

# THE STEEPLE

## The Church of the Nativity

March 21, 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.*

### *Praying with the President*

Each Sunday we pray for Barack our President along with the leaders of the nations. *We beseech thee also to rule the hearts of those who bear the authority of government in this and every land, especially Barack our President, that they may be led to wise decisions and right actions for the welfare and peace of the world.* This prayer took on new meaning this past Sunday when Barack our President was ten feet away from where I was praying!

Tippy and I were in the nation's capital visiting our son Case. We decided to worship at St. John's Lafayette Square, the Episcopal Church that is across the street from the White House. St. John's is known as the "President's Church" because every president since 1815 has worshipped there while in office. Approaching the church, police cars were blocking the streets. Policemen were questioning pedestrians and sending some in other directions. We conveyed that we were going to St. John's and directed us toward a muscular young man wearing Ray Bans who was posted at the front doors. This was the first time I have been frisked going into church services!

We made it to our pew and Case directed our attention to the right, and there, just across the aisle, was the President, Mrs. Obama and their daughter Sasha heartily singing the procession hymn! Watching him, I saw that he knew our Prayer Book responses and our "Episcopal" hymns. Kneeling for the Prayers of the People along with him, I found myself wondering about the President's prayers. Was he praying for the economy... *for the direction to take in the Middle East that will lead to peace among the nations?...for the welfare of dignity of all persons (as one of our prayers for the President in Rite Two conveys)?...for the members of Congress and how they work together?...for his political opponents?...how to distribute adequate health care and to create jobs?...maybe just for his daughters growing up in this crazy world?*

And I realized that it did my heart good just to know that he was on his knees saying his prayers. I was glad to see him receiving the bread and wine of Communion, the body and blood of Christ—that he was making an offering of himself, just as we all do, that Christ would be known through his life, through his actions as President. Praying with the President, not simply for him, is a powerful thing.

I certainly hope that all of the leaders of our nation and all those who seek political office are saying their prayers. The political discourse of our nation is as divisive as it has ever been. This political tension is fueled not so much by differing approaches to solving our nation's problems as by rancorous language that denigrates the dignity of one's political opponents. No matter whether you agree with the President or other political leaders, praying for them, and even with them, takes the discourse to a higher plane. That is one reason Christ asks us to pray for our enemies, and why we do that every Sunday at Nativity.

*E Pluribus Unum, out of many, one*, reminds us that it takes all of us working together, sifting through ideas and potential solutions, to get to where we need to be. It takes compromise and it takes respect as we work towards sustainable ways to promote the dignity and welfare of all persons in this nation and in the world. Can we listen to each other with respect, even disagree with others passionately, but know we are one?

For us Episcopalians, this is the way it is. At Nativity, we are Republicans and Democrats at prayer together. We are progressive and conservatives over many issues, yet kneeling together at the altar rail, each one of us receiving God's presence in Christ, fueling the offering that Christ would be known in our actions and through our lives, makes us one. It is a powerful thing to pray with each other...to know that we are one in Christ.

*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

### Friday, March 23, 7:30 p.m. Music at Nativity presents



#### "Songs of Love, Hope & Survival"

Laura Baxter, mezzo-soprano

Kevin Class, accompanist

Works by Schumann, Wagner, Saint-Saëns, Faure, & more.



### Nativity Lenten Opportunities



#### March 28, Wednesday Night in Lent 2012, Ridley Hall

**Speaker:** The Rev'd Dexter Bender, Priest in Charge, St. Luke's Scottsboro,

- 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.

The Nativity Choir, accompanied by Josh Coble, guest organist, presents Evensong on Sunday April 1st at 5 pm. This is a service of music and prayer modeled on Anglican historical tradition. Service music includes Canticles by T. Tertius Noble, an anthem by Roger-Ducasse, and Responses by Robert Lehman.

### Organ Recital

On Thursday, March 29th, at 12:10 p.m., the sixth program in a six week series of organ recitals coordinated by the Greater Huntsville Chapter of the American Guild of Organists takes place at Nativity. Organist Suzanne Purtee will provide a 40 minute recital featuring music by J.S. Bach, Harold Darke, and Jean Langlais. All are welcome! For more information go to [www.huntsvilleago.org](http://www.huntsvilleago.org).



Habitat House News

### Thanks to good weather and good help work is progressing well.

This Saturday, March 24, we will be putting up siding. If all goes well with our subs we will be right on schedule shown below. Full work schedule is on church website.

DATE	ACTIVITY
Mar. 20, 22, 24	Install porch beams, barge rafters, fascia, attic access, electrical rough-in, (plumbing, HVAC rough-in by others) start vinyl siding
Mar. 27, 29, 31	Install wall insulation, (sheetrock by sub)
Apr. 3, 5, 7	Paint walls, continue vinyl siding, install shutters

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, and gloves if you have them.

Chalice Bearer Training On Sunday, April 22nd following the 11:00 service, Fr. Anderson will conduct training for those interested in becoming a Chalice Bearer for Eucharistic services at Nativity. To register, contact Connie in the church office at [cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org) or 256-533-2455.



HAP

## April 1, is HAP Sunday

HAP manager, Gayla, expressed many thanks for the generous donations for our March campaign. Please continue to include these items while you shop for your family:

**Canned meats, shelf milk, peanut butter, jelly, crackers, canned vegetables, fruits, and soups, paper products.**

## Interested in Nativity Pilgrimage to Holy Land? Reservations are underway!

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.*

## Youth News - The Steeple 3/21/12

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

Even though spring break is next week for the majority of you, we still have a lot going on leading up to spring break and then after. This weekend kicks off spring break, but if you're still in town, come join youth from around the city for a field day **Sunday, March 25!** We'll meet at Willow Park on Bailey Cove Road for some Frisbee, soccer, and general hang-out time. The fun kicks off at **4:00 and we'll be done by 6:00**. Come hang out! :) This is open to all junior and senior high youth.

We will NOT have EYC on Palm Sunday (April 1st). We will also NOT have Sunday School on Palm Sunday or Easter (April 8).

**Registration is still open** for Young People Paint Birmingham (grades 7-9) and Sawyerville (must be 16)! If you're interested, please visit the diocesan website for more information. Have a GREAT spring break and I'll see y'all soon!

Peace,

Liz

## The Nativity Garden

The new fence (around the A/C units) is not just a fence. *It is a special fence!* The fence is a part of so many lives. It is a tribute to those who have died and those who have been honored, to years of hard work, and lots of love and planning. It is a gift to us all from so many lovely people and blessed by God. The garden guild is thankful for all the donations that are made. It is truly a blessing to work in the garden, especially with all those that help to tend it. The hard working members of the garden guild are Dave Phillips, Jewel Reynolds, Tippy Anderson, Carole Sue Goodwin, Kitty Simmons, Susan Welstead, Jane Brocato, Pattie Cline, Kay Wheeler, Charlotte Richardson, Nancy Crunkleton, Suzy Naumann, Pat Goodson, Laurie Noojin, Emily Rodgers, Alice Lanier, Lynne Evans, Sarah Gessler, and Lane Tutt. The fence was built by Tim Schremser.

Thank you for making The Nativity Garden a special place.  
Lane Tutt



# Nativity's 8th Annual Parish Weekend

## "We Are Family"

April 27-29, 2012 @ Camp McDowell

Registration for Parish Weekend is now open! Please complete the form below and return it with payment (checks payable to Church of the Nativity annotated *Parish Weekend*) to:

**Church of the Nativity, ATTN: PARISH WEEKEND, 208 Eustis Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801.**

If you would like to discuss any special needs or have any questions, Parish Weekend committee members will be in the foyer of Ridley Hall from 10:00 – 11:00 am on March 25 and April 1.

**Sign up early and get your choice of lodging location!**  
**Registration Information**

Family Name \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_  
 Phone number (s) \_\_\_\_\_

**Names & Ages of ALL family members attending:**

_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Cabin Choice \_\_\_\_\_

### Cost of Parish Weekend

- |  | Total    |
|--|----------|
| • Lodging<br>\$160 x _____ rooms =   | \$ _____ |
| • Child care while parents attend Seminar \$5 per family   | \$ _____ |
| • Meals ( <i>children 6 and under eat free</i> )<br><i>Includes Friday dinner/Saturday breakfast-lunch-dinner/Sunday breakfast</i><br># people _____ x \$45 =  | \$ _____ |
| • Mandatory Activity Fee per family (for Camp McDowell Staff) <b>\$ 20.00</b>  |          |
| • T-shirts \$15 x _____ =<br><div style="text-align: center;">           Sizes: (please put quantity in spaces)<br/>           Adult: S _____ M _____ L _____ XL _____ XXL _____ XXXL _____<br/>           Youth: S _____ M _____ L _____         </div> | \$ _____ |
| • Poncho \$15 x _____ =<br>(one size fits all)   | \$ _____ |

**TOTAL=** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Questions? Call Kelley Copeland 534-6766 or Kim Huskey 656-2648



## HOLY WEEK & THE TRIDUUM

### **Palm Sunday ~ April 1 *The Sunday of the Passion***

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

\*8:45 a.m. Parade of Palms and Holy Eucharist

\*11:00 a.m. Parade of Palms and Holy Eucharist

5:00 p.m. Choral Evensong

### **Monday in Holy Week ~ April 2 *The Anointing of Jesus***

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

### **Tuesday in Holy Week ~ April 3 *The Refusal to Believe in Jesus***

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

### **Wednesday in Holy Week ~ April 4 *Judas' Betrayal of Jesus***

12:00 noon Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

6:00 p.m. Stations of the Cross

### **Maundy Thursday ~ April 5 *Jesus the Servant***

\*\*6:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist & Stripping of the Altar

6:00 p.m. Children's Service and Agape Meal in Bibb Chapel

\*\*Nursery *by reservation only to 256-533-2455*

8:00 – 11:00 p.m. Prayer Vigil, Bibb Chapel

### **Good Friday ~ April 6 *The Crucifixion of Jesus***

6:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon Prayer Vigil, Bibb Chapel

12:00 noon Good Friday Liturgy; The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson, preaching

### **Holy Saturday ~ April 7 *Waiting for Jesus' Resurrection***

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

### **Easter Day ~ April 8**

*The Risen Lord Gives Us New Life*

7:45 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

\*8:45 a.m. Festal Holy Eucharist and Flowering of Mite Box Cross

10:15 a.m. Easter Egg Hunt for children age 3-10

*Please gather in Ridley Hall for instructions*

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

Services are held in Church Nave unless noted

\*indicates nursery available

## FINANCIAL CORNER

### Parish Financial Report Period Ending 02/29/2012

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 80,017.34	\$ 106,777.42	\$ 218,460.60	\$ 213,554.80
Plate Other Revenues	\$ 5,371.99	\$ 5,555.83	\$ 13,093.99	\$ 11,111.70
	\$ 3,201.15	\$ 8,940.00	\$ 4,818.74	\$ 17,880.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 88,590.48</b>	<b>\$ 121,273.25</b>	<b>\$ 236,373.33</b>	<b>\$ 242,546.50</b>
Diocesan, School of The- ology, & Out- reach	\$ 21,980.57	\$ 24,070.83	\$ 23,780.24	\$ 48,141.70
Personnel Other Ex- penses	\$ 63,318.68	\$ 65,470.32	\$ 134,005.34	\$ 130,940.80
	\$ 24,060.24	\$ 31,732.04	\$ 48,233.48	\$ 63,464.60
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 109,359.49</b>	<b>\$ 121,273.19</b>	<b>\$ 206,019.06</b>	<b>\$ 242,547.10</b>
<b>\$</b>				
<b>NET</b>	<b>(20,769.01)</b>	<b>\$ 0.06</b>	<b>\$ 30,354.27</b>	<b>\$ (0.60)</b>

### 2012 Pledge report March 18, 2012

\$1,000 or <	130
\$1,001 - \$2,999.99	156
\$3,000 - \$4,999.99	78
\$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	431
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	\$1,286,106.32
Average Pledge	\$2984.01

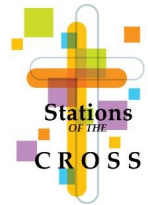


Palm Sunday is Sunday, April 1st at 8:45 and 11:00. Meet in front of the church before service for our annual Palm Sunday Parade that symbolizes Jesus' entry into Jerusalem.

### Stations of the Cross Wednesday, April 4 at 6:00

Meet in the church at 6:00 for this visual walk through Jesus' crucifixion.

If your child wants to be a reader for this service, please contact Liz Williams at 256-533-2455, [lwilliams@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:lwilliams@nativity-hsv.org)



- **Maundy Thursday service is April 5th at 6:00.** The children's Maundy Thursday Service will take place in Bibb Chapel. The kids (age 5 - 10) will have their own Agape Meal and will then meet parents in the church for the foot washing and the Stripping of the Altar. Nursery available by prior reservation (533-2455)
- **The Great Vigil of Easter, Saturday, 7:30 pm.** This is a very powerful service. The Club 56 class is invited to sit as a group and then stay to help hide Easter Eggs for the big hunt! (nursery is not available for this evening service)

### • **Easter Sunday is April 8th!**

Celebration time! Meet in Ridley Hall before the 8:45 service with your mite boxes. All children are invited to process together and "Flower the Cross" with their mite boxes. Bring some flowers from home to decorate your mite box.

The Easter Egg Hunt will take place between the 8:45 and 11:00 services. Everyone is to meet in Ridley Hall at 10:15. Remember there is a 10 egg limit for all children. All Kids up to age 10 are invited to participate. There will be a golden egg with a special prize. Please do not let your children hunt eggs before the official start of the hunt. Remember to get to church early to get a seat!



- **Save the date for a very special Vacation Bible School.** During July 10,11,12 we will be celebrating **Christmas**. That's right! We will be doing a "**Christmas in July VBS**" with an emphasis on "**Giving ourselves as gifts**". Children ages 4 through 6th grade are invited to participate. We will learn about Jesus' birth, do outreach projects, have a pajama party, and much more. Please contact Elizabeth Foster at [elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com) for more information.

**LOOK FOR THE GRAY NAMETAGS** Have you got questions about something at Nativity? Concerns? Do you want to make a suggestion? Do you want to let us know about some program you really like and want to see continued? Look for the gray vestry nametags. Your 2012 Vestry is here to help you and we can do it best if we know what you think and want. We want to hear from you!

## INTERCESSION REQUESTS

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

Frank Moring, Margaret Bibb, Beth Durnya, Mason Beggs, Benjamin & John Baldwin, Margaret Smitherman, Glenda Flexner, Gilda May, Laura Warren, Joan Bennett, June Thomson, Pauline Reynolds, Rhiannon Jackson, Kristi Allen, Ernie Limbo, Leigh Wahl, Bill Marsh, Elsie Olsen, Joy Gass, Emile Joffrion, Eileen Sullivan, John, Nancy Kelly.

### We pray for the departed:

Warren Linn, grandfather of Stacy Moon  
Amanda Warren, niece of Linda Watts

### 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 :

#### Birthdays of our children:

3/22 Travis McClendon, Lizzie Clute, Noah Pride  
3/24 Luke Alison  
3/29 Robert McCoy  
3/30 Hunter Mason  
4/1 Travis King  
4/2 Carter McDonald, Sidney Gunter, Karl Schneider  
4/3 Tindall Moring  
4/4 Maggie Jones, Nannette Aboudonia  
4/5 Sean Burke, Celeste Nelson

### New Transferred members:

Natalie Rushing; Jonathan Band and Kathleen Gram; Aubrey, Kim, Whitney, Parker, Hannah, and Jordan Tyner

## 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 Gadomski, Ministry Assistant in the church office 256-533-2455. She will get the necessary paperwork to you.

## Stewardship of Creation Tip

Here's a tip from the Sierra Club's Mr. Green:  
**Mr. Green, Can You Compost Shredded Paper?**  
I shred *credit-card statements* and other papers containing personal financial information. I usually have a disproportionate amount of green material for my compost, so I'd love to add this shredded paper to the pile. Is such paper safe for composting? What about shredded newsprint?  
--Marianne in New York, New York

Except for colored and glossy paper, which might contain some toxic heavy metals, (*added note: and cash register and credit card receipts printed on thermal paper – see note below*), newsprint and other paper is safe to use as mulch or in compost. In fact, one study revealed that paper had less toxic material than straw or grass!

The only problem with paper is that if you put too much of it in your heap, you could get an unfavorable carbon-to-nitrogen ratio, since paper is high in carbon (one reason it burns). But unless your finances are of a Bernie Madoffian level of complexity, your financial documents will probably not disturb the ratio! The ideal ratio is 25 carbon to 1 nitrogen. Too much carbon slows down the process. If that happens, you can always add high-nitrogen material such as grass clippings, alfalfa, or manure.

As you no doubt have already discovered, well-chopped material and frequent turning is the key to healthy, happy compost.

**NOTE:** It probably would be best not to include cash register and credit card receipts in your compost. BPA is used in Thermal Printing of Cash Register and Credit Card Receipts

A source of high contamination with BPA may be thermal printing paper. BPA is coated on paper that produces colored markings when heated. The amount of BPA on some cash register and credit card receipts is staggering. In some cases a receipt from a [cash register can contain 100 milligrams of free BPA.](#)

### **Handle Receipts with Care**

The uproar over nanograms and micrograms of BPA leaching from water bottles took place while millions of people casually handled receipts with thousands of times higher concentrations of BPA. Parents shudder over the prospect of a baby picking up a used cigarette butt, while a receipt on the floor may pose a more dangerous health threat.

## 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, April 2.

### CLERGY & STAFF

**The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson**  
Rector

**The Rev'd Mary Anne Akin**  
Associate

**The Rev'd Brad Landry**  
Associate

**The Rev'd 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 Gadoski**  
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)

### 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 name of person for your dedication to be printed in the  
Easter Service Booklet:***