

# THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

June 6, 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.*

## A PRAYER FOR NEW BEGINNINGS

On Sunday, with our Bishop Kee Sloan, we will celebrate new and renewed commitments being made through Baptism, Confirmation, and the receiving of several individuals making a commitment to make the journey of faith in our Episcopal tradition. The annual Bishop's visit to Nativity is always an exciting time in the life of our parish. This year, 40 individuals renew their Baptismal Covenants (including 12 youth) and four people will be baptized!

But just as our many high school graduates in recent commencement ceremonies realize, confirmation is not so much about completing something as it is a new beginning of knowing and sharing God's marvelous grace in Christ Jesus. Like our high school graduates, our confirmands stand on the threshold of something new and exciting.

Yet, every day, we all stand upon the threshold of God's doing something new for the world as we offer our lives to Christ. So whether you are a recent graduate or confirmand, the godparent of a newly baptized child or just a child of God looking for a new beginning, I offer this mediation given to me by a good friend.

*LORD, you have searched me out and known me; you know my sitting down and my rising up; you discern my thoughts from afar. You trace my journeys and my resting-places and are acquainted with all my ways. You press upon me behind and before and lay your hand upon me. Where can I go then from your Spirit? Where can I flee from your presence? If I take the wings of the morning and dwell in the uttermost parts of the sea, even there your hand will lead me and your right hand hold me fast. If I say, "Surely the darkness will cover me, and the light around me turn to night," darkness is not dark to you; the night is as bright as the day; darkness and light to you are both alike. I will thank you because I am marvelously made; your works are wonderful, and I know it well. Search me out, O God, and know my heart; try me and know my restless thoughts, and lead me in the way that is everlasting.* (From Psalm 139)

As you remember the comfort of yesterday and puzzle about tomorrow,  
*Listen, listen to God.*

If you are lost, you feel afraid and you don't know what to say,  
*Listen, listen to God.*

Is there a question on your mind? Is the answer hard to find?  
*Then listen, listen to God.*

Listen with all your heart and soul and might. God is not far off, but very near.  
*Every morning and every night, close your eyes and listen.*

Quiet yourself first, for at every commencement there should be nothing to say.  
*Stop all the chatter, until you learn to listen to God.*

When the wind and the thunder disappear, there will be a voice that you can hear  
*When you listen, listen to our God.*

The voice of God comes from deep within you and so you pray

*I thank you God for I am marvelously made. I know the people who brought faith from edge of the universe. I sit with people who bring it out of the soul. O God, your works are wonderful, and I know it well. You will lead me in the way that is everlasting. And so, I will stop and listen...*

*Andy +*



CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY,  
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

## SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES SUNDAY

(\* Nursery available)

8:00 a.m. Rite I  
Holy Eucharist

10:00 a.m.\* Rite II  
Holy Eucharist  
Children's Chapel

## WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon  
Holy Eucharist &  
Healing  
(Bibb Chapel)

## THURSDAY

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

## Nativity Night at the Greene St. Market

### Dinner & Concert on the Lawn

Thursday, June 28th 6:30 p.m.

Come and enjoy dinner with family and friends on the church Lawn Thursday, June 28th!

Pick up your favorite meal or dessert from a Greene Street Market at Nativity vendor (see list below) or bring your own picnic!

Live music will be provided by the *Flint River Brass*, a great ensemble that often plays for Nativity congregations on Easter and other festival services. The music will range from popular, to jazz and classical favorites. Bring blankets or chairs as needed.

### **The following vendors will take pre-orders. Call or email for specifics:**

Chef Will the Palate - Forest Wilson, 256-617-6052 [chef.will65@hotmail.com](mailto:chef.will65@hotmail.com)

What's for Supper - Walter Thames, 256-682-7889 [walter@whatsforsupper.com](mailto:walter@whatsforsupper.com)

Savory Spoon - Michael Cremeno, 305-762-2454 [savoryspoonchef@gmail.com](mailto:savoryspoonchef@gmail.com)

Lyn's Gracious Goodness - LeeLee Wiginton, 256-533-2607 [leelee@lynskitchen.com](mailto:leelee@lynskitchen.com)

### **Other vendors offering food items each week:**

Humble Heart goat cheeses, Belle Chevre goat cheeses, Indigo Market

### **Vendors offering Desserts each week:**

Sweet Thang, Carlton's, Passinova, Seven Winds, Tastebuds

### [Annual Bishop's Visit to Nativity](#)

June 10, 10:00 a.m. Bishop Sloan, preaching,  
Adult and Youth Confirmation, Renewal of Baptismal Vows  
Reception will be held in Ridley Hall following the service.

### [Integrity Alabama, Nativity, and Bishop Sloan host GLBT Conversation](#)

[Saturday, June 9, 11:00—1:30 p.m.](#)

[Reservation deadline Thursday, June 7 to 256-533-2455 \(\\$7 per person\)](#)

The Church of the Nativity and Integrity/Alabama invite you to attend a Conversation with Alabama Gay and Lesbian Episcopalians. While many commissions and task forces have "studied" LGBT folks in our society and in our churches for over thirty years, rarely have people in our parishes had an opportunity to gather to hear "stories" from gay and lesbians Christians. We will do just that this Saturday, June 9, 2012, at the Church of the Nativity, from 11:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

We will gather first for a celebration of the Eucharist with Bishop Kee Sloan participating. We will then share a light lunch in the parish hall. In the second hour, we will gather in a large circle to hear five Alabama gay and lesbian Episcopalians each share a five-minute "slice of life" of their own personal stories. Following each speaker we will have five-minutes to reflect, prayerfully, in conversation with the speaker. The five speakers will come from the Birmingham and Huntsville areas, and they will represent a wide variety of life experiences and journeys.

You are invited to join us for this occasion to gather with our brothers and sisters, opening our hearts and minds to each other in friendship and love in Christ.



## Outreach Grant from the Diocese: 7 Weeks of Summer Snacks for Oscar Mason Children's Program

Lee Hicklen made the first delivery on June 4.

*"The entire staff at the Oscar Mason Library was overwhelmed by the generosity this grant has already provided. The look on the children's faces when they saw us wheeling in the snacks was priceless."*

(A letter of appreciation has been sent to the Diocese on behalf of the Outreach Committee of the Church of the Nativity)

## "Hands of Francis"

### Bibb Chapel renovations underway

For the next couple of weeks, Bibb Chapel will be receiving a facelift with new plaster and paint. The Chapel will be closed during this time. We are scheduled to re-open June 20. Wednesday and Thursday services will be held in the church. Centering Prayer will be held in the Banister Room. If you have any questions, you may call the church office.

### A note from The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center

*The Vine* wishes to thank all those involved with their recent Branches of Art event at the Huntsville Botanical Garden. Over 160 people enjoyed a beautiful art auction (over 200 items), delicious food by Narvell, and live music. It was a successful first-time event, raising over \$10,000, which will enable *The Vine* to continue making pastoral counseling a possibility for ALL. Feel free to CONNECT TO THE VINE at [www.vinepcc.com](http://www.vinepcc.com). Thank you for your support.

### Ushering at Nativity

If you are looking for a ministry to become involved with at Nativity in which you play an active, hands-on role in the worshipping life of the church, you may wish to consider becoming an usher. Ushers help to set the friendly tone our church is known for by greeting and assisting people as they arrive for services; they help maintain the order and dignity which is part of our Anglican worship heritage.

The duties of ushers include distribution of service leaflets; taking of the collection; assisting parishioners who have trouble with the chancel steps at Communion; picking up used leaflets at the completion of services; counting the cash intake from the collection and depositing it in a designated place; and (rarely) assisting in an emergency.

We are currently seeking to improve the usher assignment system for the 11:00 AM (10:00 in the summer) service by forming teams of eight or so members; each team will be headed by a captain and will be assigned to serve for two months out of the year. Since services usually require only four ushers, the inclusion of eight members per team will allow flexibility for ushers who cannot serve each Sunday of their assigned months. This system is currently being used for the 8:45 AM (8:00 in the summer) service with great success.

In order for this system to work effectively for the 11:00 AM service, we will need to add as many new names to our roster of ushers as possible. If you are new to Nativity, this is an excellent time to join our usher ministry as it offers a way to meet new people and to become involved immediately. If you are interested in becoming an usher for either service, you may contact one of our usher chairs:

**for the 8:45 AM (8:00) service contact Neal Macheke—(256) 603-4260; [nealmay@earthlink.net](mailto:nealmay@earthlink.net)**  
**for the 11:00 AM (10:00) service contact Jeffrey Dortch—(256) 536-7612; [jdortch@knology.net](mailto:jdortch@knology.net)**

### CRISIS SERVICES of North Alabama letter dated May 18, 2012

Dear Church of the Nativity: Thank you once again for the hospitality of the church and staff in allowing us to hold our volunteer appreciation dinner in Ridley Hall. We very much enjoyed being at Nativity, passing by the beauty of the courtyard as we entered the building, and having Sally Stockton's always delicious foods. Thank you for welcoming us. (Signed, Jane Gable, Executive Director and Martha Bosworth, Clinical Director)





## [Nativity's Sarah Watts to intern at Coventry Cathedral, England](#)

Sarah Watts, daughter of Wimberley and John Watts, has been chosen as one of three interns for work at Coventry Cathedral. The year-long experience is assigned by the Community of the Cross of Nails. The other recipients are from Great Britain and Germany. She will begin her work in August. Sarah is a recent graduate of Birmingham Southern College with a B.A. in Religion and a minor in Classics.

## [North Alabama Diocesan Convocation Meeting](#)

All are invited to attend a gathering of Episcopalians in North Alabama on Thursday, June 21 at St. Stephen's Church (8020 Whitesburg Drive) at 7:00 p.m. Our representatives to the Episcopal Church's 77<sup>th</sup> General Convention meeting this summer, July 5-12, in Indianapolis will facilitate a discussion about the work facing our triennial church gathering this summer. Barbara Meyer and the Rev'd Susan Sloan are Deputies to the House of Deputies elected from the Northern Convocation. The Rev'd Andy Anderson and Rusty Stephenson are First Alternates to the House of Deputies.

## [Prayer Request Box in Ridley Hall](#)

The Daughters of the King prayer box is located on the literature rack in Ridley Hall. All those who desire prayers to 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.

## [The 2012 Vestry Nominations Committee Solicits Your Input](#)

The Vestry Nominations Committee held its first meeting of 2012 recently, beginning the process of developing a slate of nominees for the upcoming year. Following changes to the Nativity by-laws approved by the congregation last year, the Vestry Nominations Committee submits a slate of proposed new Vestry members to the congregation for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting. At this time we would like to introduce you to the members of the committee and provide you with their contact information:

- Andy Anderson, Rector, *ex officio* (aanderson@nativity-hsv.org)
- David Collette, Senior Warden 2009 (david.collette@hhsys.org)
- Pat Goodson, Senior Warden 2012 (patgood@knology.net)
- Sally Naumann, Chair, member at-large (sal.naumann@mac.com)
- Mac Phillips, Senior Warden 2010 (macphillips@gmail.com)
- Alyce Smith, member at-large (256-536-4198)
- Bland Warren, Senior Warden 2011 (blandwarren@me.com)
- Shelley Whitney, member at-large (smwhitney51@gmail.com)

[The Committee is composed of the sitting and three most recent Senior Wardens willing and able to serve along with three members at-large chosen by the six outgoing Vestry members; the Rector serves *ex officio* in a non-voting role.]

Now that we've introduced ourselves, we would like to solicit your input. A form has developed for parishioners to use in suggesting names of potential Vestry nominees to the Committee. This form is available on the Nativity website and will be published in an upcoming *Steeple* issue. You may recommend someone in the parish or submit your own name for consideration. Please make sure that anyone who you suggest is willing to have his/her name considered and meets requirements as set forth by the Nativity by-laws for Vestry membership (confirmed member of Nativity, regular in attendance, has made and kept a pledge for at least the current year, etc.). Names submitted but not included on the slate of nominees will remain on the list for succeeding Vestry Nominations Committees to consider.

Please prayerfully consider submitting your name and/or the name(s) of parishioners whom you would like considered for the Nativity Vestry in 2013. You are welcome to contact any of the members on the committee at the phone number/e-mail addresses listed above if you have questions about the process. And, watch for more information from the Vestry Nominations Committee.

## INTERCESSION REQUESTS and THANKSGIVING

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

Linda Frost, Pat Norman, Dot Kitchens, Larry Johnson, Braxton Platt, Ross Scott, Eric Likos, Taylor Franco, Jeannie Robison, Ann Garnett, Tom Robinson, Elsie Olsen, Beth Durnya, Benjamin & Henry Baldwin, Ernie Limbo, Leigh Wahl, Bill Marsh, Joy Gass, Emile Joffrion, Eileen Sullivan, John, Nancy Kelly.

### We pray for the departed:

Maxine Hogan, mother of Ron Hogan  
Jeffrey Armstrong, brother-in-law of Sky Sampson  
James Alexander, father of Russ Alexander  
Zelma Brooks, grandmother of Michael Shipley

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

Kuwait: Spencer Colin;  
Afghanistan: Lane Sampson-Jackson, Blake Lane, Pete Davison  
The Gambia, W Africa: Marisa Benzle

We pray for Nativity parishioners who are attending Cursillo #183 at Camp McDowell this weekend: Pamela Briggs, Ted Briggs, and Sally Ann Culver

### We give thanks for the birth of a child:

Sutton James Williams, born May 15. Parents are Elena Prucha and Joe Williams grandparents are Marina and Stephen Prucha

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

6/10 Nyssa Henderson  
6/12 Jack Copeland, Ella Duncan, Abby Gin  
6/14 Nathan Linton, Abby Amis, Alee Clayton, Katherine McCown  
6/15 Joshua Huskey, Ian Artrip, Kate Miller  
6/19 Sims Windham  
6/20 Ben Hulsey  
6/22 Lillie Markwalter  
6/23 Chase Howell

## It's Christmas in July at Vacation Bible School - Register & Volunteer

We are excited to announce our Vacation Bible School theme for 2012 - **"Christmas in July."** Kids ages 4 to 6th grade can look forward to **fun Christmas-themed music, crafts and even a pajama party!**

We will dig deep into the true meaning of Christmas without all the distractions of the real Christmas season.

**The dates are set for July 10, 11, 12 from 9 a.m. - 12 noon.** We will have a wrap up "Christmas Morning" party on the evening of July 12. For more information contact Elizabeth Foster at 256-533-2455, [elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com](mailto:elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com) or go the church website to register online: [www.nativity-hsv.org](http://www.nativity-hsv.org)

## Towels for Sawyerville another BIG HIT!

Thanks for another successful drive for the Sawyerville Campers. The towels were delivered by Mary Anne Akin to a Birmingham church. They await transport on a big truck to Greensboro, AL. The Sawyerville Staff was thrilled to see all the stacks of bright-colorful towels. (250!) P.S. She also delivered \$500 of cleaning supplies provided by Nativity Outreach.

## Financial Reports

Parish Financial Report Period Ending 4/30/2012					Pledges June 3, 2012	
	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD		
Pledges Received	\$ 105,120.15	\$ 106,777.42	\$ 429,557.15	\$ 427,109.64	\$1000 or <	133
Plate	\$ 6,203.46	\$ 5,555.83	\$ 24,816.45	\$ 22,223.36	\$1001-\$2999.99	165
					\$3000-\$4999.99	81
					\$5000-\$9999.99	48
					\$10000-\$14999.99	10
					\$15000-\$24999.99	7
					\$25000-\$39999.99	3
					\$40000>	1
Other Revenues	\$ 16,159.79	\$ 8,940.00	\$ 25,365.77	\$ 35,760.00	Total pledges	448
TOTAL	\$ 127,483.40	\$ 121,273.25	\$ 479,739.37	\$ 485,093.00		
Diocesan, School of Theology, Outreach	\$ 15,950.90	\$ 24,070.84	\$ 60,364.04	\$ 96,283.28	Total Amount of Pledges	
Personnel	\$ 73,612.93	\$ 65,470.32	\$ 268,965.45	\$ 261,881.44		\$1,324,481.32
Other Expenses	\$ 24,744.23	\$ 31,732.04	\$ 111,244.09	\$ 126,928.68	Average Pledge	
TOTAL	\$ 114,308.06	\$ 121,273.20	\$ 440,573.58	\$ 485,093.40		\$2,968.43
NET	\$ 13,175.34	\$ 0.05	\$ 39,165.79	\$ (0.40)		

## 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, June 18.

---

### 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

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

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



From Mount Scopus, Jerusalem

Holy Land Pilgrimage packages still  
available for travel from Huntsville  
International, Friday October 12  
returning to Huntsville, Saturday  
October 27.

Contact the church office for more  
information or contact Academy  
International Travel Services, Inc.  
(404) 687-2080 1-800-476-6943  
EMAIL: [academy@aitsatl.com](mailto:academy@aitsatl.com)

The cost of \$4521 includes airfare and accommodation per person in twin  
room with private bathroom, etc. per below.

Amman—1 night

Petra—2 nights

Dead Sea—1 night

Tiberias—5 nights

Jerusalem—5 nights

3 Meals daily in Jordan; 2 meals daily in Israel, all entrances to museums/  
sites in the itinerary, portage fees and guiding fees, and basic travel  
insurance. (does not include Cancellation Insurance)