

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

November 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.



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

BLESSED TO BE A BLESSING!

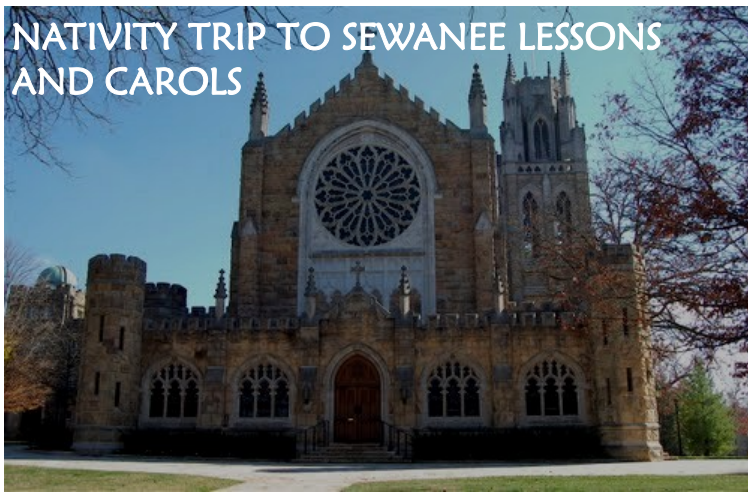
What you need to know about Stewardship at Nativity:

1. All that you have and all that you are is God's gift to you.
2. Through Creation and Nativity, God is blessing you to be a blessing. Nativity is financially stable at this time. Our average pledge has gone from \$2400 to almost \$3000. The average pledge for our peer parishes in Alabama is \$4000.
3. We have an energetic and faithful staff, clergy and lay leadership who are enabling our growing ministries.
4. Worshipping in one of the most beautiful churches in the nation, we are reminded of God's love and inspired to serve others.
5. Consider our vibrant and growing outreach ministries: The Greene Street Market, the Oscar Mason Library After School Program, Huntsville Assistance Program, Russell Erskine Neighbors ministry, our Haiti work and so much more! Outreach will be fully funded this year. Over 20% of our financial resources go beyond Nativity and into the world through outreach, Sewanee, and the diocese.
6. People are lining up for our Christian Formation opportunities with Church School, Bible Studies, EfM, and the stimulating speakers we have invited this fall, Stanley Hauerwas and Harvey Cox. Our opportunities are expanding for all ages with new Bible studies for elementary school age girls and high school boys.
7. Our church and chapel are beautifully restored, but we need to adequately fund our capital reserves. The church and grounds look magnificent, but other space is inadequate. Ridley Hall classrooms for children and junior high youth are in bad need of repair and upgrading. Just wander around Ridley and see for yourself.
8. Our Children's Ministry has become a vibrant part of our life together. We need to have a full-time director of Children's Ministry.
9. In the Rocket City, a city full of engineers and cutting edge technology, the church needs a new A/V system that has audio and video broadcast capabilities to feed Ridley Hall and the Chapel, as well as for Web broadcast. The current system is 20 years old!
10. We need a part-time Director of Communications staff position to support our growing parish in this age of new media.

What you need to do about Stewardship at Nativity:

1. Recognize God's blessings to you in all of life, and especially through Nativity.
2. Hear the voice of Christ calling you into the fullness grace and life.
3. Consider how your own life and others' lives are being transformed through Christ's love offered through Nativity.
4. Give thanks to God for these blessings.
5. Pray about what God would have you share as a steward of these blessings.
6. Move closer or even beyond the tithe. The Alabama Plan encourages us to take a good hard look at where we are in relation to the tithe, striving to increase your pledge by 1% a year until you reach the tithe. If already there, remember the tithe is a threshold goal.
7. Make a commitment of your time and talent, too!
8. Fill out that pledge card and bring it to Nativity this Sunday (or any Sunday in November) and offer it at the altar as you go forward to share Communion. Your pledge is a sacramental representation of your giving your life to Christ.
9. Be grateful for the opportunity to grow in your relationship with God through giving.
10. Recognize that you are indeed a blessing to others through the blessings you share.

NATIVITY TRIP TO SEWANEE LESSONS AND CAROLS



When: December 1

What: Roundtrip by Spirit Coach to Sewanee. This includes reserved seats for the afternoon performance of *Lessons & Carols* and dinner afterwards at Sewanee.

Cost: \$45 per person, all inclusive.

Reservations: Because seating is limited, you should *be prepared to pay in full when you make your reservation*. Please see Connie Gadowski in the Nativity office to make a reservation. Questions? Jeannie Robison, 256-536-0202 or email jrobis1@comcast.net.



MEN'S TURKEY FRY! Wednesday, November 21! Place your order SOON!

You can purchase tickets on Sundays in Ridley Hall or church office during office hours.

- Whole turkey \$45.00 for a plain and \$50.00 for a seasoned
- Turkey breast \$20.00 for a plain one and \$25.00 for a seasoned one.

All Proceeds from turkey sales go to CAJA (Court Appointed Juvenile Advocacy) and Oscar Mason Library.

Friends of Music at Nativity present...

FLINT RIVER BRASS QUINTET Saturday, November 10, 5:00 p.m.

Carolyn Sanders, trumpet; Bruce Zeiger, trumpet, Dorrie Nutt, horn
Steve Fischer, trombone, and Joel Mason, tuba

joined by: Suzanne Purtee, organ; Justin Swearingen, percussion, and Chris Walters, conductor

Upcoming Events on the FOM Calendar: **On Friday, December 7, 7:30 p.m.** organist Jonathan Hehn will provide a solo recital on the Nativity pipe organ.

Rounding out the year is Nativity choir's annual presentation of Lessons and Carols for Advent. This year the service is on **Saturday, December 15th at 5:00 p.m.**

Stewardship 2013 – It's in your hands

By now, everyone in the parish should have received their stewardship packet for 2013. The Stewardship Ministry has been working hard to inform everyone about the various ministry opportunities within our parish, the community, the Diocese, and the world; now it is time to make a financial commitment so that these ministries can become a reality. At this time, we are asking all parishioners to take the following steps:

- PRAY about your financial commitment to church
- If you are not currently pledging, MAKE A PLEDGE – an intentional gift to build up God's Kingdom
- If you are currently pledging, DETERMINE THE PROPORTION of your income represented by your current pledge
- COMMIT TO PROPORTIONATE GIVING, with a goal of reaching the tithe and beyond

The Stewardship Ministry has designated November 11, 18, 25 as "Commitment Sundays". Please bring your pledge card and drop it in one of the baskets as you make your way to the altar for Communion. If you are unable to bring your pledge card to church, feel free to mail it to the church office.

Nativity's Annual Bazaar will be November 15, from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

Nativity Bazaar

November 15

- There will be two lunch seatings: 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Lunch tickets can be purchased in Ridley Hall for the next two Sundays or by contacting Marilyn Grundy at mtgrundy@yahoo.com or 256-509-9962

- Take-out lunches will be available with delivery to your car in the circle drive.

Take-out tickets can be purchased in Ridley Hall for the next two Sundays or by contacting Jennifer Hulsey jathulsey@yahoo.com or 256-880-5242 .

- The raffle drawing will take place during the 12:30 seating. **Raffle tickets** may be purchased in Ridley Hall for the next two Sundays. You do not have to be present to win!

Stewardship of Creation Tip

As we think about our annual Stewardship campaign for our church and how we live out stewardship in our lives, let's think about our use of *all* of the resources available to us. Here are 3 Tips to Save Water in the Kitchen to help us be better stewards of one of our planet's most valuable resources:

Whether you live in an apartment, a condo, or a house, the kitchen can be an easy place to help trim your household's water use.

Sinks, dishwashers, and garbage disposals give you plenty of options for how you can stop wasting one of our planet's most valuable resources, whether you're building new, renovating an old space, or just enjoying where you are.



1. Give your faucet a tune-up. You use your faucets everyday for everything from getting a cold glass of drinking water to washing dishes to scrubbing soil off those fresh farmers market carrots.

First, turn the spigot off when it's not in use. Then, make sure your faucets are as efficient as you are. Install an aerator (\$2 to \$30) to boost water pressure while cutting overall water volume.

Fix or replace leaky faucets — even if the leaks are small. If your faucet is dripping at a rate of one drop per second you will waste 2,700 gallons of water per year. Studies show that leaks (not just in the kitchen) use up to 6 times as much water as a dishwasher in the average home.

Summary: These are quick, inexpensive fixes that can save water and money fast.

2. Compost, or at least avoid using the garbage disposal.

Garbage disposals are a popular way of getting rid of food waste in the kitchen, **but they require a lot of water** to operate properly.

Composting food waste not only reduces the amount of water you use in your kitchen, but using compost can also improve the ability of soil to hold water, reducing the amount of water gardens or farms need for irrigation. It's a two-for-one solution!

Can't compost where you live? Use the disposal sparingly, and only use it with items that won't clog the drain.

Summary: Composting is a low- or no-cost solution that can save you 100 or more gallons of water a year, not including irrigation benefits.

3. Do your dishes efficiently. The age-old debate about whether dishwashers or hand washing saves more water doesn't have a cut-and-dried answer; **it all depends on your** hand-washing method, the machine's efficiency, and which cycle you're using. No matter which method you use, there are a few ways to squeeze water savings out of the process.

Hand washers: you don't run the water while you brush your teeth; **don't run the water while you scrub your dishes.** Fill the sink (or a basin in the sink) with hot water and soap. Wash glasses and utensils first, working your way up to the dirtiest items, like greasy pots and pans. Rinse your dishes in batches, and set them out to air dry.

Dishwasher lovers: **don't** rinse dishes first; scrape food waste into the compost (or trash, if you must). **Be** sure to fill your dishwasher completely before running it, and **choose the appropriate cycle** — light, normal, or pots and pans, e.g. — to limit water-wasting soak cycles. If you're replacing your dishwasher, choose the right size and opt for energy- and water-efficient models..

*Summary: Basic behavior changes are definitely worth making! You may not see a huge impact on your water bill unless you're a big water hog today **but** with no cost necessary, why wait to make these good changes? You will know that you are being a better steward of the resources God has made available to you.*

YOUTH HAPPENINGS and NEWS UPDATES!

■ It's time for the annual youth Secular & Sacred Christmas trip to Nashville and Sewanee! Here's all the information:

- Who: All high school youth
- When: November 30–December 2
- What and Where: We will enjoy all the cheesy, fun things about Christmas in Nashville. Then we'll go to Sewanee for all of the sacred beauty of Christmas and attend Lessons & Carols Sunday night.
- Time: Meet at the church at 4:00pm on Friday and return by 9:30pm on Sunday night.
- Free time?: Yes! There is enough free time to complete homework (if needed).
- Can I bring friends?: YES!
- Cost: \$150 with a \$50 deposit by 11/18 to Liz Williams

■ The youth are needed to help with the Thanksgiving Party at Oscar Mason on Tuesday, November 13 immediately after school. We'll need to help serve food and make the craft project with the kids. It's a great way to spend the afternoon and I hope you'll join us!

■ For Junior High Youth (7th & 8th Grade)

– We had a GREAT time at our second TRASH Night at the Moring's – I'm so glad you could make it!! :) Here are the dates for our future TRASH Nights:

- 12/9 at the Gunter's
- 1/6 at the Bryant's
- 2/3 at the Knight's

A note about the next TRASH Night at the Gunter's: Please bring two WRAPPED ornaments with you. One of them we will swap with each other and the other one will go to a child who is in the hospital on Christmas Day.

PARENTS: If you would like to host a TRASH Night, please let me know! I need volunteers for March, April, and May.

– Registration for Winter Weekend at Camp McDowell, January 18–21 is now open!

For more information, go to <http://campmcdowell.dioala.org/Summer%20Camp%20&%20Events/winter-weekend.html>.

■ For Senior High Youth (9th–12th grade)

– We're going to continue working on the fun art project that will hang up in Ridley when we're finished. Think about what you're grateful for, especially when it comes to Nativity and our church family (diocese included). We'll use those answers for the project. :)

– The deadline for your deposit of \$50 for the Secular & Sacred Christmas trip to Nashville & Sewanee is **November 18th**. The dates for the trip are November 30–December 2. We will meet at 4:00 pm that Friday and be back by 9:00/9:30 on Sunday night after Lessons & Carols at Sewanee. **There will be free time to do homework!!!** :) The total amount for the trip is \$150. Scholarship assistance is available.

■ For All Youth

– This month we are focusing on stewardship and what form that can take here at Nativity. I have given youth pledge cards to many of you, but if you haven't received one yet, don't worry – I'll get you one! :) This is a great time to talk and pray together as a family to learn more about what it means to be a good steward to the church. This can be by giving your time, talent, or money. Are you an acolyte? Do you want to be a reader? How about the youth choir? Stewardship is not just about money, but what we can do to improve and add upon our ministry here at Nativity.

See y'all soon!

Peace,
Liz

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Joe Akin, Doris Tack, Ed Starnes, Shirley Porter, Lawrence Lacy, Robert Wright, Leigh Wahl, James Graham, Phyllis Lawson, Dot Kitchens, Elsie Olsen, Emile Joffrion, John, Nancy Kelly.

We pray for those deployed/serving with the:

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

Peace Corps: The Gambia, W Africa: Marisa Benzle

We pray for the departed:

Mary Prucha, mother of Stephen Prucha

Marian Harreld, aunt of David Phillips

Christopher F. Reckmeyer, brother of Kaaren Dunn

John J. Prucha, father of Stephen Prucha

We pray for The Rev'd Brad Landry and Mark Fortner while in Haiti. They will leave from Birmingham, November 8 returning November 13. While there they will be meeting with our companion diocese in Haiti and working directly with Father Valdema.

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

11/10 Maura Berman, Caroline Hornsby, Sarah Hornsby, Steuart Evans

11/11 Ellie Webber, Ruby Haymes

11/15 Evans Bryant, Peyton Mickle

11/17 Frederick Fortner

11/10 Vivian Hinton

11/20 Henry Limbo

11/21 Ernest Artrip

11/22 Claire Quirk

11/23 Macy Baker, Allie Hergert

11/24 Wren Bryant

11/25 Ella Rozar

We give thanks for New Members:

Lynna and Barry Morton

Mark Elrod

Joan and Joe East

Note from Pat Goodson, Sr. Warden:



The Greene St. Market Board would want me to tell you this regarding another year of success:

It is Marilyn Evans' passion as an advocate for fresh, local foods and helping local farmers that has made this Greene St. Market what it is today. Not only is she preparing for the market all week as well as setting it up and working it on Thursdays, but she is constantly working at local, county, state and regional levels as an advocate for the Local Foods movement. Our hats are off to Marilyn for leading us all into better food habits!!

Centering Prayer weekend retreat to be held at in Cullman

The Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman and Contemplative Outreach Birmingham are sponsoring a Centering Prayer retreat to be held in Cullman Nov. 30 - Dec. 1. This retreat, designed for those who have already attended an introductory retreat or workshop, will focus on developing further the discipline of Centering Prayer, a form of Christian prayer rooted in the ancient Christian contemplative tradition. The cost for the weekend is \$210/person for a private room and includes lodging, meals, and linens. For more information or to register, please contact the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center at (256) 734-8302 or by e-mail at retreats@shmon.org.

Nativity Women's Retreat

February 22-23, 2013

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Roommate request*: _____

Cost: \$125.00 per person*

*rooms w/ private bath are extra \$\$\$

Accommodations:

St. Mary's, Sewanee, Tennessee



*** **Deadline** ***

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

Return your registration
form & FULL payment
no later than

November 30, 2012 to:

Church of the Nativity
ATTN: Lane Tutt
208 Eustis Avenue SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

A RECEPTION WILL BE HELD IN HONOR OF THE REV'D MARY ANNE AKIN

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 18

(immediately following the 11:00 a.m. service)

Please join us as we show our gratitude, love, and affection to Mary Anne for her five and half years as Associate Rector for Pastoral Care and Outreach. Mary Anne has accepted the call to become the Chaplain for the Episcopal Foundation of Jefferson County at St. Martin's in the Pines.

It is our customary to present a monetary purse as a gift in thanksgiving and gratitude for the ministry we have shared. If you would like to participate, please send a check payable to the Church of the Nativity and marked "Akin Purse."

Mary Anne's new ministry begins at St. Martin's, Birmingham on December 1. We rejoice with St. Martin's in their fine call and are happy for them, even as we are sad to say goodbye to our good friend and fellow worker in the Vineyard.

Her inimitable presence will be missed.

Looking for an incredible spiritual renewal experience? Consider Cursillo in 2013!

Over a hundred Nativity parishioners and thousands of Episcopalians across the Diocese of Alabama have attended a Cursillo weekend. The weekend consists of a series of fifteen spiritual talks and various fun activities in God's Backyard (Camp McDowell). Once the weekend is over, attendees go back to their home parish and participate in group meetings to keep them on track with their piety, study, and action.

Cursillo is governed at the Diocesan level by the Secretariat – a body comprised lay and clergy leaders, including Bishop Sloan. David and Debbie Collette serve as co-lay rectors at Nativity and you are welcome to contact them if you have questions about Cursillo. The Cursillo community will hold an informational meeting and dinner this January 13, 5:30 p.m. and all interested parishioners are welcome to attend.

The Cursillo weekends for 2013 are as follows:

- ⇒ March 7-10, 2013
- ⇒ April 4-7, 2013
- ⇒ June 6-9, 2013
- ⇒ September 12-15, 2013
- ⇒ October 10-13, 2013

If you are interested in attending one of these weekends, please contact the Collette's (drc3898@knology.net or 256-830-2451). We hope to be welcoming YOU into the Cursillo community soon!



FOCAL

"Gifts for
Foster Children"

SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS through FOCAL— Foster Children Alliance of Madison County

Nativity's FOCAL team is headed up by Gail & Ronnie Rogers. They will have the list on the annual **FOCAL board** SOON! You may choose a tag and purchase gifts from the child's wish list. You can share a wish list with a friend. The gifts are brought back to Nativity for delivery to FOCAL.



the
**Greene
Street
Market**
at Nativity

Farmers' Market

The Board members of the Greene Street Market would like to express their gratitude to the parishioners and staff of the Church of the Nativity for their help, patience, understanding, and support. You allowed us to take over the parking lot and surrounding streets every Thursday afternoon from May through October.

We are also thankful for the ongoing presence of our parishioners at the market - every week the market was full of folks from Nativity buying products from our vendors. Our heartfelt appreciation goes to all of you for bringing this vision to life.

It is important for us to acknowledge Dr Mark Mueller and the staff and members of First Presbyterian Church who have been vital to the success of the Greene Street Market. They not only allowed us to use the garage of the Weil house for storage, they let us take over their parking lot for vendors and customers. They were always helpful, understanding and gracious. We are deeply grateful for their support.

We are often asked how the money-thing at the market works, so here's the scoop:

The market rents space to the vendors and that, along with tent and table rentals plus donations, constitutes the market's income. Vendors pay \$250 per season or \$15 per week for space rental.

The money goes to the Outreach Ministry of Nativity. This season the market is pleased to donate \$15,000 to this effort.

The Greene Street Market of Nativity Board includes Leedy Aboudonia, Louise Applegate, Hannah Boon, John Cline, Jr., Pattie Cline, Darlene Ehinger, Marilyn Evans, Mickey Ellis, Jeff Johnson, Elizabeth and Chris Jones, Wayne Laney, Suzie Naumann, Freya Neely, Laurie Noojin, Dorrie Nutt, Stephanie Sherman, Clay Sherrill, Will Taylor, Walter Thames, and Jackie Walker.

All of these folks work very hard to make the market successful and fun.

Mickey Ellis headed up an enthusiastic group of people who set up the market each week - that includes tents, tables, chairs, water, benches, signs, cones - all of it. The market would not happen without these folks.

Clay Sherrill, Chris Jones and John Cline, Jr. led the group who took down the market paraphernalia each week and got it neatly arranged in the garage. After a long hot market afternoon, these folks are much needed reinforcements.

Stephanie Sherman and Leedy Aboudonia chaired the Local Foods Dinner in July benefitting the Fresh Food Initiative of the Food Bank. This program doubles (up to

\$20) the value of SNAP (Food Stamp) money for fresh produce, meat, or cheese when it is spent at a farmers' market. The dinner raised \$4,475 for this fund.

Hannah Boon did all the administrative work with the USDA's Food and Nutrition Service to get the market certified to accept SNAP benefits (food stamps) and to get a machine to take the cards. We will be ready to do that next season.

Elizabeth Jones spearheaded the Children's Corner which was a new addition this year. It was a tremendous success. Once a month, she and her committee offered free children's activities in the church courtyard. This brought young families and lots of energy to the market.

Dorrie Nutt organized the fantastic music each week. The musicians all volunteer their time and make such a difference in the market atmosphere.

Pattie Cline arranged our cooking demonstrations. She recruited local chefs and talented local cooks, including our Rector and our Mayor, to volunteer their time at the market each week and teach us how to make tasty healthy dishes with local produce from the market.

Walter Thames designed and published our email marketing letter every week. We are grateful for his time, effort, and his "mad techno-skills".

Laurie Noojin, Hannah Boon, Jackie Walker and Jeff Johnson all organized special days at the market - tomato sandwich day, cucumber soup day, the hymn sing, Alabama Catfish day, and pumpkin-vase flower arranging. All these events were crowd-pleasers.

Darlene and John Ehinger were always present to give out \$1 Greene Street Market coupons to those who, instead of driving, rode their bikes to the market.

Jackie Walker spends her time at the market each week collecting and accounting for the money the market takes in. We would be in trouble without her.

Suzy Naumann recorded the Public Service Announcements for WLRH to broadcast throughout the market season. These helped us reach a wider customer base.

We have had a wonderful year. Thanks again to you, as members of Nativity, for your support of the market. The market is a win-win-win for our church and its outreach, for local farmers and for our community.

We, of course, think it's Andy's best idea ever.

See you next May!!

The Board of the Greene Street Market at Nativity

(Please see page 5 for a note from Sr. Warden, Pat Goodson and The Greene St. Market at Nativity Board)

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, November 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 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

WARDENS' COUNCIL

Pat Goodson Sr Warden

Russ Alexander Jr Warden

Hannah Boon Clerk

Frederick Lanier Treasurer

Rusty Stephenson Finance Chair

Don Wheeler Nativity Trust

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

2012 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION FORM

If you are interested in dedicating flowers for Christmas, please complete and mail this form with your check payable to "Flower Guild" to Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801.

Christmas dedications are \$20 each

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION. THANK YOU.

Your Name as it is to be listed in Christmas Programs: _____

Phone # _____

Do you wish to have your name listed in the Christmas Programs? _____

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

All dedications will read: "To the glory of God and..."

"in loving memory of"

"in thanksgiving for"

"in celebration of"

Name for this dedication: _____