

THE STEEPLE



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

The Church of the Nativity

January 16, 2013

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.

Faith and Politics: An Invitation to Christian Discourse

The elections are over...a new year has begun...there is still much divisiveness in Washington...many national problems need bipartisan solutions...***Where do we go from here? How can we think in a new way to promote the common good? How can we Episcopalians live together in Communion when we disagree on political solutions?***

Nativity's Spiritual Formation Ministry invites you to a timely Winter Wisdom event, an evening with Robert Parham on the role of religion and politics next Wednesday, January 23rd in the Parish Hall at 5:15 p.m. (dinner served, children's program, nursery childcare available by reservation). Nashvillian Robert Parham is Executive Director of www.EthicsDaily.com a website challenging people of faith to advance the common good. Parham writes regularly for the *New York Post* and has appeared on CNN, ABC, NPR, Fox News, and MSNBC.

People of faith and goodwill are needed more than ever to participate in, and even shape, the political discourse of our divided nation over matters of justice, love and compassion that the Gospel compels us to address. A careful reading of scripture from the Old Testament through the Gospels and the New Testament shows that God is concerned about the political decisions we make. Jesus wants every bit of your heart and mind and life. Jesus wants to shape your political, economic and social decisions by the Good News of God's Kingdom. In fact, Jesus' message and ministry were directed to a political environment that had co-opted the religious system and set up a divisive society in his own day and time.

Here's an old joke: *What separates Republicans and Democrats in the Episcopal Church?* Answer: *The altar rail!* This is certainly not true for us at Nativity. We are a faithful expression of diversity, even political diversity of Democrats and Republicans at prayer and work together, as we kneel together in the service of one God and Father of all, one Lord Jesus Christ, and the one Spirit making us one. Our diversity is an expression of our Trinitarian God.

So, how will we live together in Communion, in our beloved Nativity community, when we disagree? How can we talk with each other with respect? The end of all we do is summarized by Jesus' Great Commandment: ***Love the Lord your God with all your heart and soul and mind. And love your neighbor as yourself.*** Our faith is not a private, individualistic matter, but a matter of the community and for the wider common good. Through our faith, every action and decision we make will either show our love of God and neighbor, or deny that love.

As we seek to be politically informed, we should seek those positive sources that promote love of God and love of neighbor. We should seek, as we have promised in the Baptismal Covenant, to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ. And as the Covenant continues, seeking and serving Christ in all persons, loving our neighbor as our self. We commit to strive for justice and peace among all people, respecting the dignity of every human being.

The Episcopal Church does not shy away from political matters of Gospel justice, mercy and compassion. In matters of great national consequence, they are brought to our attention through our gatherings like we will have on the 23rd and in other ways. The Episcopal Church has an office of Government Relations and sponsors the Episcopal Public Policy Network, EPPN at www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.htm, helping to put our faith into action. Perhaps you might want to visit this site, and Robert Parham's site before next Wednesday. The world needs our Christ-centered perspective and voice more than ever. Hope to see you Wednesday!

Andy +

**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

Annual Newcomers' Welcome Dinner on Sunday, January 27 at 6 p.m.
New to Nativity? Visiting, Seeking? Your invited! Recently became a new member at Nativity or moved back recently? Your invited!

You are invited to a casual dinner held in your honor
at the home of Connie and Rusty Stephenson, 526 Adams St.
The clergy and staff of Nativity would love to take this opportunity to get to know you better.
Please contact the church office at 256-533-2455 or RSVP to linda.wheeler@nativity-hsv.org.

Please note that child care will not be provided for this event.

NATIVITY MENTAL HEALTH FIRST AID CLASS TO BEGIN JANUARY 21 **COST FOR MATERIALS \$25 PAYABLE TO NATIVITY**

This class will take place at Nativity on four 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. 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.

Rita Limbaugh, Community Education Director of the Mental Health Center, is certified in Mental Health First Aid (MHFA.) 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.

For more information contact Suzanne Purtee 256-533-2455 extension 224.

NATIVITY MUSICAL EVENTS



On January 18, at 7:30 p.m. Independent Musical Productions, Inc. present "Cautiously Optimistic" an *Evening with* **Scott Evan Davis** and special guests **Joshua Dixon** and **Vicky Modica**.

This Sunday, January 20th at 4:00 p.m. Michael Walker, countertenor will present a concert with **Suzanne Purtee** and **Melanie Payne**, accompanist & vocalists. Songs by Handel, Lassus, Bach, and Purcell will

be on the program. Mr. Walker has sung with the Nativity Choir and at services here several times in the past year. All are welcome to attend this program (held in the Nave).

NOT TOO LATE TO JOIN & BEAT DEBT WITH US!

FINANCIAL PEACE UNIVERSITY EACH MONDAY 6:00 P.M. IN RIDLEY HALL

Mel and Tom Ford, Emily and Robert Rodgers, Lane and Drew Tutt will be leading the Dave Ramsey class. The first of 9 sessions began Monday, Jan. 14th, however, if you are interested in attending or would like more information please contact Lane Tutt at 256-533-2455 or email ltutt@nativity-hsv.org. This class can really change your life—for you and your children!! Give it a try and hear what Dave has to say about how to be debt free. Grab your friends and join us.

LOOK FOR THE GRAY NAMETAGS

Have you got questions about something at Nativity? Concerns? Do you want to make a suggestion? Do you want to let us know about some program you really like and want to see continued? Look for the gray vestry nametags. Your 2013 Vestry is here to help you and we can do it best if we know what you think and want. We want to hear from you!

WINTER WISDOM

Nativity Ridley Hall

Winter Soup Suppers 5:15 pm* \$7 adults \$5 children

Guest Speaker 6:00 pm*

* Reservations are required for dinner and nursery to 256-533-2455 by Tuesdays.

❄ Wednesday, January 23, 2013 ❄

Robert Parham

“The Role of Religion and Politics”

WHERE DO WE GO FROM HERE? HOW CAN WE THINK IN A NEW WAY?

Come hear the Executive Director of EthicsDaily.com

– a nationally recognized site.

A Web site “Challenging People of Faith to Advance the Common Good”

Robert Parham (based in Nashville, TN) has written for the Washington Post’s “On Faith” web page, written columns for many metropolitan daily newspapers in the south, and appeared on CNN, Fox News, MSNBC, ABC, and NPR. Mr. Parham was a featured speaker at Vanderbilt University in March 2012.

❄ Wednesday, January 30, 2013 ❄

Leslie Manning, Director

STORIES FROM SAWYERVILLE

**This year marks the 20th Anniversary
of Sawyerville Day Camp!**

**Also, we will hear stories from Nativity youth
who have participated in the camp.**



LADIES—REMEMBER TO MAKE RETREAT RESERVATIONS!

Date of retreat: February 22 (dinner) through February 23 (lunch)

Spaces are still available for you to join us at St. Mary’s Sewanee! Invite a friend

Retreat Leader: Linda Douty will teach from *The Cup of our Life* by Joyce Rupp

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

Cost: \$125 pp includes meals and accommodations

YOUTH MINISTER TO BEGIN IN FEBRUARY

Dear Nativity Parents & Students,

I am very excited to announce that William Blackerby will be coming to Nativity in February to serve as Youth Minister.

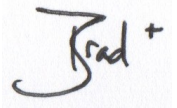
Over the past few months I have been working closely with the Youth Ministry Renovation Team and Fr. Andy as we discerned the best course of action for our youth ministry. After prayerfully considering several different options, the consensus was that William was the right person for the job. The Renovation Team and Youth Council met with William and are excited about the gifts he will be able to offer here at Nativity.

William graduated from Sewanee - The University of the South - in 2009, and since then has been working at Greater Birmingham Ministries as their Faith in Community Organizer. He has served on staff for many years at the Sawyerville Day Camp as well as Camp McDowell. Several of our students and their parents already know, love, and trust William, and we're very excited to have him come to Nativity.

William has read the assessment given us by Youth Ministry Architects and is excited about the renovation and re-visioning we have already begun. He will work closely with the Renovation Team, the Youth Council, and myself to continue the work recommended to us by Youth Ministry Architects.

Please join me in welcoming William to Nativity as we continue the work God has given us to do - to love and serve God as faithful witnesses of Christ our Lord.

Grace & peace,



A new church school class beginning January 27

Social Justice Handbook: Small Steps for a Better World by Elise Cannon

This book study class will begin Sunday, January 27 in Joffion Hall Second Floor East

Class leaders are Christine Starnes, Juliana Larson, Jackie Sheldon, Darlene Ehinger, Blair Glenn, Marilyn Lands

SEWANEE FILED EDUCATION SEMINARIAN—TO BEGIN JANUARY 27

Since 2005, The Church of the Nativity has served as a Field Education placement parish for seminarians at the School of Theology at Sewanee, one of the Episcopal Church's seminaries. We are pleased that Diana Scheide will begin her Field Education Training under the mentorship of our Rector, The Rev'd Andy Anderson, beginning January 27th and serving through May. Diana is our fifth seminarian to be placed at Nativity since 2005. She will be with us on most Sundays serving as a Lay Eucharistic Minister and participating in and learning about our various ministries. She will accompany the clergy from time to time on pastoral visits and be involved in different ministry expressions that will assist in her priestly formation. She will be at Nativity approximately one afternoon a week in addition to Sundays, and will have several preaching and teaching opportunities. Please give her a big Nativity welcome!



Diana Southwick Scheide

School of Theology, University of the South

Diana is from the Diocese of Central Pennsylvania. She has lived in York Pennsylvania for more than twenty years. She graduated in 1978 from Wheaton College, Norton MA with a BA in Comparative Religion & Education. She graduated from Newton Wellesley Hospital School of Nursing in 1982. The last eight years she has worked in Hospital Infection Control. She is a mother of three sons, ages 25, 23, and 21; and two dogs. She likes pottery, music, and traveling.

"I have been called to ministry all of my life and I am looking forward to sharing in the ministry and life at Nativity."



Top of the Hill Gang ... Please note!

The next luncheon will be Tuesday, January 29th.

11:30 a.m. Appetizers and chat time

12:00 p.m. lunch and program

Cost \$8.00 per person to be paid at the door

The topic is "**Faith, Food, Friends, and Fitness.**"

Please make your reservation for lunch by noon, January 28th by calling the Nativity office 256-533-2455.

Youth Confirmation Class Fundraisers! Help fund their 2013 retreat!

1. February 3 – Super Bowl SOUP Sunday

Youth will be selling Santé Fe Soup by the quart and New Orleans Sweet Treats! The soup can be purchased on Sunday, February 3 from 9:30 a.m. until 12:30 p.m. from the kitchen.

1. February 12—6:00 p.m. Shrove Tuesday Mardi Gras and Cajun Dinner

Last year's fundraiser from this meal was such a success we plan to repeat! Dinner will be served at 6:00 p.m. in Ridley Hall. In addition to dinner, live music by The Charlie Lyle Band, Children's Mardi Gras parade. Cajun dinner menu: Jambalaya, Salad, Bread Pudding, Tea, Coffee, Water. Children may order Pizza and King Cake and Beverage!

7 Easy, Green New Year's Resolutions

It's easy to think about all the big changes you're going to make in the New Year as the old year comes to an end — but by the second week of January, most of us are already finding reasons to skip the gym or break the spending freeze. That's why these green New Year's resolutions are offered, **all of them so easy you'll have no excuse not to keep them** — and they will help you to be good stewards of God's creation AND save money, cut your carbon footprint, decrease your home's waste stream, and improve the quality of the Earth.

#1 Attend Harvey Cotten's new Care of Creation Class, beginning February 10, 2013 March 17. This resource seeks to make us aware of the abundant beauty and goodness of the part of God's creation we call Alabama. The more we know about the earth and the environment, the more we will love and care for them. This course material is for both adults and youth, to provide an opportunity to learn of the wonders of the Diocese of Alabama's unique biodiversity and our role in Care of God's Creation with our home rivers, lakes, streams, creeks, and water resources. This is a follow-up for Harvey's very well-received classes of 2009 and 2010 with new resources and updated information.

#2 Never buy bottled water again Trade your bottled water habit for an at-home filtering pitcher and you can help make a dent in the [1.5 million barrels](#) of oil used to make plastic water bottles each year; pair it with a reusable bottle (like one made of [glass, aluminum, or recycled plastic](#)), and you'll always be prepared to tackle your thirst. Bonus: With bottled water no longer on your shopping list, you could save lots of money this year.

#3 Brew your own Fair Trade coffee Carrying your own coffee in an insulated travel mug helps you reduce waste from cardboard cups and carrying sleeves — which are thrown away at a staggering rate of [58 billion each year](#). For greener at-home brewing, choose a [Fair Trade blend](#) that supports farmers and add [organic milk](#) instead of artificial creamers.

#4 Remember your reusable bags With more than [1 million plastic bags](#) ending up in the trash every minute, taking [reusable bags](#) to the store is one of the easiest and

most effective ways to reduce your carbon footprint. And don't just take them into the grocery store — they can also be used for your other shopping errands also.

#5 Cut back on paper towels If you're grabbing a paper towel for everything from wiping up spills and cleaning your counter to scrubbing the bathroom and keeping your hands clean at dinner, it's time to [make a change](#). Instead, invest in a few [cotton cloths](#) and some [fabric napkins](#); then drop them in the wash when you run a load of laundry. Using the cloth alternatives is just as easy as using the paper versions, and you only need to buy them once — plus you can help eliminate the tons of paper towels that end up in landfills every day.

#7 Become a weekend vegetarian Cutting meat out of your diet just two days a week can decrease your carbon footprint and coming up with meat-free meals for Saturday and Sunday isn't as hard as it sounds. Try pancakes and fruit for breakfast; fresh salads or roasted vegetable sandwiches for lunch; and [veggie pizza](#), bean soups, and [creamy risottos](#) for dinner. And since doubling a recipe rarely adds any time to your prep work, you can make extras to eat throughout the week (and trim your [carbon footprint](#) even more).

#7 Replace your lightbulbs Replacing your lightbulbs with [compact fluorescent lights](#) may be the ultimate change for the eco-slacker. Despite all the jokes, it takes only one person to change a lightbulb — and since CFLs last longer than traditional bulbs, you'll be saving time for years down the road while cutting your energy use by as much as 80 percent.

FINANCIAL CORNER

Pledge Report

January 13, 2013

\$1,000 or <	87
\$1,001—\$2,999.99	132
\$3,000—\$4,999.99	70
\$5,000—\$9,999.99	53
\$10,000 —\$14,999.99	10
\$15,000—\$24,999.99	8
\$25,000—\$39,999.99	1
\$40,000 or >	1
Total Number of Pledges	362
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	\$1,215,213.65
Average Pledge	\$3,356.94

PLEASE PICK UP YOUR OFFERING ENVELOPES THIS WEEK!

2013 Offering Envelopes are located in Ridley Hall Narthex & we ask you to get them so we will not need to mail them. You may get them on Sunday or during normal office hours Monday - Thursday 9 - 4:00; Friday 9-12:30 *If you have not requested but would like to receive preprinted dated envelopes* please contact Beverly Franklin, Nativity Bookkeeper at 256-533-2455.

H E A L T H Y CONGREGATION TIPS:

Beside practicing good individual preventative hygiene, as a congregation we're taking some precautions as well to limit the spread of influenza. Wash your hands frequently and make liberal use of the hand-sanitizers we've placed around the church, as that's our first line of defense.

Secondly, even though the risk of spreading germs by sharing the common cup at Communion is generally low, for those who have been recently ill, we will offer Communion by Intinction.

Please allow the Chalice Bearer to dip the Bread into the Chalice for you.

Lenten Season 2013 begins February! Mark your calendars for Lenten Services

Tuesdays 12:05-12:35 pm in Church

Lenten Noonday Preaching Series 2013

sponsored by Nativity's Spiritual Development

Following the service box lunches will be available in Ridley Hall.
Please order box lunches no later than noon Mondays prior to service.

February 19 - The Rev. Liston Garfield,

Rector of St. Andrew's Episcopal in Tuskegee, AL

Chair of the Diocesan Standing Committee

Feb 26—The Rev. Kammy Young,

Professor of Contextual Theology and Director of Field Education
at Sewanee School of Theology in Sewanee, TN

March 5—The Rt. Rev. Santosh K. Marray,

Assistant Bishop for the Diocese of Alabama in Birmingham, AL

March 12—The Rev. Scott Peterson,

Pastor of Messiah Lutheran Church in Madison, AL

March 19—The Rev. Wren Miller,

Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church in Huntsville, AL

Wednesday Nights in Lent in Ridley Hall*

Lenten Noonday Preaching Series 2013

Sponsored by Adult Christian Formation

"For where two or more are gathered in my name, I am there among them."

Wednesday Night Dinner 5:15 p.m. *

Reservations for dinner should be made no later than Tuesday noon prior

Program 5:15 p.m. * Guest Speakers in Ridley

Youth and Children will have age-level programming

*Nursery by RESERVATIONS no later than Tuesday noon prior

Nursery is open from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m.

February 20—TBA

February 27—Dr. James Gilbert, M.D.,

local General & Pediatric Surgeon

March 6—The Rev. Rich Webster,

Rector St. Luke's Episcopal in Birmingham

March 13—The Rev. David Dill,

Rector Church of the Good Shepherd in Decatur

March 20—TBA

Other Lenten Dates for your calendar planning:

February 12 Shrove Tuesday Dinner 6:00 p.m.

February 13 Ash Wednesday

7:00 a.m. Holy Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes

12:00 p.m. Holy Eucharist, Imposition of Ashes; Soup Lunch

6:00 p.m.* Ash Wednesday Services (age-level designed)

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Michael Shipley, Linda Giardini Drzycinski, Howard Sandlin, Eileen Sullivan, Elaine Wood, Shirley Porter, Roy Gowman, Byron Hundley, E. Ray Tanner, Elsie Olsen, Lucy Waesche, Lois Phillips, Barbara Smith, Debbie Tabb, Joe Akin, Ed Starnes, Leigh Wahl, Phyllis Lawson, Dot Kitchens, Emile Joffrion, John, Nancy Kelly.

We pray for those deployed/serving with the:

Military: Afghanistan: Matthew Spivey, Denver Colin;

Bahrain: Jonathan Serwecki

Peace Corps: The Gambia, W Africa: Marisa Benzle

We pray for the departed:

Mary Ann Bryan, parishioner

Vannah Husband, parishioner

Joe Franklin, husband of Beverly Franklin

We give thanks for the birth of a child:

Fred White Tyson III, great-grandson of Sally Ann Culver, born January 3.

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

1/20 Aiden Copeland

1/27 Christopher Lovejoy

1/29 Palmer Ford, Evelyn Roche

1/31 Emery Windham

2/1 Caroline Avolesse, Celia Farrell, Brooke Sherman

2/2 Edward Rosler, Paul-Michael Williamson

2/3 John Bohan

2/5 Will Brambach

2/6 Cameron Pinson, Patrick Quillen



PARISH WEEKEND WILL TAKE PLACE APRIL 19—APRIL 21

This date will not conflict with Panoply and we look forward to more participation this year! Elizabeth Foster and Father Rusty are getting the teams in place; if you would like to be on the planning committee for with this fun event contact Elizabeth at 256-533-2455 by email to elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com

The Episcopal Public Policy Network invites your participation in a Gospel Response to Sandy Hook.

Please visit the website at <http://www.episcopalchurch.org/eppn.htm> where you may sign up to become a part of our work in Washington.

Whether you're a layperson, a deacon, a priest, or a bishop, there's a role for you. In 2013, as our nation's leaders begin discussing solutions, you will hear from the Episcopal Church's Office of Government Relations and other leaders on how to leverage your commitment for the greatest good. You will be asked to write to Congress and the President. You will be asked to encourage your friends to participate. You'll be asked to help make a difference. Right now, we ask you to sign the following pledge:

As an Episcopalian committed in baptism to seeking justice and peace and promoting the dignity of every human being, I commit to being part of the solution to the violence in our culture that claimed the lives of 26 people at Sandy Hook Elementary School and that claims the lives of 2000 innocent children through gun crimes each year. I commit to the pursuit of laws that keep guns out of the hands of criminals, prioritize the needs of at-risk children, provide care for mental illness, and address the many ways in which our culture both celebrates and trivializes violence. I commit to holding my lawmakers, my community, and my own household accountable. I commit to accomplishing these things in 2013. I commit to being the change we need.

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, February 4.

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev'd Brad Landry
Associate

The Rev'd Rusty McCown
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

Rusty Stephenson Sr Warden
Brad Hall Jr Warden

Stacy Moon Clerk

Robert Mullins Treasurer
Frederick Lanier 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

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? ____

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

All dedications read "To the glory of God and...
in loving memory of or **in thanksgiving for** or **in celebration of...**

Name for this altar flower dedication: