

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

December 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.

Advent Preparations

As the world around us rushes ahead to Christmas, it is clear that many folks in North Alabama don't observe Advent. But sometimes we Episcopalians confronted by the busy world around can confuse Advent's purposes.

- Advent is a time of waiting----and so we wait in long lines in the stores, we wait in traffic, we wait in line to get our children's pictures taken with Santa.
- Advent is a time of watching---and so we watch a plethora of seasonal specials, spectaculars, and heart-warming, smarmy movies. And we can almost watch non-stop ball games and other sports.
- Advent is a time of hoping----and so we hope that we will buy the perfect present for those on our shopping list. We hope that we will get at least one item on our own Christmas list that we really want.

We wait, we watch, we hope for the perfect Christmas---*just like the ones we used to know*. But what are you really waiting for? What are you really hoping for? Are you watching for Christ's coming? What is your deepest hope as we begin a new Church year this Advent?

Advent means "coming." Our season of Advent is about Christ's coming, but not simply his first coming as the "Babe of Bethlehem. Advent is about three different ways we know Christ comes. And so our waiting and watching and hoping require special time and effort.

Of course, we prepare in Advent to celebrate Christ's first coming in history. God came to us in the darkness of the world to get us back on the course God had intended us to be on all along, until *we chose* to abandon God's desires and hopes for us. But before we think about that initial coming we will celebrate during the 12 Days of Christmas, Advent compels us to think about his final coming when Christ the King will come at the fulfillment of time, victoriously and as our judge. We cannot predict that time—it is God's timing alone. Advent compels us to get on with the work Jesus has asked you to do before he returns in glory and you stand before him.

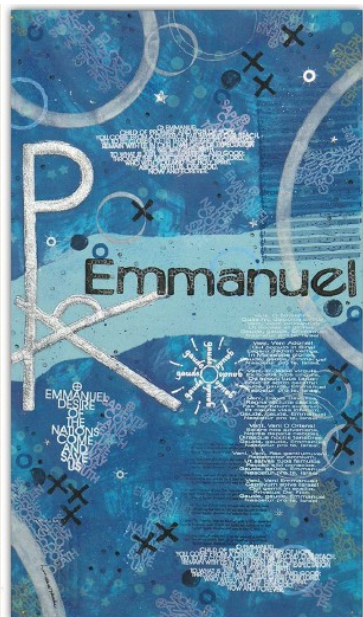
Between these two times of his coming, his first and his last, Advent is also about his continual coming to us in faith every day. He comes as the suffering God who died on the Cross and is raised, calling us to share in Resurrection Life. He comes to us continually in faith in order to assure us and prepare us for his coming at the end of time.

He comes to you today: right now, wherever you are in your life. He comes in word and deed; in sacrament and in prayer. We meet him in each other. He will come to others through your sharing what you receive from him in blessing. Christ comes to us in faith each and every day. He comes to us each day as we are alert to his incarnate presence raising us and others to the new life that God says one day will be all we know.

He comes when you allow his love, his forgiveness, his grace, to reach from your life to others, giving of yourself as he has given. He comes when you visit someone who is lonely, or sick or hurting. He comes when you bring a winter coat to share with someone who has none. He comes when your family shops for a family that has nothing, and you take a little less for yourself. He comes when a teenager tells a friend, "No, I will not do that because God has shown me a better way of living." He comes when a business man or woman makes a decision that might not seem to be the smartest by the world's standards, but you know is right by Christ's ethic. He comes when his irresistible way of living becomes the way you live.

So wait, watch, hope. Be about the work you have been given to do prior to his final advent. And then, being aware and available to his daily advent, your celebration of his coming in his Christmas advent this year will be like none you've known before! A blessed Advent to all.

Andy +



Friends of Music present organ concert....

On Friday, December 7th at 7:30 pm organist Jonathan Hehn will present a program of music for Advent here at Nativity. Mr. Hehn is working on his doctorate in organ at Florida State University and already has achieved many honors in the world of organ and church music. An innovator, Jonathan will provide some beautiful visual backdrops for a couple of the compositions on the hour long recital.

Additionally, the Magnificat by Samuel Scheidt will include traditional Gregorian chant interludes sung by a few choir members, as would have been done when it was first performed back in the 16th century. Mr. Hehn's program includes new music of the 21st century as well -- it will be an evening to remember!



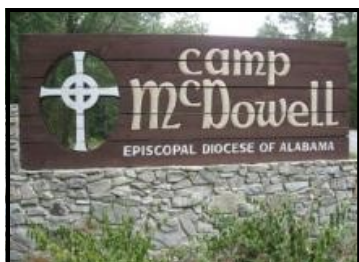
Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols at Nativity

Saturday, December 15th, 5 pm,

Annual service of readings with choral music interspersed.

Based on Kings College Cambridge tradition. Introduced in 1918.

Nativity's Lessons and Carols is a most-noted and revered service.



WHAT? PARISH WEEKEND PLANS UNDERWAY NOW? YES! So please SAVE THE DATE...

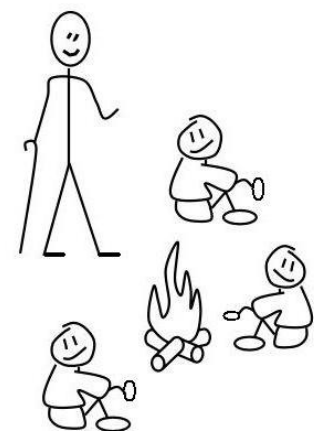
The date for Nativity's Annual Parish Weekend at Camp McDowell is April 19th - 21st this year. We have moved the date a week earlier to avoid conflicting with Panoply. Look for more information in a few months. Please contact Elizabeth Foster at elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com if you would like to help out with this fun event.

Outreach Nativity Blend Coffee Sales for Krik? Krak! 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 Krik? Krak! which provides the village children with one nutritious hot lunch per week.

Krik? Krak! A Lunch Program for School Children in Crochu, Haiti

Spouses of clergy in the Diocese of Alabama started a project through which school lunches are provided one day per week to children and teachers in Crochu, Haiti. Crochu is one of six villages with which our diocese is linked in a companion relationship. The school and church in that remote mountain village are under the care of Father Fritz Valdema and his wife, Carmel. Children there, in particular, are victims of poverty and hunger, being far from larger villages, food supplies and medical help. Their nearest water supply is a 30 minute walk.



As night falls in Haitian homes, or around the fire, one will frequently hear a loud "Krik?" from one of the elders ready to tell a story, and soon a responding "Krak!" from children eager to hear it.

FROM THE MUSIC DEPARTMENT

'We sing because we want to pour out our hearts in praise'

Congratulations to Mhairi Kerr on receiving her light blue medal in the Voice for Life music education program Sunday.

The RSCM is a Christian educational charity committed to enabling the best use of music in worship, church life and the wider community. Here at Nativity we offer the RSCM Voice for Life music education program for all youth who are interested. As the student musicians achieve a new level of skill they are awarded a medal. Nativity Choristers have achieved the Light and Dark Blue medals and a few are working on their third, the Red. There are four levels; highest level requires a standard of knowledge that many music majors have not achieved when entering college! Music (especially singing) is one area of study where children and adults are on an even playing field.

A little more about the RSCM:



The Royal School of Church Music is an educational Christian charity enabling the best use of music in worship, church life, and community. 'We sing because we want to pour out our hearts in praise': this is a quote from the newest leader of the world-wide association, the Royal School of Church Music.

The RSCM has 7,100 active members and affiliates, and 1,100 supporting friends encouraged by 600 volunteers in the UK, Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and South Africa and supported by a small central staff. This is an open, life-long learning organization with involvement from people of every age, from under 8 to over 80 committed to enabling singing,

encouraging choirs, nurturing skills, and developing understanding

What is the RSCM aiming to achieve?

The RSCM's mission is to enable the best use of music in Christian worship, church life, and in the wider community. Our objectives are to support our members through practical and applied programs of education and training music-making at festivals and courses music and training resources information, advice and guidance to serve the churches by encouraging music-making in general, and singing in particular providing training in essential skills for church music developing understanding of music in the church's ministry and worship encouraging good music everywhere through fostering outreach from the churches into the community engaging with young people in singing.

You can find more information online or on Facebook.



LADIES—With the busyness of the Thanksgiving season, we have extended the deadline for your RETREAT RESERVATIONS.

Date of retreat: February 24 (dinner) through February 25 (lunch)

Cost: \$125 pp includes meals and accommodations

Where: St. Mary's Sewanee

Contact: Lane Tutt 256-533-2455; ltutt@nativity-hsv.org

Please DON'T DELAY so we can make our deposit deadline. Thanks!

Nativity Pictorial Directory near completion

We did it! Over 400 portraits will appear in the Nativity Pictorial Directory and the team sends a hearty thanks to all who participated in making this directory a success. We have also included some great photos of life at Nativity highlighting various aspects of the many ministries that keep us growing.

We expect a target distribution date by mid- January 2013 and will provide information in the Steeple announcing when and where you can pick up your copy. Stay tuned!

Christmas Services Schedule on page 8!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY returns to NATIVITY in January!

A new Dave Ramsey Financial Peace University class – 9 weeks only – will begin on Monday, January 14th through March 11th, 2013 at 6:00 to 7:30 p.m. in Ridley Hall. This Monday night class will be led by Emily and Robert Rodgers, Mel and Tom Ford, and Lane and Drew Tutt.

During this life-changing class, you will learn how to:

Get control of your money, Tell your money what to do, and Change your family’s future!

Most people struggle to make ends meet. They just have too much money left at the end of the month! If you have made mistakes and feel like your money vanishes each month, you are not alone. In fact, 70% of Americans live paycheck to paycheck, regardless of income. Dave explains how money really works in a simple, easy-to-understand style. You’ll actually have fun as you learn about saving, budgeting, investing, insurance and more! FPU is, without a doubt, the best program available for personal finance.

Cost for materials before Christmas is \$86.00 and the price after Christmas is \$95.00. The members’ materials include FPU Workbook – 9 life-changing lessons that walk you step by step through the FPU program. Audio CD Library – All 9 lessons. FPU Envelope System – Dave’s famous, easy to use cash management system- a great tool to organize your money and stay on budget. Much More – Also included in every membership are budgeting forms, Dave’s best-selling FINANCIAL PEACE REVISITED book, debit card holders, tip cards, and two FPU bonus CD- ROMs.

Get started today!! Call the church office or Lane Tutt 256-533-2455 or email ltutt@nativity-hsv.org

FINANCIAL PLEDGE REPORT

2013 Pledges Report December 2, 2012

\$1,000 or <	55
\$1,001 - \$2,999.99	83
\$3,000 - \$4,999.99	51
\$5,000 - \$9,999.99	44
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	7
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	8
\$25,000 - \$39,999.99	1
\$40,000 or >	1
Total Number of Pledges	250
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	\$958,731.65
Average Pledge	\$3,834.93

The Adult Learning Center is in need of tutors in both math and reading, getting students up to a 6th grade level.

Created by Nativity several years ago, it is currently lacking Nativity hands-on support.

Excellent materials are available, much paid for by Nativity’s Outreach Ministry. Let’s keep this worthwhile program going.

A tutor’s commitment is a two-hour session, once a week—morning or early afternoon Tuesday, Wednesday, or Thursday. ALC is closed on major Holidays.

ALC is housed in the Madison County Public Library, second floor.

If you are interested in learning more about this program or to volunteer, please call ALC Director, Nancy Saliba 256-532-59979 or come by for a visit.

Ann Moses



Nativity Mission Guild Christmas luncheon plans underway

Mission Guild members are reminded that our Christmas luncheon will be held at the Holiday Inn on Monday, December 17, at 11:30 a.m. Our guest and speaker will be The Rev. Jack Wilson. If you haven’t already turned in your luncheon payment, please give it to Lois Dreher by December 10 or mail it to her at 203 Westchester Avenue, SW, Huntsville 35801-3305.

When is *The Steeple* printed? Each 1st and 3rd Wednesdays

When is the deadline to submit articles? Monday noon prior to publication.

How do I submit an article? Copy ready via email to Linda Wheeler is best, however handwritten can be brought or mailed to the church office.

Who should I contact if I have questions about *The Steeple*? Linda Wheeler at 256-533-2455 or by email l.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Barbara Smith, Madeline Hicks, David Corriveau, Byron Hundley, E. Ray Tanner, 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:

Thomas Michael Booth, son of Tom Booth

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

We give thanks for the birth of a child:

Max Rankin Phillips, son of Macon & Emily Phillips; grandson of Mac & Barbara Phillips; great-grandson of Bob & Lois Phillips.

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

12/10 Patrick Reid, Vivian Brouse

12/12 Will Knight, May Watson

12/14 Hope Howell, Ireland Braudaway, William Ellison

12/17 Maggie Sanders

12/18 Chandler Mason, Alton Hudson, Hunter Whitworth

Mental Health First Aid Class offering at Nativity

Mental health problems are much more common than most people realize. Surveys suggest that in America today more than one in five adults will experience a mental disorder in any given year. Recovery is possible with early intervention; however, only 41% of those with a mental illness will seek help in any given year, and 50% will delay getting help for an average of 10 years. People delay getting help largely due to stigma associated with mental health problems.

In order to reduce stigma and the resulting pain that families and friends go through as they suffer from not knowing how to cope with mental health issues, a class will be offered at Nativity this winter titled "Mental Health First Aid." (MHFA)

MHFA has been proven to improve understanding and to decrease stigma related to mental illness and substance use. The goal is for MHFA training to become as readily recognized in a few years as CPR and First Aid trainings are today.

Rita Limbaugh, Community Education Director of the Mental Health Center, is certified in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA) and offering MHFA training to groups of 8 - 25 who desire to gain skills to help someone who is developing a mental health problem or experiencing a mental health crisis. The 12-hour course presents an overview of mental illnesses and substance use disorders in the U.S. and introduces participants to risk factors and warning signs of mental health problems, builds understanding of their impact on individuals, families and communities, and overviews common treatments and resources. Participants learn a 5-Step Action Plan that includes skills, resources, and knowledge needed to help an individual in crisis connect with appropriate professional, peer, family, social, and self-help care.

If there is enough interest, a class will take place at Nativity on 4 consecutive Monday evenings from 5:30-8:30 pm, starting January 21, continuing on January 28, February 2, and concluding February 9th. This is open to members of Nativity, and the public at large. There is a \$25 fee for the course materials. Please call the church office to reserve your seat and once the minimum number is reached you will be contacted about the meeting room and confirmation of the class. Please send or drop off your check by January 8th, 2013.

Find more information at http://www.mentalhealthfirstaid.org/cs/program_overview/

Share with your child these



Stewardship of Creation ABC's

As we continue to think about our stewardship of the gifts and resources God provides for us daily, here is a handy guide to help us remember ways we can be good stewards of those gifts:

THE ABC's of LIVING GREEN

- A** Ask about aquifers – think about our water supply as you go about your daily activities
- B** Build Bat Boxes
- C** Compost Creatively
- D** Defend Diversity
- E** Enjoy Eating locally-grown foods
- F** Find Fun outdoor activities
- G** Go Green every chance you get
- H** Honor Honeybees
- I** Imagine Interdependence of all of God's creation
- J** Join in for Justice
- K** Keep your Kitchen cookin'
- L** Leave Litter behind
- M** Marvel at Migration
- N** Notice Native species
- O** Opt for Organic
- P** Plant trees
- Q** Question consumption
- R** Repair, Reuse, then Recycle
- S** Support Sustainable Systems (such as rain barrels and composting)
- T** Take Trains for Trips
- U** Unplug!
- V** Value Vegetables
- W** Walk with family and friends; get the children outdoors
- X** EXchange EXperiences; encourage others by sharing information and your EXperiences in living green
- Y** YOU do make a difference!!
- Z** Zero in on Zero waste



NEWS FROM THE CHILDREN'S CORNER OF THE CHURCH:

- ❄ Christmas Program Artwork cover contest has ended and submitted to church office administrative staff to choose. The children worked on this during Children's Chapel and the winner will get to have his/her art work on the cover of the Christmas program for the Children's Service. **They were all AWESOME!** And I understand it has been quite a challenge to decide which one will be on the cover.
- ❄ 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.
- ❄ December 24th - "Holy Commotion" will be at 4:00. All children are invited to participate in the Children's Program. Meet in Ridley at 3:30 to get your costume.

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

"The Spiritual Care of Care Givers for the Aging and Those with Disabilities."

Tuesday January 28, 5:30-9:00 with presenters: Dr. Edith Fraser of A & M University, Dr. David Freeman of Weatherly Heights Baptist Church, and the Rev. Traci Loveman of Latham United Methodist Church.
First Baptist Church, 600 Governor's Dr. Cost: \$30 (includes supper!).

For more information or to register early, email malmcarl@hotmail.com or phone 256 883-6539.

DECEMBER 16 is deadline to order:
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: _____

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 17.

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev'd Brad Landry
Associate

The Rev'd Jeannie Robison
Deacon

Suzanne Purtee
Organist/Choirmaster

Lane Tutt
Adult Christian Formation

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

CHRISTMAS SERVICES SCHEDULE

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Christmas Eve, December 24

4:00 p.m.* Children's Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist (*nursery available for this service)

7:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

10:30 p.m. Christmas Eve Holy Eucharist

•

Christmas Day, December 25

10:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Rite I

•

Sunday, December 30

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

10:00 a.m. Christmas Readings & Carols