

# THE STEEPLE

## The Church of the Nativity

March 7, 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.*

### *Taking Nativity into the Workplace*

On Tuesday, we did something different this Lent. Nativity went to the workplace. Instead of inviting people to the church for our Tuesday Noonday preaching service, Nativity went west, to Cummings Research Park, right into the heart of one of Huntsville's major business centers. Many of our folks work out that way and so it is difficult for them to get into town in the middle of the day. So we made our way to them and to others who might not find it so easy to get to us.

Tuesday wasn't only for our folks—we invited the workforce out that way, many of us bringing our work colleagues. I invited two non-Nativity friends from the gym who work on the Arsenal and they both showed! We took the church out there into the world for the world to have greater access to what we have discovered is life giving and a well of hope for us. Many of us travelled from downtown and other parts of Huntsville to be the church out there, outside of and away from our familiar place of being church at 208 Eustis Avenue. Offering hospitality in a foreign land we might say! Many have never even been out to Cummings Research Park, which in many ways, serves as another hub of our city. It was good for us to go. It was good this Lent to take the church beyond our corner of Eustis and Greene. It was good to be reminded that there are others who are looking for good news.

Lent is a time to think outside of the box, to do things differently, to get out of our spiritual ruts so that God can forge new paths of grace; so that faith can be strengthened in new and broader ways. But the things we do in Lent aren't meant to be isolated and singular, Lent's work is like the work of spring from which it gets its name: we prepare the ground and soil of our lives, we plant seeds and fertilize and weed and mulch for the new growth that God gives.

The Church does not exist for our sakes, but for the sake of the world for which Christ died and rose again. Archbishop of Canterbury William Temple said the church only exists for those who do not yet belong to it. And so Christian ministry and hospitality ultimately must go out there: into the workplace, the marketplace, the schoolyard, and into the depths of life in its hardest places. We are called to take Nativity into our workplace and beyond each and every day, wherever that may be for us.

Our faith is not just something that is practiced on Sunday or when we attend events at Nativity. Our faith is to be lived and shared with the world each and every day. Each day, you are inviting others to know faith or not know faith by the way you live your life. Faith is revealed in the decisions you make regarding business matters, your school work, your community service, employment relations, and in all the ways we deal with others. How you spend your money, how you organize your time, what priorities you choose, how you vote, the jokes you tell, all point to the faith within that flows out from the center of your heart and life. Nativity is always in the workplace whether we realize it or not.

This Lent, may we pay attention to and do those things that will help our faith grow in the workplace. May we grow in Christ's love that came to us, right into the depths of our lives, to give us life and peace at a terrible price and an immense glory. God's love in Christ has reached beyond eternity to meet you just where you are. May this love enlarge your heart to find others who do not yet belong to the church, and who God is calling you to love and serve.

*Andy +*



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)

## PARISH NEWS and EVENTS



### Nativity Lenten Opportunities

Stations of the Cross - Thursday, March 8

following the 6:00 Thursday Eucharist Service. Please meet in Ridley Hall.

### Tuesdays in Lent 2012, Church

#### **Noonday Preaching Series "I Invite You to a Holy Lent"**

- 30 minute service beginning at 12:05 p.m. in the Church
- Following the Church services, box lunches (\$7 each) will be available in Ridley Hall.
- Reservations for lunches are required by the previous Monday noon, 533-2455

#### ***Noon Series Preachers:***

**Tuesday, March 13**

The Rev'd David Dill, Rector, Church of the Good Shepherd, Decatur, AL

**Tuesday, March 20**

The Rev'd Susan Sloan, Rector, St. Stephen's, Huntsville, AL

### Wednesday Nights in Lent 2012, Ridley Hall

- Dinner is served beginning at 5:15 p.m.
  - Lenten Speakers will begin at 6:00 p.m.
  - Children's Lenten Program will begin at 6:00 p.m.
  - Youth Lenten Program will begin at 6:00 p.m. in EYC Room
  - Nursery\* will open at 5:30 p.m. (reservations ONLY)
- Reservations for dinner and \*nursery are required by the previous Tuesday noon, 533-2455.

#### ***Wednesday Night Lenten Speakers:***

**Wednesday, March 14**

The Rev'd John Bagby, Interim Rector, Holy Comforter, Gadsden, AL

**Wednesday, March 21**

The Rev'd King Oehmig, retired Episcopal Priest, Founder and Editor of Synthesis Publications, Chattanooga, TN

**Wednesday, March 28**

The Rev'd Dexter Bender, Priest in Charge, St. Luke's Scottsboro, AL



Habitat House News

### House Raising Ceremony, March 10, 9:00 a.m.

This year we will be building a four bedroom house at 6330 Banks Road for Diane Warren and her family. Dianne is originally from Chicago, but has lived in Tennessee and Alabama most of her life. Diane, her two daughters, Amanda, 25, and Lindsey, 21, two grandchildren, A'shanae, 10 months, and Linden, 8 months will live in the house. Diane is employed with National Copper.

This year our group will include Church of the Nativity Episcopal, First Christian, St. John's AME, St. Mathew's Episcopal; First Presbyterian, Aldersgate Methodist, United Church Of Huntsville, & Covenant Presbyterian. Questions may be directed to Bill Giardini 539-0973, giardiniw@bellsouth.net

DATE	ACTIVITY
Mar. 10	Deliver walls to site, Erect walls and trusses, HOUSE RAISING CEREMONY 9:00 AM Mar 10
Mar.13, 15, 17	Apply blueboard to walls, deck roof, install windows, ext. doors, hurricane clips, and deadwood

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

## Evensong Date Change:

The Nativity Choir will sing Evensong on **Sunday, April 1st, at 5 pm.** This is a change from the previously scheduled date of Sunday, March 11th (there will not be evensong on the 11th). We hope you can attend on April 1st!

## Nativity Pilgrimage to Holy Land Plans Finalized

A Wine and Cheese Gathering will take place, Thursday March 22, 6:30 in Ridley Hall for all interested in learning more about this pilgrimage. If you have registered or want to learn more please attend this important question and answer time.

Rector Andy Anderson and Academy Travel will lead a pilgrimage to the Holy Land October 12 – October 27, 2012. The cost is \$4521.00 per person including airfare departure Friday morning from Huntsville and returning to Huntsville Saturday afternoon. (Does not include airline fuel surcharge and taxes.) Deposit at time of application is \$500.00 (fully refundable until airline reduction date.) Final payment is due 45 days prior to departure. If interested, please [send a note to Linda Wheeler](#) or call 256-533-2455 and the information will be mailed to you. Click for [registration form](#), [pricing](#), and [itinerary](#). *Note: All registrations and deposits should go directly to Academy Travel, not to Nativity.*

## Procedure for using Nativity's Tablecloths:

Please remember that the Nativity tablecloths are stored on hangers in Al Ford's office, located downstairs next to the WoRM. The tablecloths are to be used for church use only. They must be checked out by using the form on the rack. If you use them; you are to launder/dry clean them, return them clean and on hangers, hung on the rack by size. Thank you!

## NATIVITY YOUTH WEBSITE, check it out to stay informed [www.nativityyouth.org](http://www.nativityyouth.org)

### Youth News – The Steeple 3/5/12

We're slowly making our way through Lent, and each Wednesday night Nativity offers programs for all ages. While the parents are downstairs listening to the speaker, **we've got our own programs in the youth room!** Dinner begins at 5:15 and the program starts at 6:00. In order to count for dinner, make a reservation (\$7 for a yummy meal!) by calling the office.

**Rites of Spring** is a new title for a combination weekend of Spring Break Conference and EYC Convention hosted by the diocesan Youth Department. This weekend will be full of fun, but also a little bit of business. There will be elections for the new Youth Department, and you get a say! Also, if you want to run for Youth Department, let me know and we'll make it happen. To register, go to the website of the Diocese of Alabama Youth Ministry and click on the link provided.

There's also time left to sign up for Young People Paint Birmingham! This is a short term mission trip for all those entering 7<sup>th</sup> grade through 9<sup>th</sup> grade from June 3-7, 2012. I've heard about a few youth that want to attend, but let's fill up the whole

van (if not both vans!). For more information, visit the diocesan website. And when you sign up, let me know so we can coordinate travel plans.

See y'all soon!  
Peace,  
Liz

## Nativity Parish Registration begins Sunday, March 11

The Parish Retreat (**April 27 – 29**) is a fun, relaxing weekend with your church friends at Wonderful Camp McDowell. Look for the registration table in Ridley Hall. Questions? Contact the church office.

This year we will enjoy time with guest presenter, The Rev'd Nikki Mathis, Assistant Dean for Community Life/ Sewanee. Our Parish Weekend chairpersons Kim Husky and Kelly Copeland have planned Parish Retreat 2012 with the entire family in mind and have chosen "We Are Family" as the theme for 2012. The excitement is in the air as plans are now ready to take shape and registration begins!

## Have you made your pledge for 2012?

Your Stewardship Committee is working hard to close out the 2012 campaign so that the Vestry can finalize the 2012 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 \$26,000 each WEEK to orchestrate the ministries of 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 it is 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 of 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 415 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 2012, 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 2012, you can place the pledge card in the alms basket, call Beverly Franklin in the church office (256-533-2455) or send an e-mail to [bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org) today. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Nativity Stewardship Committee

You may cut the portion below and mail to : Attn: Bookkeeper, 208 Eustis Ave., Huntsville AL 35801

### 2012 PLEDGE CARD

***I/We make a financial pledge to The Church of the Nativity for the year 2012.***

Please print information:

Name/s \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Email address \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: Home \_\_\_\_\_ Cell \_\_\_\_\_ Work \_\_\_\_\_

***I/We want to respond to God with an Attitude of Gratitude by pledging a total of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ for 2012.***

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We want to receive pledge envelopes.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We do not want to receive pledge envelopes.

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We want to continue or begin Electronic Funds Transfer

\_\_\_\_\_ I/We want to receive information for credit or debit transactions.

Your Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## Stewardship of Creation Article March 7, 2012

In the immortal words of Mr. McGuire from *The Graduate*: "I just want to say one word to you. Just one word. . . . Are you listening? . . . Plastics."

### **Educate Yourself on Plastic Recycling**

It is easy to mistake the "chasing arrows" symbol as a sign that a material is recyclable, but you might be shocked to learn that it only denotes products that are plastic. Not all plastic is easily recyclable; moreover, a lot of plastic ends up in the landfill, or worse — en route to the Great Pacific Garbage Patch. We encourage you to read up on the fate of everyday plastics; you may find it is more complicated than you once thought. Know when to reduce, when to recycle, and when to reuse.

### **A misconception: Our choice is limited to recycling or wasting.**

**Source reduction** is preferable for many types of plastic and isn't difficult. Opportunities include using refillable containers, buying in bulk, buying things that don't need much packaging, and buying things in recyclable and recycled packages.

### **Strategies to Reduce the Environmental Impact of Plastics**

#### **1. Reduce the use**

Source reduction: Retailers and consumers can select products that use little or no packaging. When you are making choices about the products you buy, select packaging materials that are recycled into new packaging - **such as glass and paper**. If people refuse plastic as a packaging material, the industry will decrease production for that purpose, and the associated problems such as energy use, pollution, and adverse health effects will diminish.

#### **2. Reuse containers**

Since refillable containers can be reused, **container reuse** can lead to a substantial reduction in the demand for disposable plastic, and reduced use of materials and energy, with the consequent reduced environmental impacts.

For an interesting and eye-opening up-date on what happens to a lot of the plastic items we use, go on-line to watch the recent "CBS Sunday Morning" segment (originally aired Sunday, March 4<sup>th</sup>) entitled "Rubbish."

A Challenge: The most efficient and cost-effective solution to the harm plastic does to human health and the environment is to refuse wasteful single-use plastic. Try removing one type of disposable plastic from your life every week, starting with grocery bags and water bottles. From there be mindful about the plastics you allow into your life. If all of us cut our plastic use

## **EASTER FLOWERS 2012 DEDICATION FORM**

Flower dedications for Easter are being accepted from now until Sunday, April 1, for a contribution of \$20. Your check should be made out to "Flower Guild" and mailed to: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801. If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 539-2673.

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

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

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

Do you wish to have your name listed in the Easter Service Booklet? Yes \_\_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

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

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



*"Well done, good and faithful servant"*

Church of the Nativity Huntsville

Is hereby recognized by the

181st Convention

of the Episcopal Church

In the

Diocese of Alabama

for

Their Increased Proportional

Pledge For Support of

Our Shared Mission and Ministry

In 2012

Signed by The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

Diocesan Bishop

## FINANCIAL CORNER

### 2012 Pledge report March 5

\$1,000 or <	123
\$1,001 - \$2,999.99	156
\$3,000 - \$4,999.99	77
\$5,000 - \$9,999.99	46
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	10
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	7
\$25,000 - \$39,999.99	3
\$40,000 or >	<u>1</u>
Total Number of Pledges	423
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	
	\$1,278, 056.32
Average Pledge	\$3,021.41



### Nativity ECW Wine and Cheese gathering

You are invited for a Wine & Cheese gathering to celebrate being *Episcopal Church Women!*

Please join other Nativity Women on Sunday, March 11, 4:00 p.m. – 6:00 p.m.

We will meet at the home of Connie Stephenson located on 526 Adams Avenue.

All women are invited, no reservations necessary, nothing to bring!

### COOKIES for PRISON MINISTRY—Wednesday March 14, prior to 1:00 p.m.

Michael Shipley is serving on Staff for Kairos #54 at Limestone Correctional Facility March 15-18. You can be a part of this weekend by baking brownies or cookies. Over 1400 dozen cookies will be consumed over the weekend. Just remember, one dozen per ziplock bag, no fruit or toppings (including sugar sprinkles) on the cookies. If you need more information about the specifics for the cookies please contact the Church office. Michael will be picking up the cookies from the Church office on Wed March 14 at 1:00. Please Pray for all the men in white and the team for a great Kairos weekend.

### Upcoming Nativity Baptism Schedule:

Saturday, April 27, 7:30 p.m.; Sunday, May 27, 8:45 & 11:00 a.m.; Sunday, June 10, 10:00 a.m.

To schedule a baptism please contact Connie Gadowski, Ministry Assistant in the church office 256-533-2455. She will get the necessary paperwork to you.

**Just Do It!** Are you involved with a non-profit agency that might want to use Nativity outreach volunteers from time to time during the year? If so, please send an email to [JustDolt@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:JustDolt@nativity-hsv.org) with the name of the organization and how you are involved with it so that we can take the appropriate steps to add them to the Just Do It program.

### Banister Room Art Display features Oscar Lee Ardis

Ardis' life story is one which began in 1954 in South Alabama as the seventh child of twelve where he learned hard work, respect, and discipline from his parents as they struggled to keep their family above absolute poverty. As a child he often sought solitude to escape the stresses he faced and discovered he really enjoyed drawing and using his imagination to create his art. Over the years his life changed, he was incarcerated, he has survived cancer, & moved to Huntsville with the dream of opening a free Christian Art Gallery. He has been commissioned to portray favorite scenes from the scriptures and is gaining recognition through the art community and continues to remain true to his covenant to only create art that glorifies God, and uplifts mankind.

## **INTERCESSION REQUESTS**

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

Sara Little, Pauline Reynolds, Jennie Coe, Gilda May, Laura Warren, Joan Bennett, June Thomson, Roy, Rhiannon Jackson, Kristi Allen, Ernie Limbo, Leigh Wahl, Bill Marsh, Elsie Olsen, Joy Gass, Emile Joffrion, Eileen Sullivan, Angel Colin, John, Nancy Kelly.

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

John Epps, parishioner

Julie Kirk, parishioner

Elena Contreras de Arellano, sister of Frank Contreras

Logan Baugher, cousin of Nancy Kate, Reece, and Caroline Baugher

Samuel Kuykendall, grandfather of Margaret Day Baker

Hadrian Montgomery Allen Herrin, infant son of Daniel Herrin and Kristi Allen

Eunice Clevenger, mother of Terry Clevenger

### **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:**

#### **Birth of a child:**

Mary Louise Daniel, daughter of Clifton and Meredith Daniel;  
granddaughter of Louise and John Reynolds

#### **Birthdays of our children:**

3/5 Caroline Abney

3/7 Mary Maddox Creech

3/8 Catherine Hendricks

3/11 Leighton Luther

3/12 Riley Kamelchuk, Patton Park, Foard Naumann

3/14 Adalayda Smith, Riley Alexander

3/15 Charles Ray

3/16 Timmy Curran

#### **New members:**

Lorraine and John Ennis,

Melissa, Tod, Van, Will, and Drew Dodgen

## **A Letter from the Bishop**

### **The Episcopal Church in the Diocese of Alabama**

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan, Bishop

February 28, 2012

Dear Andy:

The 181st Convention was memorable and gracious, and I'm writing to thank you and your staff and members for all of your work. Thank you all for your generous hospitality, and especially all of the your help with the Saturday morning Eucharist.

Your dedication to the diocese in time and effort is deeply appreciated.

God's Peace

(signed)

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan

## 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, March 19.

### 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 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**  
**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

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

[www.nativity-hsv.org](http://www.nativity-hsv.org)

### Other Upcoming Events

#### A Brave New World: Making change Beyond Me

#### The Enneagram and Consciousness, March 22-25 at Camp McDowell.

Conference Leader: Joseph B. Howell, Ph.D, a clinical psychologist. Intriguing topics like *Types & Consciousness; Levels of Integration: Cinema & Type; The Essence; The Soul Child* interspersed with reflection, discussion, yoga, and free time will provide space for movement and refreshment. Registration information is available via [www.campmcdowell.dioala.org](http://www.campmcdowell.dioala.org) or contact Cathy Robertson, Camp McDowell 205-270-0147.

#### Alabama Folk School at Camp McDowell • 2012 Schedule

Take advantage of our newest adult offerings at Camp McDowell. The Folk School is a place for lifelong learning, creating new friendships, and reconnecting with the simple things in life

#### March 23-25, 2012: Sample the Arts

(Four, three-hour mini-sessions. Choose more than one!)

**Fabric Jewelry**, Jackie Miller & Maggie Alvarez • **Creative Writing**, Nancy Hartness •

**Ukulele**, Charlie Hartness • **Alabama Birding**, Dave Hollaway •

**Drawing Alabama's Native Birds**, Val Webb (drawing, left)

#### April 16-19, 2012: Bluegrass & Gee's Bend Week

**Gee's Bend Quilting**, Mary Ann & China Pettway (China's quilt, right)

• **Watercolor**, Ken Austin • **Recycled Glass Mosaics**, Steve Smith

• **Vocal Nuances**, Claire Lynch • **Bass**, Mark Schatz

• **Guitar Accompaniment for Vocals**, Stephen Mouglin

• **Banjo II**, Ned Luberecki • **Banjo I**, Herb Trotman

• **Mandolin II**, Roland White • **Mandolin I**, Jason Bailey