of the World Wide Anglican Communion. The support within our Church continues to gain momentum even while the catastrophe fades out of international consideration.

On behalf of the Diocese of Haiti, I thank you for supporting the rebuilding of the Holy Trinity Cathedral. The Cathedral is the center of worship for Diocese of Haiti. We are pleased to state that the Request for Proposals to rebuild the Cathedral has been issued and the international team charged with rebuilding Holy Trinity will soon choose among the proposals a firm to design and build the new house of worship. We count on continued support to complete the project. The rebuilding of the Cathedral will be a victory for the Anglican Communion and the downtown Port au Prince renaissance. We appreciate all of you who participate.

Thank you also for your steadfast support of the Diocese of Haiti's diverse ministries. Individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds met us in Haiti and offered their gifts, talents, and resources. Many more offer their significant support from their homes. Thank you for giving of yourselves for the benefit of your brothers and sisters in Haiti. Despite the continued challenges of insecurity, limited access to clean water, and inflated prices, all Diocesan institutions are functioning albeit in temporary structures made mostly of plywood and corrugated metal. We look forward to moving all of these institutions into permanent appropriate structures. We look forward also to increasing the community development programs of the Diocese such as micro-credit loans and technical education to insure ourselves for the challenges to come. Together we are moving from the relief stage of recovery into a steady pace striding into a better future.

In March, the Diocese of Haiti welcomed a Chief Operating Officer, Mr. Sikhumbuzo Vundla. Mr. Vundla works closely with Diocesan leadership to facilitate the reconstruction process. The Diocese benefits from his knowledge and experience.

This Fall, the Diocese of Haiti elected Rev. Canon, Ogé Beauvoir as Bishop Suffragan to serve in the North. This is an important step in a plan to decentralize and reorganize. The Bishop Suffragan will share leadership duties with the Diocesan Bishop increasing the capacities of all Diocesan ministries.

The potential of what has begun in 2011 adds fuel to the fires of hope and resilience. We are elated to realize tangible advancements. We have many positive things to celebrate 'after the twelfth'. Our joy multiplies knowing that it is shared with so many brothers and sisters around the world.

God's Peace to you and your families at the commencement of a new year. Please know that each one of you is remembered in the prayers of your Haitian friends. May God bless each and every one of you in all of your endeavors this year.

In Christ, The Right Reverend J. Zaché Duracin Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Haiti



Theological Education:
Today's Reality, Tomorrow's Dreams



The Very Rev. Wm. Stafford, Ph.D. Dean, School of Theology, Sewanee

Wednesday, January 25th

Dinner: 5:15 p.m. Speaker: 6:00 p.m.

Nursery Available

Reservations are required for Dinner and the Nursery.

Call the church office for reservations by January 23rd: 256-533-2455.

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				THURSDAY, Feb	ruary 2,	, HE				
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1:00 AM	Anderson	Landry	Ed Vaughn, Janet Ro				Mickey Ellis, Rich Goodwin		Adalene Bledsoe	
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January 3	0 – February 5	F	ebruary 6 – 12	February 13	3-19		February 20 – 26	Feb	ruary 27 – March 4	
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#### 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, January 31.

#### **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 Jeannie Robison
Deacon

#### **Suzanne Purtee**

Organist/Choirmaster

Lane Tutt

**Adult Christian Formation** 

Liz Williams

Youth Minister

#### Elizabeth Foster

Children's Formation

Cassie Chenoweth
Assistant 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**

#### Pat Goodson

Senior Warden

#### Russ Alexander

Junior Warden

#### Frederick Lanier

Treasurer

#### Hannah Boon

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 256-533-2455Fax: 256-533-2374

www.nativity-hsv.org

# Nativity Reception honoring those who served with the Nativity Capital Campaign

the Implementation Process

Now that four years of work are completed on our Capital Campaign and Implementation, the Vestry and Congregation will take time out to say, "Thank You!"

to those who have worked so faithfully by giving their time and talent in this endeavor.

On Sunday, February 5, following the 11:00 a.m. service, please join us as we offer our heartfelt thanks with a reception in Ridley Hall.