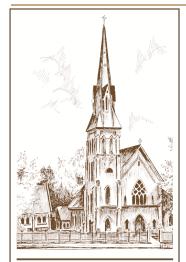
THE STEEPLE



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

The Church of the Nativity

November 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.

Prayers for Your Life

Almighty and gracious Father, we give you thanks for the fruits of the earth in their season and for the labors of those who harvest them. Make us, we pray, faithful stewards of your great bounty, for the provision of our necessities and the relief of all who are in need, to the glory of your Name, through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and for ever. Amen.

The Collect for Thanksgiving Day (BCP p. 246)

At some point over this Thanksgiving weekend, most sit down to share a special holiday meal that almost always begins with a prayer. Clergy experience reveals that many would prefer to defer the praying to the clergy who might be present at their board. This is not only true for holidays but just about anytime we "professional" *pray-ers* find ourselves the guest at a meal.

It seems that for many people the pressure is on to say exactly the right words needed for the occasion. This oratory search can bring anxiety and stress on the appointed leader. And so as we Episcopalians say, "When in doubt, go to the Prayer Book!" I often remind the host and hostess that they are the "ministers" of their household and so they are effectively the appointed prayer leaders! So, perhaps you and your family might find the above Collect for Thanksgiving Day from our Prayer Book just right for your holiday observance.

We clergy are often reminding the flock that all of us can pray. It just doesn't have to be that hard. For us Episcopalians, thanks be to God for our *Book of Common Prayer*! But I'll let you in on a secret: Sometimes even the professional *pray-ers* search with no little anxiety for the right words in those times we know the praying should be our offering.

I have found Episcopal writer and spiritual life journalist Anne Lamott's newest book insightful for all of us who seek to find the right words to pray. She makes it quite simple. This New York Times best-selling author has discovered three basic prayers that she believes essential for everyday living:

- 1. *Help!*
- 2. Thanks!
- 3. *Wow!*

Hence the title of her book, *Help! Thanks! Pray!* I hope you have discovered Anne Lamott's funny and perceptive writing about her faith journey through decades of trial and error. If not, I'm sure Cheryl in the Source Books and Gifts at Nativity can help you (her first book, *Travelling Mercies*, is a favorite. Lamott has coalesced everything she knows about prayer to these fundamental three prayers.

It seems that all of our prayers can fall into a version of one of these three. Are you praying these prayers? We can't get through this life without God's help and the help God sends us in each other. But then, we can't get through life without giving thanks for the good things, the blessings that we know and share from God. And then there is just the exaltation in the incredible beauty and grace in this world! This weekend you especially have many opportunities to pray the second and third prayers of Lamott's triad: Thanks! and Wow!

Maybe these can be the prayers you and your household pray around the table this Thanksgiving: Prayers for our lives made simple, because it just doesn't have to be that hard. We can all pray. Help! Thanks! Wow! Thanksgiving blessings to all.

Andy +

Did you miss purchasing a ticket for the Saturday Lessons and Carols and dinner? You have another opportunity to attend...on Sunday, December 2nd in All Saints' Chapel. There are two services offered and are open to the public on a first-come, first-seated basis. The first is at 5:00 p.m., with doors opening at 4:00 p.m. The second is at 8:00 p.m., with doors opening at 7:00 p.m. Lines may be long, especially for the 5:00 p.m. service. Reservations are not needed or accepted. This is their 53rd Annual Festival of Lessons and Carols!

Advent Program and Luncheon for Top Of the Hill Gang will be held on TUESDAY, DECEMBER 4.

Light appetizers will be served at 11:30 while you visit with each other. Lunch will be served at 12:00 noon, and the program will begin at 12:30 p.m. (\$8 per person)

Music, Advent stories and history, and little gifts for all.

Join us as we begin our TOHG Advent journey.

Please make reservations by noon, Monday, December 3 to the church office 256-533-2455.

Friends of Music present.....

Jonathan Hehn, organist in concert Friday, December 7 at 7:30 p.m.

in a solo recital featuring an eclectic mix of works for the Season of Advent. The concert features music by Scheidt, Bach, Widor, and Hakim; as well as modern works and a multimedia backdrop with some selections.

Saturday, December 15th, 5 pm,

Lessons and Carols at Nativity

Annual service of readings with choral music interspersed.

Based on Kings College Cambridge tradition.

Advent Family Wreath Making Workshop - Sunday, December 2 @ 10:00—10:15 a.m. in Ridley Hall. This year we WILL have delayed Sunday School classes for all ages.

- ☼ Cost is \$8 for your wreath base and Advent candles
- * Please bring greenery (boxwoods, holly, etc.)
- You may bring your own pair of small garden clippers

This is a time for the entire family to create your personal Advent wreath. We will have refreshments also.

OUTREACH CORNER:

- ** Krik? Krak! Outreach Nativity Blend Coffee Sales will continue through December 16

 You can purchase 1/2 pound bags of coffee for gift giving in Ridley Hall between services. Proceeds will go to the Haiti Children's Lunch Program (Krik? Krak!) which provides the village children with one nutritious hot lunch per week.
- Sunday December 2 is HAP Sunday for Nativity. Keep in mind that this food ingathering will provide holiday provisions for needy families of Huntsville. Please bring:

 oatmeal, pancake mix, syrup, canned hams, canned fruits and any kind of Christmas candy or cookie.

Advent Quiet Day Saturday, December 1st from 9 to 11 at St. Stephen's Episcopal Church

Your gift will make a difference!

We invite Nativity to attend this service as we step aside, come inside and rest in the beauty of holiness.

Readings by the Rev'd Susan Sloan, Music by violinist Sharon Landis, and reflections by YOU.

Reservations are not required and all are welcome.

Youth News - The Steeple 11/21/12

For Junior High Youth



The next TRASH Night will be at the Gunter's home on December 9th from 4:00pm-5:30pm.

Please remember to bring two WRAPPED ornaments:

- * one to exchange with each other and
- ☼ one to give to a child in the hospital during Christmas.



Registration for Winter Weekend at Camp McDowell is open! The dates are January 18-21 and the cost is \$140 per person. Winter Weekend To register, visit www.campmcdowell.com. at Camp McDowell

For Senior High Youth



There is still space for our Secular & Sacred Christmas Trip to Nashville and Sewanee! The total cost for the trip is \$150, with \$50 due when you sign up. We will leave on November 30th (meet at the church at 4:00pm), and be back by 9:30 pm on Sunday, December 2nd.

We'll explore and enjoy all the cheesy, fun Christmas things while in Nashville, and then the beautiful and sacred Lessons & Carols Sunday night at Sewanee. If you would like to join in on the fun, let me know as soon as possible.

And friends are welcome to come with us!

We will NOT have EYC on Sunday, November 25 or December 2 (since we'll be coming back from our trip.) The next EYC will be Sunday, December 9th.

> HAVE A GREAT THANKSGIVING! Peace, Liz

NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S CORNER OF THE CHURCH:

- * Christmas Program Artwork cover contest. The children will be working on this during Children's Chapel in December. The winner will get to have their art work on the cover of the Christmas program for the Children's service. Tell your children to start practicing drawing Nativity Scenes!
- * December 2nd Advent Wreath workshop I think I already gave you that info.
- * December 8th We need some little elves! The children will be making crafts for the Russell Erskine residents during Sunday School. We need lots of children to be "elves" and secretly deliver the gifts while the residents are being entertained by the Nativity Choir. Join us at the Russell Erskine building at 115 Clinton Ave. at 1:00. Meet us in the lobby and we will distribute the gifts.
- * December 9th St. Nicholas surprise! The children will get a surprise visit during Children's Chapel. Families with children, be sure and come to the 8:45 service that day.
- * December 16th Pajama Day at Nativity! Wear your pajamas to the 8:45 service and bring a pair in your child's size. The kids will meet in Ridley before the service to process with their pajamas. All of the pajamas will go to the Oscar Mason Children. We will have regular Sunday School that day with some special treats.

If you have questions, need more information please contact me by email efoster@nativity-hsv or the church office 256-533-2455.

Elizabeth Foster, Children's Christian Formation Director

FINANCIAL REPORTS

Parish Financi	al Report	2013 Pledges by Dollar Range				
	CURRENT MONTH		JDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD	November 18, 2012 \$1,000 or < 39 \$1,001 - \$2,999.99 52
	\$ 89,842.2 \$ 4,841.0		106,777.42 5,555.83	\$ 999,679.66 \$ 56,211.62	\$ 1,067,774.16 \$ 55,558.34	\$3,000 - \$4,999.99 36 \$5,000 - \$9,999.99 31 \$10,000 - \$14,999.99 7 \$15,000 - \$24,999.99 6
Other Revenues	\$ 2,175.0	6 \$	8,940.00	\$ 84,002.07	\$ 89,400.00	\$25,000 - \$39,999.99 1
TOTAL S	\$ 96,858.4	0 \$	121,273.25	\$ 1,139,893.35	\$ 1,212,732.50	\$40,000 or > 1 Total Number of Pledges 173
Diocesan, School of Theology, &	¢ 24 20¢ 2	4 f	24 070 94	\$	¢ 240.700.22	Total Dollar Amount of Pledges \$715,078.65
Outreach	\$ 31,386.3	ı ş	24,070.84	202,416.87 \$	\$ 240,708.32	Average Pledge \$4,133.40
Personnel	\$ 72,307.7	6 \$	65,470.32	653,990.57 \$	\$ 654,703.36	You may mail or bring your 2013
Other Expenses	\$ 30,088.6	3 \$	31,732.04	267,007.74	\$ 317,320.92	pledge card to the church office
TOTAL	\$ 133,782.7	0 \$	121,273.20	\$ 1,123,415.18	\$ 1,212,732.60	Monday-Thursday 9:00—4:00 Friday 9:00—12:00 If you need a pledge packet, please
NET_	\$ (36,924.3	0) \$	0.05	\$ 16,478.17	\$ (0.10)	call 256-533-2455.

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

Please bring your pledge card and drop it in one of the baskets as you make your way to the altar for Communion Sunday, November 25th.. If you are unable to bring your pledge card to church, feel free to mail it to the church office.



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

Nativity's FOCAL team is headed up by Gail & Ronnie Rogers. FOCAL board is located in Ridley Hall! 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.

LADIES—Please remember to register for our annual Ladies' Retreat at St. Mary's Sewanee.

Retreat date: Friday February 24 until noon, Saturday, February 25.

Forms are available in the church office, bulletin board in hallway (near Banister Room) or see Lane Tutt. Cost is \$125 pp includes all meals and accommodations.

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Madeline Hicks, Thomas Booth, Debbie Tabb, Joe Akin, Ed Starnes, Lawrence Lacy, Robert Wright, Leigh Wahl, Doris Tack, 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:

Angela Dawn Gresham Moorman, daughter-in-law of Joann and Bob Moorman

We welcome new members:

John, Cara, Grace, Elise, and Cole Greco

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

12/1 Claire Hulsey

12/2 Liam Stevens

12/4 Richard Huskey

12/8 Margaret Foster

12/9 Jack McClung

Parish bids heartfelt blessings for The Rev'd Mary Anne Akin



On Sunday, November 18, The Rev'd Mary Anne Akin was honored with a reception for her years of service with Nativity as Associate Rector for Pastoral Care and Outreach. Mary Anne has recently accepted the call to become the Chaplain for the Episcopal Foundation of Jefferson County at St. Martin's in the Pines in Birmingham. Her new ministry begins on December 1.

In addition to presenting Mary Anne a monetary purse, as a gift in thanksgiving and gratitude for the ministry we share, Father Anderson presented to her a hand-crafted Nativity Icon purchased and blessed in Bethlehem while the Nativity pilgrims were in the Holy Lands.

We give thanks for The Rev'd Mary Anne and her ministry, and in wishing her God's blessings for the future.

Stewardship of Creation tip for November 21, 2012

Are you a good steward of the resources available to you, at home, at work and in our community? Be part of the solution to finding the best ways to protecting God's creation and showing respect and love to our world and a loving response in thanks for the many gifts we enjoy. Here are some ways that can help:

Your Community: You can share your environmental ideas and concerns with your friends and neighbors. Express your opinions to government leaders both locally and nationally. Your opinion matters!

Get Hooked on Sustainable Seafood: Protecting marine diversity means thinking about what you eat. And there is plenty to enjoy. For example, Alaskan wild-caught salmon is the best choice to eat, whereas farmed or Atlantic salmon is recommended to avoid or eat infrequently.

Don't Be a Guinea Pig: Thousands of untested chemicals are used in everyday household products, putting your family at risk. Take a stand by contacting manufacturers, buying organic and non-toxic products, and joining the call for toxics reform.

Ask For a Home Energy Audit: Contact your utility company or state department of energy about a comprehensive home energy audit. Many utilities and states perform these audits free of charge, and the energy-saving opportunities they reveal can save you money while reducing emissions.

Take a Credit for Savings: There may be tax credits for energy saving home investments, including solar panels, small wind turbines and geothermal heat pumps. You can learn more at www.energystar.gov.

Drive to Save Gas: You can reduce your car's emissions with some easy maintenance. A single misfiring sparkplug can reduce your mileage by 30%. Under-inflated tires can cost you 15%. 147 million gallons of gas are wasted each year from loose, missing or damaged gas caps!

Take Your Values to Work: Does your workplace have an "efficiency czar"? Ask about savings that can be achieved through changes in lighting, heating and cooling, etc. Businesses, schools and institutions can save significantly on energy. You can help.

		V	VORSHIP SCHEDULE Decemb	er 2012 - pub	lished 11/16/12					
	ı		SUNDAY, December 2, 1	st Sunday of Adver	I		1			
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		Lector		Intercessor			
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	Ken Barnett		Ken Barnett		Ken Barnett			
8:45 am	Landry	Anderson	Charlie Warren, Minda Alexander, Lee Hid		Meredith Walker		Shirley Hale			
11:00 am	Landry	Anderson	Barbara Buice, Ed Vaughn, Rich Goodwir		John Conover, Jord	lan Cozby	Deborah Baker			
•			WEDNESDAY, De	cember 5, HE						
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM							
12:00 noon	Lar	ndry	Marilyn Lands	amban C UE						
Comice	Calabrant	Preacher	THURSDAY, Dec	ember 6, HE						
Service 6:00 pm	Celebrant	•								
6:00 pm	Rob	ISON	SUNDAY, December 9, 2	nd Sunday of Adve	nt					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Sulluay of Auve	Lector		Intercessor			
7:45 am	Landry Anderson	Landry	John Hendricks Lewie Bates, Mike Ward, Pat Sampson		John Hendricks	John Hendricks Clay Sherrill				
8:45 am 11:00 am	Anderson	Landry Landry	Will Elliott, Erin Elliott, Marilyn Lands		Elaine Hamner Debbie Collette, David Collette		Ed Vaughn			
11.00 alli	Anderson	Lanury		cember 12 HF	Debble Collette, Da	ivid Collette	Lu vaugiiii			
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	WEDNESDAY, December 12, HE LEM							
12:00 noon		erson	Mary Hendricks							
12.00 110011	And	J. 3011	THURSDAY, Dec	ember 13. HF						
Service	Celebrant	Preacher								
6:00 pm	Lan									
			SUNDAY, December 16, 3	Brd Sunday of Adve	nt					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	•	Lector		Intercessor			
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	Sue Johnson		Sue Johnson		Sue Johnson			
8:45 am	Landry	Anderson	Robert Dunn, Lane Mickle, Warren Vann		Cassidy Bates		Lee Hicklen			
11:00 am	Landry	Anderson	Robin Cozby, Peter Cobun, Walter Thame	es	Mike Innes, Mickey	Ellis	Sally Ann Culver			
	,,		WEDNESDAY, Dec		,		1			
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	,						
12:00 noon	Lar	ndry	Cheryl Watts							
			THURSDAY, Dec	ember 20, HE						
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	THURSDAY, Dec	ember 20, HE						
Service 6:00 pm	Celebrant Ande									
6:00 pm	Ande	erson	SUNDAY, December 23, 4							
6:00 pm Service			SUNDAY, December 23, 4		Lector		Intercessor			
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The Episcopal Churches of the Northern Region
The Diocese of Alabama present

The Hope of Something New
Spiritual Engagement with the Spirit of Advent
An Evening with the Rt. Rev. Santosh K. Mavray

Assistant Bishop The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama

Wednesday, December 5, 2012

6:00-7:00 p.m. - Presentation & Reception following Holy Cross-St. Christopher's Episcopal Church 3740 Meridian Street, NE Huntsville, Alabama 35811



Dr. Lauren F. Winner presents EXPLORING THE SPIRITUALITY OF THE MIDDLE

December 7 (6:00 p.m.) - 9 (11:00 a.m.) at St. Mary's Sewanee: The Ayres Center for Spiritual Development Dr. Winner is the author of numerous books, including <u>Girl Meets God</u> and <u>Mudhouse Sabbath</u>. She is an Assistant Professor at Duke Divingty School in Durham, N.C. Lauren has appeared on PBS and written for several national publications.

This retreat is about exploring the middle of spiritual life. Most of us know how to talk about our spiritual beginnings—our infant baptism, or our dramatic conversion later in life. But after the beginning comes a middle, and the middle is long, and interesting, and may often look very different from the beginning.

What does faithfulness look like once you have arrived at the moment where the things you thought you knew about the spiritual life turned out not to suffice for the life you are actually living? Among other things, we will explore spiritual practices and metaphors that illumine the middle.

Three ways to Register:

- 1. Call us at 1-800-728-1649
- 2. Email us at: reservations@st.maryssewanee.org
- 3. Pick-up a form from the church office (see Linda Wheeler)

Fee: Commuter \$190

Resident \$300

ALTAR FLOWERS 2013 DEDICATION FORM If you are interested in dedicating Altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2013, please complete and mail this form with your check made out to "Flower Guild" and mail 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. 2013 Altar Flower Order Form Altar Flowers are \$40 or \$20 for shared dedications Date desired _____ Your Name Phone # - Would you share a dedication? _____ Do you wish to have your name listed in the bulletin? _____ All dedications read "To the glory of God and... in loving memory of or in thanksgiving for or in celebration of... Please be specific by underlining or circling your desired dedication above: Name for this altar flower dedication:

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, December 3.

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	, .

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: