

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

September 5, 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.



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

WORSHIP TIMES SUNDAY

(* Nursery available)

7:45 a.m. Rite I
Holy Eucharist
Bibb Chapel

8:45 a.m.* Rite II
Holy Eucharist
Children's Chapel

11:00 a.m.* Rite II
Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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

Building our Youth Ministry

We've done some significant building at Nativity over the past few years. Our historic buildings have been shored up for succeeding generations to find a home within these beautiful and prayer-soaked walls. Now it's time to focus on building the spiritual foundations. Our first building project is with our youth ministries.

Over the past few years the youth ministry at Nativity has gone through significant transition. We have such wonderful youth in our parish, and there has been a growing consensus that we could be doing so much more in our student ministries, Associate Rector Brad Landry wrote in a recent letter to parents and youth of the parish. Through Brad's visionary leadership, we are about to undertake a significant renovation of our ministry with youth and their families.

I am excited to share that the Vestry approved our engaging Youth Ministry Architects, a Nashville based consulting firm, to help us develop a building plan for this important facet of our life together. Representatives from Youth Ministry Architects will be with us on September 20-22. Youth Ministry Architects was founded by Mark DeVries, an icon in the world of youth ministry. His bestselling books include *Family Based Youth Ministry* and *Sustainable Youth Ministry*. Brad has direct experience with Mark's insightful and successful design work.

Youth Ministry Architects are the best at what they do: they will listen carefully to our students, parents, grandparents, Sunday school teachers, vestry, and staff in order to compile a thorough assessment of our youth ministries. They identify our assets and challenges in establishing a sustainable youth ministry at Nativity. Their assessment will also provide us with a detailed list of recommendations, along with a fourteen month timeline to implement these changes.

On Thursday afternoon and evening on September 20th, through Friday afternoon, September 21st, they will facilitate listening sessions with all of the "stakeholders" in our youth ministries. It is critical that all youth and their parents be present at one of these sessions.

I often get questions along the line of "Why doesn't the church do this..." My friends, you are the church. We are the church together. The vision must be cast, caught, and supported by all of us, or little will be accomplished. Someone once said, "If you don't know where you are going, any road will get you there." It is time for us to get on the road to a flourishing and sustainable youth ministry together.

What can you do?

Pray for this work.

If you are a youth, middle school or high school, attend one of the listening sessions.

If you are a parent, make sure your student gets to one of our sessions. This may mean a choice between God and something else.

If you are a parent, adjust your own schedule so you can be present. Make this a priority!

If you are a grandparent, encourage the youth in your family and their parents to attend (don't underestimate your authority as a wise elder!). Attend one of our grandparent sessions, just for you.

When the plan is developed, support it with your time, talent and resources.

Make certain the spiritual footings of your own life are being supported: attend a church school class beginning this Sunday and find a mid-week class. Be an example.

And Christ is made the sure foundation: of your life and of our ministry at Nativity.

Andy +

WORSHIP TIMES

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

Sunday Worship Service times will change on September 9:

7:45 a.m. Rite I in Bibb Chapel

8:45 a.m.* Rite II and Children's Chapel

11:00 a.m.* Rite II

Church School 10:00 a.m.* for all ages (see below Adult Classes and locations)

Most Sunday sermons are posted on the website:

www.nativity-hsv.org click Sunday Morning then click Sermons

Wednesday Worship

12:00 noon - Holy Eucharist and Healing Service (Bibb Chapel)

Sunday on Thursday

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

Each third Thursday - Nativity Cursillo musicians

CHURCH SCHOOL FOR ADULTS 10:00 A.M. EACH SUNDAY

The Book Class *A World Lit Only By Fire* by William Manchester

Class Leaders: Evie Spearman and guests

Place: Bibb Chapel We shall go from the Medieval World into the Renaissance with Manchester's final and greatest book—which is the portrait of an age when our modern mentality is being born. The historical story ends with Magellan's voyage around the world. This is history at its best!

The Breakfast Club Sunday School Class

Class Leaders: Amy Creech and Emily Rodgers

Place: Joffrion Hall 2 West

This is a Bible study class as well as an opportunity for group outreach projects. Come relax in a comfy setting with a cup of coffee, as we delve into the Bible, strengthen friendships, and experience helping others.

The Zimmerman Bible Study Class

Class Leaders: Virginia Kobler, Suzy Naumann, Pride Sherrill, Elise Taylor, Gaines Watts

Place: Library

Our study this year begins with Acts 14. We will finish the book of Acts in December. In January we will begin the study of John in January and continue through May. This class has been a Sunday morning Bible Study since 1947! It was established by Anna Zimmerman.

***The Future of Faith* by Harvey Cox**

Class Leaders: Darlene Ehinger, Blair Glenn, Marilyn Lands, Juliana Larson, Jackie Sheldon, and Christine Starnes

Place: Ridley Hall

The Rise and Fall of Belief and the Coming Age of the Spirit: There is an essential change taking place in what it means to be "religious" today. As religious people shift their focus to ethical guidelines and spiritual disciplines-not-doctrine we are seeing a universal trend away from hierarchical, regional, patriarchal, and institutional religion. Now, legendary Harvard scholar Harvey Cox offers a new interpretation of the history and future of religion, revealing how doctrines and dogma are giving way to new grassroots movements based in community, social justice, and spiritual experience. The Future of Faith is a major statement and a hopeful vision from one of the most revered theologians today.

Note: Dr. Cox is the Hollis Professor of Divinity at Harvard University and will be in Huntsville for several events this fall, Thursday, November 8, 7:00 p.m. at First United Methodist Church, Friday, November 9, 12:00 p.m. at First Presbyterian Church for a luncheon and lecture, and November 9, 7:00 p.m. at First Baptist Church.

ADULT STUDIES OFFERED DURING THE WEEK

• TUESDAY

Financial Peace University* (Dave Ramsey's all *new* material)

Each Tuesday, 6:00 p.m. (*Nursery *only with prior notice* to Father Brad)

Facilitators: Father Brad Landry and Mrs. Stacy Moon

Contact Father Brad at blandry@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455 to register TODAY

EfM Book Club

Meets first Tuesday each month at 12:00 p.m. in the church library

Contact: Shirley Hale

Centering Prayer

Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. in Bibb Chapel

Contact: Betty Giardini

• WEDNESDAY

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Each Wednesday, beginning September 5 at 7:15 a.m. in the church library

Leader: Father Andy Anderson

Contact the church office 256-533-2455 or lwheeler@nativity-hsv.org for more information

The Good Book Bible Study

Each Wednesday beginning September 12 at 1:00 pm in the Library

The Search for the Twelve Apostles by William McBurnie

Contact: Carole Sue Goodwin (256-534-4477) for more information or to order a book

Leaders: Mary Askins, Ann Bishop, Susan Morley, Evie Spearman

Wednesday Evening Forum on Faith

Each Wednesday beginning August 29, 5:15 p.m. until 6:15 p.m.

Leader: Father Brad Landry

The Libba Walker Bible Study for Women

Each Wednesday, at 6:00 p.m. until 7:00 p.m. in church library

Getting to Know the Holy Spirit, by Kathy Phillips

Contact: Lane Tutt ltutt@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455 to order a book

Leaders: Jane Brocato, Sarah Gessler, Lane Tutt, Anne Robinson, Kay Wheeler

• THURSDAY

Reflections Bible Study for Busy Moms*

This class meets weekly at 9:15 a.m. in Joffrion Hall 2 East.

Stepping Up, a Journey Through the Psalms of Ascent, by Beth Moore

Contact: Debbie Collette 256-830-2451

Leaders: Lisa Caprio, Debbie Collette, Kim Hartley, Connie Stephenson, Shelley Whitney

Centering Prayer

Thursdays at 12:00 p.m. in Bibb Chapel

Contact: Betty Giardini

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Billy Rivenbark, Pauline Reynolds, Those affected by Hurricane Isaac, Phyllis Lawson, Joe Franklin, Spencer Colin, Rudi Schlidt, Dorette Schlidt, Linda Frost, Mary Alison, Barbara Smith, Dot Kitchens, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl, Joy Gass, Emile Joffrion, John, Nancy Kelly.

We pray for the departed:

Richard Lane, brother-in-law of Mildred Lane
Larry Johnson, husband of Mary Johnson
Steve Likos, parishioner
Treska Welch, parishioner
Bill Marsh, parishioner

We pray for those deployed with the:

Military: Afghanistan: Lane Sampson-Jackson,
Bahrain: Jonathan Serwecki

Peace Corps: The Gambia, W Africa: Marisa Benzle

Red Cross Hurricane Relief: Baton Rouge, LA:
Lea Ellison

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

9/8 Henry Crosby
9/9 Mary McClung, Emma Baggette
9/12 Micah Watts
9/13 Parker Ellis
9/14 Sara Hutchen
9/15 Lillian Retzke
9/16 James Brown
9/19 Jefferson Retzke, Jack Doty, Elise Nelson
9/20 May May Park, Caroline Curran

SEPTEMBER 9 is ACOLYTE TRAINING!

We'll be holding Acolyte Training sessions for all **CURRENT** and **PROSPECTIVE** acolytes 7th-12th grades on Sunday, September 9, at 4:00 p.m. in the church Sanctuary. There will be a make up training session on Monday, September 10, at 7 p.m. for those unable to come on Sunday.

For prospective acolytes: What will be expected of you if you join the Acolyte program?

You will need to attend training to learn how to participate as a leader in the worship services, and then you will be assigned to serve once or twice a month for Sunday worship and other special services. We will expect you to serve when you are scheduled OR you will need to arrange for a substitute to take your place. (You can swap Sundays with another acolyte if you are unable to serve.) We'll give you a roster of all the acolytes and their phone numbers so you'll know whom to call. We also expect you to arrive on time for your scheduled services.

Please call or email Dorrie Nutt 256-533-1128 dorrienutt@comcast.net to let us know which session your child will attend. If they're not able to come to either session, we'll arrange to meet with them individually for training.

We look forward to having you in this important ministry at Nativity!

Acolytemasters: Nina Putt, Clay Sherrill, Mike Ward, and Dorrie Nutt

Notification of Parishioner Deaths

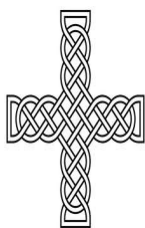
If you are interested in receiving an email notification when a parishioner dies, contact Connie in the church office : 256-533-2455 or cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org

Does money ever stress you out?

Looking for some peace about it? Nativity's next offering of Dave Ramsey's widely popular *Financial Peace University* will meet each Tuesday for nine weeks. Fr. Brad and Mrs. Stacy Moon will be co-facilitating this session. Each class will begin promptly at 6pm and will include all new video instruction from Dave Ramsey, small group discussion, and yes, even some homework! To learn more about Financial Peace University contact Fr. Brad to register (blandry@nativity-hsv.org, 256-533-2455.) Scholarship assistance for registration and/or childcare is available upon request.

NOTE: ALL NEW MATERIALS THIS SEMESTER—REGISTER TODAY

Canterbury of Huntsville—an exciting new ministry for college students & young adult Episcopalians!



This group is dedicated to providing worship, service, and social opportunities specifically for college aged Episcopalians in Huntsville. We meet weekly at local restaurants for dinner and fellowship and monthly for larger events! **All are welcome!**

Join our Facebook page or group: Huntsville Episcopal Campus and Young Adult Ministries.
For more information contact a Canterbury Intern: Emily Collette=emilycc@uab.edu;
Claire Douthit=mcd0003uab.edu; or Kristin Hanson = kiristin.hanson@stjohnsdecatur.org

Outreach Corner – our Contributions

“August Giving” went in many wonderful directions!

- Our monthly donation to HAP was \$1200.00. This assists with rent and utilities to those in need locally.
- We purchased food items to stuff meal packs for First Stop at the cost of \$449.00. Bill Goodson led this effort and enlisted parishioners’ help on Sunday August 5th. Thanks to all who assisted!
- We contributed to an emergency appeal from Aid to Inmate Mothers, a program working with children of incarcerated women here in Alabama. This group was included in our list of agencies for assistance this year, but we gave early because their survival was in jeopardy. They were grateful for our monies!
- We purchased gift cards to Office Depot for needed Fall Semester supplies at the Adult Learning Center.
- We sent \$500 to St. James Episcopal Church in Cannon Ball, North Dakota. Their church, located on an Indian Reservation, was completely destroyed by fire in late July. The congregation serves the very poor in that area.
- Lastly, we sent \$2000 for the Fall Ingathering of the United Thank Offering. This is an annual national appeal from the Episcopal Church Women. It is the source of many grass roots projects all over the country. A multitude of persons appreciate the giving you make possible !

UPCOMING EVENTS FOR CALENDAR PLANNING:

- 10th ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS Benefitting the Huntsville Assistance Program
 1. *HAP Gala* at Trinity United Methodist Church 607 Airport Road ~[September 16](#), 6:00—8:00 p.m.
Silent auction and food tasting by caterers from all over the Huntsville and North Alabama area. (\$10 per person)
 2. *Concert by Larnelle Harris* at FBC 600 Governors Dr. ~ [September 22](#), 6:30 p.m. (\$18 per person)Tickets for both events are available from Lee Hicklen, at the HAP office, www.huntsvilleassistanceprogram.org or at the door
- On Sept. 22, the University of the South will host a day-long conference titled *Creation, Evolution, and God* that will address the question of whether the classical Christian understanding of God as unchanging, omnipotent, and beneficent is still coherent in the face of modern scientific understandings of the cosmos. Neil Ormerod, professor of theology at the Australian Catholic University, and Cynthia Crysdale, professor of Christian ethics and theology at the University of the South, explore this question and more in their forthcoming book, *Creator God, Evolving World*. For a complete list of speakers visit The School of Theology website.
The conference will be held in Guerry Auditorium on the campus of the University of the South from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m., with a book signing in Convocation Hall. There is no fee to attend and no RSVP required. The general public is welcome.
- Holy Cross-St. Christopher’s Episcopal Church HOMECOMING
[Sunday, September 30](#) please join us for Worship & Eucharist at 10:30 a.m.; Family Picnic & Fellowship 12 noon
We hope to see lots of familiar faces that have been part of the life of HCSC.
Blessings and grace, The Rev’d Basye Holland-Shuey
- Seeing the Face of God in Each Other Anti-Racism Workshop will be held [Friday, October 19—Saturday, October 20](#) at Nativity. Sponsored by the Commission on Race Relations in the Church. Cost is \$50 including materials, Friday dinner, Saturday Continental Breakfast, and Lunch. To get a registration form or more information contact The Rev’d Jeannie Robison, Deacon at jrobs1@comcast.net or 256-533-2455 ext. 221.
- Renowned Harvard Professor Harvey Cox scheduled to be in Huntsville
An ecumenical lecture series free and open to the public.
 1. Cox’s first lecture, “What Music Does Jesus Like?” on [November 8](#), at 7 p.m., at First United Methodist Church on Green Street, will include some of Cox’s own favorite music. Cox, who is also an accomplished jazz musician, hopes to join the band for a few numbers.
 2. A lecture of particular interest in Huntsville, “Science and Religion: The New Conversation,” is [November 9](#), 12:00 p.m., at First Presbyterian Church, at Gates Avenue and Lincoln Street.
 3. Cox’s final lecture, [November 9](#), 7 p.m., will be held at First Baptist Church, at 600 Governors Drive.

Nativity to Issue New Pictorial Directory



Pictorial Directory

It's hard to believe it's been almost 4 years since the 2009 full Nativity Pictorial Directory was distributed to our congregants. But fall is rapidly approaching and our newly selected directory team is already diligently working to have a beautiful new edition jam-packed with portraits of our parish family.

Our Lead Program Coordinator, Benita Hayes, and Co-Lead, Tom Lydon have assembled a dedicated and enthusiastic team committed to turning out the best edition ever.

Our Sign-Up Coordinators are Hanns Billmeyer, Lead, and John Lewis as Co-Lead. Hanns and John will be busy making sure our members have signed up for portrait sittings. This year, sign up will be accomplished online. There is a link on the Nativity Home Page for you to get to the Lifetouch sign-up page. Hanns and John will provide any assistance you need in getting you scheduled and will give you a reminder call if you haven't signed up. In addition to signing up online, Sign-Up Coordinators will be available to sign you up. You will see the Sign-Up tables on Sundays in the Ridley Hall foyer and at the September 16 ministry fair. There will be several computers at the table and Sign-up team members ready to quickly enter your information.

The Hostess Coordinators are Lynn Lewis, Lead, and Sherry Sampson as Co-Lead. Lynn and Sherry will check in members when they arrive for their portrait sittings. Lifetouch will give you a reminder call the a couple of day's before your portrait session. You will also see Lynn and Sherry on Sundays and at the September 16 ministry fair and they will be located at or adjacent to the Sign-Up table. They will be recruiting hosts and hostesses to check in members for their photography sessions.

The Layout Coordinators are Liz Laney, Lead, and Donna Rush as Co-Lead. Liz and Donna are handling the layout of the directory and will focus on the design of the cover, the activity pages, and will assist in taking photographs of homebound parishioners who would like to have their portrait included. They will consult with our rector, staff, and directory Team as needed. Liz and Donna are seasoned pros at layout, so look for a beautiful product.

We are encouraging all Coordinators to recruit congregants to help during peak activity times. So, if you'd be willing to provide needed assistance, don't be bashful! Contact the Team doing the tasks that resonate with you and we're sure they'll put you to work.

Let's make the Pictorial Directory a big success. The more people who have their portrait made, the better the result will be. Remember, those who have their portrait taken will receive a complementary directory and an 8 x 10 photograph.

CURSILLO ULTREYA AT ST. STEPHENS

There will be a county-wide Cursillo Ultreya at St. Stephens Episcopal Church on Sunday, September 23, beginning at 5:30 p.m. We will have music, food (pot luck!), and Bishop Kee Sloan will be the guest speaker. All members of the Cursillo community are encouraged to attend this event! What is Cursillo? Contact David or Debbie Collette to learn more!

123RD ANNUAL ECW FALL CONFERENCE

“Welcoming the Stranger”

ALL WOMEN AND ALL CLERGY IN THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH ARE INVITED TO ATTEND

The ECW Diocesan Board and the Mountain Convocation invite you to join us for the 123rd Annual Fall Conference in Albertville, Alabama, October 4th and 5th, 2012.

Our conference speaker will be Bishop Kee Sloan.

\$35 Registration Fee includes: talks by a nationally known speaker, Wine and Cheese Reception, Banquet, Welcome Bag surprises, plus lunches, snacks, wonderful worship and fellowship!

To register online go to www.alabamaecw.org/FALLCONFERENCE

If you do not want to register online, contact Susan Cumming Christ Episcopal Church 256-878-3243

October 3: Deadline for registrations/payments to be received by Registrar

Discount Rates offered at the following Hotels: The Jameson 256-891-2600, Microtel Inns & Suites 256-894-4000

**“Down from the Mountain:
Wisdom from on High”**

Wednesday Nights at Nativity

October 3, 10, & 17

Faculty from
The School of Theology, Sewanee

October 3 - The Rev. Dr. William Brosend
What's Important today in Homiletics ?

October 10 - The Rev. Dr. Benjamin King
What's Important today in Church History ?

October 17 - The Rev. Dr. Robert MacSwain
TBA

5:15 p.m. Dinner in Ridley Hall

6:00 p.m. Speaker

Nursery available

Reservations required for Dinner & Nursery
256-533-2455 by noon Monday prior

Brought to you by

The Nativity Spiritual Development Committee

1 Day Spirituality and the Body Workshop with Sister Mary McGehee

Wednesday - September 19, 2012 10 a.m.—3 p.m.

Get in touch with your body, enjoy letting go of stress, and rest in the Divine Presence. Sister Mary McGehee will share from her own life experiences and body practices of yoga, spiritual direction, and healing touch. These few hours during the workshop will be informational and experiential.

Sister Mary McGehee has lived a Benedictine monastic life since 1960 in Cullman, AL. She has had a lifetime of varying ministries: elementary education, refugee resettlement, social justice organizing, mentoring new monastics, spiritual direction and retreat ministry. She guides others who live very active lives and wish to walk with a contemplative spirit. She also teaches yoga and gives massage and healing touch.

Fee: \$35 includes lunch Place: St. Mary's Sewanee; the Ayres Center for Spiritual Development Sewanee, TN

For More Information or to Register: Call: (800) 728-1659 or (931) 598-5342

Email: reservations@stmaryssewanee.org

Introducing a new Bible Study for GIRLS ONLY - "BFF"

"Being Faithful Friends"

This class is for girls grades 1-4 and will meet each 3rd Tuesday of every month - this month, September 18 at 5:00-6:30 p.m. in Thou Art Room. The central theme will be about being good friends and loving one another the way Christ would. Dinner will be served at the first meeting and more information will follow to the parents of BFF.

LOOK FOR A POSTCARD SOON with more information or contact Elizabeth Foster at 256-533-2455

Coming to Nativity...

"America's God"

Monday, October 15
7:00 p.m.

Stanley Hauerwas



One of "America's Best Theologians"
~ *Time Magazine*

Professor of Theological Ethics and
joint appointment in Law School
Duke University

**Noted Author addressing the Church
and the World**

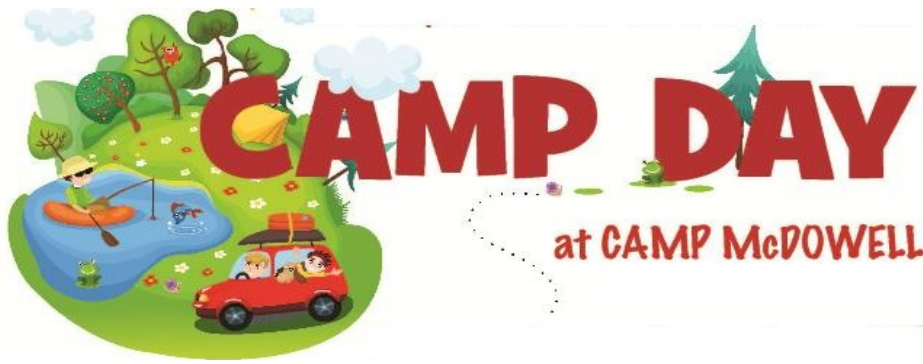
Working with Words: Learning to Speak Christian (2011)
War and the American Difference (2011)
Hannah's Child: A Theologian's Memoir (2010)
*A Cross-Shattered Church: Reclaiming the Theological
Heart of Preaching* (2009)
The Peaceable Kingdom: A Primer in Christian Ethics
Resident Aliens: Life in the Christian Colony
The State of the University (Fall 2012)

His work is in conversation with theology, ethics,
political theory, social science and medical ethics

Sponsored by Nativity's Spiritual Development Committee

**NATIVITY BAZAAR—YES it is getting close to that time so SAVE THIS DATE
November 15, 2012.**

The lunch seatings are at 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. This is a fun opportunity for fellowship and volunteering. The planning committee will be calling soon, so get those recipes out for the bake sale and be ready to volunteer where needed.



Mark your calendar for a
Diocesan-wide Camp Day.

Bishop Sloan has decreed Saturday,
October 27th, 2012 to be the day
for our First Annual Diocesan-wide,
"Camp Day" at Camp McDowell.

☺ Live Entertainment

☺ Indoor and Outdoor Games

☺ Football Room complete with 10" x 10" TV Screen for the day's games

DINNER ON THE GROUNDS \$12 Adults \$6 Children

Bring your chairs or blankets for delicious menu of Boiled Shrimp, BBQ Chicken, Potato
Salad, Cole Slaw, Rolls, Drinks, and Ice Cream

SERVICE WITH COMMUNION 5—6 PM

Sign up online beginning August 15th at www.camp-day.org

Below is a letter for all who have an interest in Nativity's youth ministry

Dear Parents and friends,

Over the past few years the youth ministry at Nativity has gone through significant transition. We have such wonderful youth in our parish, and there has been a growing consensus that we could be doing so much more in our student ministries. We are about to undertake a significant renovation of our ministry with youth and their families, and we want you to take part.

We are excited to tell you that Youth Ministry Architects, a Nashville based consulting firm, is coming to Nativity September 20-22. Youth Ministry Architects was founded by Mark DeVries, an icon in the world of youth ministry. His best selling books include *Family Based Youth Ministry*, and *Sustainable Youth Ministry*. Having worked with Mark in the past I can tell you, Youth Ministry Architects are the best at what they do: they listen carefully to the parents, students, grandparents, Sunday school teachers, vestry, and staff in order to compile a thorough assessment of our youth ministries.

They identify our assets and challenges in establishing a sustainable youth ministry. Their assessment will also provide us with a detailed list of recommendations, along with a fourteen month timeline to implement these changes.

On Thursday afternoon and evening, September 20, through Friday afternoon on the 21st, we will host listening sessions with parents, students, grandparents, staff, vestry, Sunday school teachers, acolyte leaders and other "stakeholders" in our parish youth ministry. **We are writing to ask for your participation in one of these listening groups. Your participation is critical to the success of this timely endeavor.** Our youth ministry can only flourish with the support and commitment of our youth, their families, and, indeed, the entire parish. On Saturday, September 22, the consultants will present the findings and recommendations to us and all are invited to this meeting.

We will be getting you specific information about the times and places of our listening sessions on September 20 and 21. Information will be also available on the website, in the Steeple, and around the church in the coming weeks. The youth council and the vestry both fully support this effort, and we are counting on your support as well.

Finally, we hope to see you and your children Sunday, September 9, for the start of Sunday school. That afternoon we begin acolyte training at 4 p.m. and conclude with our EYC kickoff dinner at 5:00 p.m. We want all youth to be present on the 9th and for one of our listening sessions on the 20th and 21st. With your commitment and involvement, we have a thriving future ahead.

Grace & peace,
The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson
The Rev'd Brad Landry

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, September 17.

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 message.

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

INREACH Ministry Fair is your chance to let your talents "shine"

One of my favorite camp-type songs is "Let it Shine." I do not know if it is the permission that the song gives Episcopalians to wave their arms in the air during a church service or something else, but it has always been a favorite of mine. When I began thinking about how to get people excited about the Stewardship Ministry's Inreach Fair (and upcoming Outreach Fair in October), I kept humming that song. Finally, I realized that there was one verse standing out to me: *"Hide it under a bushel...NO! I'm gonna let it shine!"*

That is exactly the message that needs to be heard regarding the time and talent components of our stewardship commitment to God: our time and our talents are not to be selfishly hidden away, but rather allowed to shine as they are used for the building of His kingdom. We all have such an opportunity in the coming months to give of our time

and talent by becoming involved in one or more of the dozens of INREACH and OUTREACH ministries through the Church of the Nativity.

On Sunday, September 16 from 8:00 am until approximately 12:45 pm, representatives from Nativity's Inreach programs will be in Ridley Hall to showcase their ministries and sign you up for participation in the coming year. Whether you're interested in a worship ministry (ushers, lectors, LEMS, acolytes, Altar Guild, etc), fellowship & hospitality (blue apron, young parent mixers, parish weekend, Top of the Hill Gang, etc.), pastoral care (bereavement ministry, prayer shawl ministry, lay visitors, etc), or spirituality (Cursillo, Daughters of the King, etc.), the Inreach Ministry Fair is your chance to get involved at Nativity!

Each ministry will staff an informational booth and Sally Stockton will provide

delicious snacks throughout the morning. Parishioners are encouraged to attend the service of their choice (remember, we are back to 7:45, 8:45, and 11:00), attend Sunday School at 10:00, and attend the ministry fair sometime between 8:00 am and 12:45 pm.

How will you share your time and let your talents "shine" at Nativity during the coming year?

P.S. – Watch for these other exciting Stewardship Ministry events:

Sunday, October 21 –
OUTREACH

Ministry Fair

Thursday, November 1–
Thanks-4-Giving
celebration at
Huntsville Museum
of Art

David Collette

Nativity Stewardship
Ministry Chair