

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

February 20, 2013

Mission of the Church of the Nativity

God's family at the historic Church of the Nativity is joyfully and energetically committed to sharing Christ's love and healing by proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel through worship and service to the world.

Lenten Landscape

Lent begins when the world is cold and gray...when the trees are bare of leaves, revealing the basic forms of their structure. And we come to church on Ash Wednesday and discover a similar barrenness inside in this beautiful and holy place stripped of brass and flower and flourishes. And so our attention is not distracted by outward symbols, but is focused inward.

With ashes placed upon our foreheads, our lives, too, are stripped bare, reminding us of the stark reality of our mortality. They are our encounter with death and dust. Yet, to have a close scrape with death is to breathe more deeply, to know you are free. And so the church gives us all, once a year, the opportunity to look at death straight on.

"Remember that you are dust, and to dust you shall return." The sheer raw truthfulness of this act comes crashing home—I am finite, fragile, a creature who has been given these few short years to live. I have been given this time *now*, before I return to the dust, to be what I have been given to be. The truth of my life is spread before me, if I am paying attention.

Just as the gray and cold days of winter encourage me to be more alive when the skies are blue and the sun is warm; just as I can see further through the winter landscape, seeing the real structure of the strength of the trees that offer shade when they are fully leafed; Ash Wednesday enables me to see who God has created me to be in spite of my efforts to cover up the truth that life comes from God alone and is known in God's purposes.

And so this Lenten landscape is full of confession and repentance. Of course, this can sometimes seem like pseudo-guilt or unnecessary self-criticism. But something much more mysterious is happening as we honestly strip away those things that have gotten in the way of God's life leafing forth from us.

Our prayers of confession are our acknowledgment that we are made for better lives—deeper, truer, and wiser—than we are living. The first thing the doctor asks when we arrive for an appointment is, "Where does it hurt?" The first step to health is naming the pain. Our confessions allow us to take off the mask of our coping so well, and to name, within the silence, before the great loving Mystery of God, where it is our lives are caught, or hurting, or hurting others. Our confessions acknowledge that there is One who cares, who longs for us to be more truly alive.

Lent also calls us to fasting and alms giving. In our fasting and sacrifices, we are stripping away things that we have found pleasure and comfort in so that we may, in the emptiness of the space provided, learn to trust God alone. In Tuesday's *Forward Day By Day* devotion, we hear a reflection on Tuesday's reading from Deuteronomy: "Moses explains that when the Israelites have eaten limited food for a while, they began to understand that 'one does not live by bread alone, but by every word that comes from the mouth of the Lord.' Living crammed-full lives, we could use a little emptiness for a limited time as a unique lesson about true life..."

I have grown to love the winter landscape and I have grown to love the Lenten landscape. All these things we do are preparing us for true life that comes from God alone. Stripped bare, God is able to breathe new life into this dust that I am, so that for a while, I will leaf forth with God's life and love for this world. And one day, I won't simply return to the dust, I will return to the One who created me, redeemed me in Christ, and has sanctified me to share fully in that life forever. In this Lenten landscape, we will learn that the best is yet to come!

Andy +



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

Friends of Music at Nativity Classical Guitar Concert



On, Friday, February 22 7:30 p.m. FOM will host Rupert Boyd, an Australian guitarist currently based in NYC. Mr. Boyd debuted at Weil Recital Hall (Carnegie Hall.) He has also played at the 92nd Street Y, Merkin Concert Hall and for the New York Classical Guitar Society.

All FOM concerts are free and open to everyone. Donations are encouraged!

Lay Eucharistic Ministers Training

Father Anderson will hold training for those interested in serving as Lay Eucharistic Ministers (Chalice Bearer.) The training session will be held Sunday, February 24th following the 11:00 service. Those interested must be confirmed, over the age of 16, and an active communicant of Nativity. Please contact Connie in the church office 533-2455 or cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org to register for the training.

Acolyte Recognition

On February 24th, 11:00 service we honor our seniors serving in their final year of Acolyte ministry. For years, these dedicated young people have shown up in bad weather, following the prom, driving in from the lake, in between sports tournaments and all manner of activities to help lead our worship services here at Nativity. We join them in anticipation of the next phase of their lives, and above all offer our thanks for a job well done!

Spencer Anglin, Noelle Carter, Rosie Chilton, William Ellison,
Travis King, Trace Markwalter, Rachel Quillen, and Hanly Ward

The Top of the Hill Gang February Luncheon

We will eat lunch together on Tuesday, February 26, following the 12:05 Lenten Preaching Series. (*look for TOHG table sign!*) The preacher is Rev'd Kammy Young. Lunch follows the service in Ridley Hall. Please make your lunch reservation by noon Monday, February 25th to 256-533-2455. Box lunches \$7.00 each.

CHILDREN'S NOOK

Wednesday Nights in Lent program for kids.

We are excited to announce our Wednesday night's in Lent Children's program. "Dare to be Different" is a magical journey into the book, *A Wrinkle in Time* by Episcopal author, Madeleine L' Engle. Children Kindergarten through 4th grade are invited to attend this 5 week program. It will start on Wednesday, February 20th and go through Wednesday, March 20th. Join us as a family for dinner at 5:15 and then stay for the Lenten speakers. The nursery will be available for children 5 and under by reservation. For family dinner reservations and nursery reservations call 256-533-2455.

We will be exploring the following themes during our Lent program:

Week 1 - Our Special Gifts

Week 2 - Following the Footsteps of Saints

Week 3 - Daring to be Different

Week 4 - Foolishness, Faith and Free Will

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?

Your 2013 Vestry is here to help you and we can do it best if we know what you think and want.

Look for the gray vestry nametags. We want to hear from you!





the **The Greene Street Market Needs You**

Greene Street Market

at Nativity

We are excited to be planning the Greene Street Market at Nativity's *third season*. The market encourages the growth of a strong community spirit in our area, bringing people together, encouraging economic growth and fostering healthy eating.

Come join us and be a part of a fun event!!!

The dates for the 2013 are May 2 – Oct 31. Times are 4 – 8 pm May – August, 4 – 7 pm in September, and 3 – 6 pm in October.

We need volunteers of all sorts –

Here are some of the jobs & times

- 1) **Publicity** – now – Oct , various times
distributing GSM posters, & yard signs, speaking to groups, GSM Market Day sponsorships
- 2) **Market Set Up**
Each Thursday, May – Oct . This can be done on your own schedule – e.g.- one Thursday a month, every Thursday for a month or scheduled when you are available
9 – 10 am - set up tents, chairs & tables and arrange market for the afternoon
2 – 4 pm - help vendors unload and set up
4 - 6 pm - vendor help, water distribution
End of market – take down & store tents
- 3) **Children's Corner** - 3rd Thursday of May, June and July - 4 – 6 pm.
This will be scheduled with our Children's Corner chairmen
help with planning and being part of Children's Corner events
- 4) **Special Market Events** – dates TBD
e.g. Tomato Sandwich Day , Cucumber Soup Day, Fried Catfish Day
assist in planning, preparation and distribution
- 5) **Musicians** – all our musicians are volunteer performers – if you are in a group or know of a group who are interested in performing, please let us know

If you are interested in volunteering in any way with the market, please contact Marilyn Evans
greenestreetmarket@gmail.com - or 256 682 4429

Nativity Choir Ministry Fundraiser to support the ministry of the Choir

STOOLS for SALE (*sample on display in Ridley Hall*)

Everyone needs a stool...a place of time-out...a step to reach the top shelf... or a place to put your feet up. These stools are available for \$50.00 each and you may choose a stain to match your décor. Contact Suzanne Purtee or a choir member to get yours today or to place an order: suzanne.purtee@gmail.com or 256-665-4821

News from the Vestry Nominating Committee

The outgoing Vestry members from 2012 met and elected Jennifer Hulsey to become a new at-large member of the Vestry Nominating Committee. The new Sr. Warden, Rusty Stephenson, will also join that committee. (Sally Naumann and David Collette are rotating off that committee.) The other members of the committee are Mac Phillips, Bland Warren, Pat Goodson, Alyce Smith, and Shelley Whitney. The committee members are glad to answer any of your questions about the nominating process. You'll be hearing more from this group this summer.



Follow Nativity on
Facebook!

Keep Up with Nativity Events on Facebook!

Nativity's Facebook page provides a good way for Nativity parishioners to follow current events and other concerns of church life. You can also let your parish know about events that concern us all. To sign up, just visit the church website at www.nativity.dioala.org and click on the "Follow Nativity on Facebook" link found on the left side of the page.

Lenten 2013 Services

Tuesdays in Lent 2013

Noonday Preaching Series is a 30-minute service beginning at 12:05 pm.

Box Lunches will be available in Ridley Hall following each service.

Reservations for lunches are required by the previous Monday noon.

Sponsored by Nativity's Spiritual Development

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*

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

Sponsored by Adult Christian Formation

5:15 p.m.—6:00 p.m.* Dinner in Ridley Hall

Reservations for dinner and nursery are required no later than Tuesday noon prior*

6:00 p.m.—7:00 p.m.* Lenten Program for all ages

Adults will remain in Ridley Hall

Youth may go to youth department hang-out or use this time to do your homework)

Children may go to the WoRM

****Nursery is open from 5:30 until 7:00 p.m.by reservations only***

February 20—The Rev. Geoffrey Evans, St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands, Birmingham

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—The Rev. Rusty McCown, Associate Rector Church of the Nativity

Lenten Devotions 2013 via Email

If you would like to receive this year's Lenten Devotions via email, send your email address to Connie at cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org. The devotions will be sent weekly. If you received it Ash Wednesday you do not to sign-up again.

Lenten Devotional Booklets are located in the track-cabinet in Ridley and on the table located in hallway off Banister Room.

Contemplative Outreach Birmingham announces their 20th Annual Conference.

"Centering in the Midst of Commotion: Thomas Merton, Contemplation and the Living Life."

Gray Matthews, Ph.D., a former board member of the Thomas Merton International Society, a Lay Cistercian and Assistant Professor at the University of Memphis, will join us for a meditative conversation on lessons drawn from the life of Thomas Merton. He will share how Merton prayed and conceived the nature of prayer as well as how Merton's monastic opening to the world helps us better appreciate the paradox of living in the world but not of it.

This event will be held at St. Stephens Episcopal Church in Birmingham, AL on March 9, 2013.

Cost is \$60 for the day including lunch.

To inquire or register call Diana Tschache at 205/991-6964 or tschached@bellsouth.net.

WORSHIP SCHEDULE March 2013, published 2/20/13

SUNDAY, March 3, 3rd Sunday in Lent

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Landry-out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 am	McCown	Anderson	Warren Vann, Lee Hicklen	Cassidy Bates	Melissa Kirkindall
11:00 am	McCown	Anderson	Walter Thames, Marilyn Lands	Jordan Cozby, Mike Innes	RuthAnn Haymes

WEDNESDAY, March 6, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 noon	Anderson		Don Askins

THURSDAY, March 7, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher
6:00 pm	Landry	

SUNDAY, March 10, 4th Sunday in Lent

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Robison-out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Landry	Landry	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
8:45 am	McCown	Landry	Lewie Bates, Lane Mickle	Meredith Walker	Shirley Hale
11:00 am	Anderson	Landry	Erin Elliott, Will Elliott	Rachel Quillen, Ed Vaughn	Jim Douthit

WEDNESDAY, March 13, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 noon	Landry		Janet Robbins

THURSDAY, March 14, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher
6:00 pm	McCown	

SUNDAY, March 17, 5th Sunday in Lent

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Landry- out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	McCown	McCown	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Anderson	McCown	Bob Serio, Cheryl Watts	Buddy Moon	Virginia Kobler
11:00 am	Anderson	McCown	Robin Cozby, Don Askins	Mickey Ellis, Walter Thames	Deborah Baker

WEDNESDAY, March 20, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 noon	McCown		Marilyn Lands

THURSDAY, March 21, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher
6:00 pm	Anderson	

SUNDAY, March 24, Sunday of the Passion: Palm Sunday

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
8:45 am	McCown	Anderson	Robert Dunn	Lee Hicklen	Martha Joffrion
11:00 am	Landry	Anderson	Ed Vaughn	Chris Jackson, Ronnie Rogers	Adalene Bledsoe

MONDAY in Holy Week, March 25, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 noon	Landry		Lewie Bates

TUESDAY in Holy Week, March 26, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 noon	McCown		Walter Thames

WEDNESDAY in Holy Week, March 27, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12:00 noon	Anderson	Scheide	Mary Hendricks

MAUNDY THURSDAY, March 28, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector
6:00 pm	Landry	Robison	Robert Dunn, Warren Vann	Rachel Quillen

GOOD FRIDAY, March 29, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	Passion Reader	Lector
12:00 noon	Anderson	McCown	TBD	Martha Joffrion, Mickey Ellis

HOLY SATURDAY, March 30, The Great Vigil of Easter

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 pm	Anderson	McCown	Lewie Bates, Ronnie Rogers	Allen Daniels, John Conover, Rich Goodwin, Ronnie Rogers	Clay Sherrill

SUNDAY, March 31, The Sunday of the Resurrection: Easter Day

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	Lea Ann Barnett, Ken Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	McCown	Anderson	Charlie Warren, Mike Ward	Stacy Moon	Lee Hicklen
11:00 am	Landry	Anderson	Rich Goodwin, Peter Cobun	Debbie Collette, David Collette	Sally Ann Culver

USHERS

8:45	Josh Kelly, Jeff Ellis, Tom Ford, Melissa Helton, Bill Joyner, Gripp Luther, Grant Thomson
11:00	Madalyn Hicks, Jeffrey Dortch, Jim Douthit, Bobbie Graham, Joe Worley

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Mike Bryant, Lynn Swanson, Elaine Wood, Don Askins, Phyllis Lawson, Bob, Linda Giardini Drzycinski, Mary Lynn Carlton, Eileen Sullivan, Byron Hundley, E. Ray Tanner, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl, Dot Kitchens, Emile Joffrion, 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:

Bill Hylton, brother of Rae Starnes

Hubert Greene, father of Ed Greene

Ed Starnes, parishioner

Joe Akin, husband of Rev'd Mary Anne Akin

Michael Balch

Darla Herthle, Grandmother of Mindy Wilson

Vernon Lucas, brother of Angela Lucas

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

3/1 Grant Howell, Bailey Morrison, Hampton Shrout

3/2 Justin Foscue, Jordan Cozby, Clay Walker

3/4 Clay Walker, Isabelle Towry

3/5 Caroline Abney

3/7 Mary Maddox Creech

3/8 Catherine Hendricks

Dear brothers and sisters,

It is with great honor and pleasure that I am writing you today, on behalf of the coordination of the Partnership Program of the Diocese of Haiti. As I think about the past year with the Partnership Program, I am overcome with gratitude to you as our partners for having a huge hand in making this year as successful and wonderful as it was. I cannot begin to express how thankful I and everyone here are for all of your continued love and support. You have shown us how important our mission is to you, and how much we mean to you in many ways. We have thoroughly enjoyed your visits, and there are not words for how thankful we are for your support with tuition for the students, the support in the feeding program, the healthcare, and not to mention all the thoughts and prayers we know you are sending each day. As we close out 2012, and move into the next year, we are so filled with hope and excitement. We cannot wait to see how God uses all of us together to change lives in Haiti in the coming year.

I wish you and your families continued Blessings!
Kesner Ajax

EASTER FLOWERS 2013 DEDICATION FORM

Flower dedications for Easter are being accepted from now until Sunday, March 24, for a contribution of \$20. Your check should be made out to "Flower Guild" and mailed 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.

Your Name _____

Phone # _____

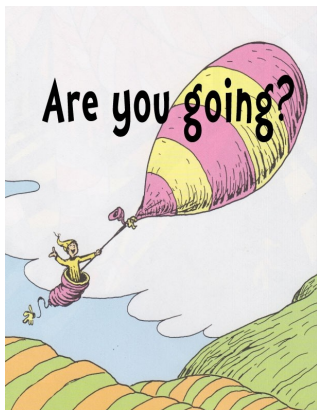
Do you wish to have your name listed in the Easter Service Booklet? Yes _____ No _____

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

All dedications read The flowers are offered to the glory of God and in ...

memory of or honor of or celebration of...

Please print Christian name of person for your dedication to be printed in the Easter Service Booklet



“Oh the places you will go...”

Mark your calendar for Nativity's Annual Parish Weekend
April 19 - 21

Come with us to Camp McDowell and enjoy a bonding experience for the whole family. Steve Mosher will be the speaker this year! Sign ups will be on Sundays in the foyer during the month of March. “Your mountain is waiting!”

Restoration Project Receives 3rd Award

The first award was presented on October 25, 2012 in the church courtyard by the Copper Development Association, Inc. (CDA) to Ornametals/Copperworks for the Church of the Nativity roofing projects. The church was presented with the “CDA 2012 North American Restoration Award,” this being only the second time this international award has been received in the USA.

The second award, the “Huntsville 2012 Preservation Award,” was presented by the Huntsville Historic Foundation (HHF) to the Church of the Nativity on November 8, 2012 at the HHF Annual Meeting.

The third award was bestowed on February 6, 2013 in San Antonio, TX at the National Roofing Contractor Association (NRCA) Annual Awards Ceremony. Ornametals/Copperworks received “Honorable Mention” for the “NRCA 2013 Gold Circle Award for the Innovations: Reroofing” category. Honorable Mention was not awarded in any other category. The Innovations: Reroofing was given to a significant and complex US Navy Academy building project. About 1,000 attended the Awards Ceremony including 27 foreigners. One of the 2013 Gold Circle Award was awarded to a roof project in Sydney, Australia. All NRCA awards are considered very prestigious awards.

Skipper Colin, Restoration Project Manager

Have you made your pledge for 2013?

Your Stewardship Committee is working hard to close out the 2013 campaign so that the Vestry can finalize the 2013 Nativity budget. If you've already sent in your pledge, THANK YOU! If not, we want to take this opportunity to encourage you to join us in supporting the work of Christ through the mission and ministry of the Church of the Nativity.

Here are a few facts about finances at Nativity:

- It takes more than \$28,000 each WEEK to administer the church's expenses
- Most of our expenses are relatively fixed (e.g., personnel, building and grounds, our covenant with the Diocese and Sewanee) and account for the vast majority of our budget
- Outlays for education, programming, and outreach are “squeezed” when revenues fall below expectations

The Vestry has high hopes for improving our support for youth and children, seniors, outreach, historic preservation, and communications. However, with our current pledges, they are unable to do so and will be forced to fund these programs at a level that is below what was requested. We know that you do not want to see these (and possibly other) programs cut or underfunded, but the reality is that we will have no choice if more people do not generously make and keep a pledge to the church.

How has Nativity touched your life? Maybe it is through our many worship services in our historic buildings. Maybe it is through a sacrament of baptism, confirmation, marriage, or burial for a member of your family. Maybe it is through one of the many fine educational offerings at Nativity for you and/or your children. Or, maybe it is through the sharing of joy, recovery, or grief through our pastoral care services. In whatever way you have been touched through the many ministries of Nativity, please thank the more than 390 families who have committed to supporting the continuation of these ministries through gifts of their financial resources.

Again, if you have already submitted your pledge for 2013, THANK YOU! If you have not, we NEED your pledge and strongly encourage you to join us in strengthening the Body of Christ by supporting His work through the Church of the Nativity. To make your pledge for 2013, please e-mail Beverly Franklin at bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org or call the church office (256-533-2455) today. Thanks in advance for your continued support.

Nativity Stewardship Ministry

Lent is a time of repentance and fasting, of turning away from all that is counter to God's will and purposes for his world and all who live in it.

This year, you are invited to focus your Lenten 'acts of love and sacrifice' (of which our Ash Wednesday speaks) on our contribution to climate change, and those most impacted by it. Often we give something up, such as chocolate or alcohol. This year, focus your giving up (or making changes to your lifestyle), **to reduce your 'carbon footprint'** – your total impact of environmentally damaging greenhouse gas emissions. We all need to 'reduce, reuse, recycle'.

Below are suggestions to take you from the Second Week of Lent, focusing on Water, the source of life, through the Third Week of Lent, focusing on the reality of climate change, ending with Saturday, March 9th. *Suggestions for the remaining weeks of Lent will follow in the coming issues of The Steeple.* Each week focuses on a different part of our carbon fast, encouraging us to live more simply, conserve water, cut down on electricity use, and reduce our use of petroleum-based products.

Let us 'return to the Lord with all our heart; leave the past in ashes and turn to God with tears and fasting, for he is slow to anger and ready to forgive' (APB, p.164).

Second week of Lent: Focusing on water

Prayer for the week: Father, thank you for providing us with plentiful water to drink and meeting all our basic needs. Help us not to take any blessing for granted, but instead be faithful stewards of your earth's resources. As we make changes that may be inconvenient, we draw from your well of living water that never runs dry, and remember that everything we have comes from you.

Reading for the week: Psalm 104:10-13 He makes springs pour water into the ravines; it flows between the mountains. They give water to all the beasts of the field; the wild donkeys quench their thirst. The birds of the air nest by the waters; they sing among the branches. He waters the mountains from his upper chambers; the earth is satisfied by the fruit of his work.

Actions for the week: focusing on water

- Sunday 24th February:** Turn the tap off when washing and brushing your teeth
- Monday 25th February:** Find out where the water comes from that is used for baptism at your church. Consider getting involved in cleaning that river.
- Tuesday 26th February:** Repair any dripping taps at home; report dripping taps at church or work so they can be repaired.
- Wednesday 27th February:** Take a shower instead of a bath: you'll use and heat less water.
- Thursday 28th February:** Check your flush. Consider getting low-flow toilets throughout your home.
- Friday 1st of March:** Only fill your kettle with as much water as you need.
- Saturday 2nd of March:** If you need to add very much cold water when you fill the sink or run a bath, then your hot water thermostat is too high – try setting it at 120 degrees.

Third week of Lent: The reality of climate change

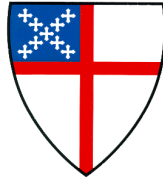
Prayer for the week: Father, thank you for being a God who searches out the poor and vulnerable. Help me to put a face to climate change, so that it is not just an issue, but it's about a person who You created. Remind me of these people impacted by climate change whenever I feel unmotivated to make changes in my life.

Reading for the week: Isaiah 24:4-6 The earth dries up and withers, the world languishes and withers, the exalted of the earth languish. The earth is defiled by its people; they have disobeyed the laws, violated the statutes and broken the everlasting covenant. Therefore a curse consumes the earth; its people must bear their guilt. Therefore earth's inhabitants are burned up, and very few are left.

Actions for the week – focusing on electricity

- Sunday 3rd of March:** Say goodbye to standby power consumption. Check that all electrical equipment is switched off when not in use. The TV alone will save a hefty 20kg of carbon dioxide per year.
- Monday 4th of March:** Replace your incandescent light bulbs with good quality energy-saving light-bulbs. Over a bulb's lifetime, you will save 60kg of carbon dioxide per year.
- Tuesday 5th of March:** Have a discussion with your family about installing a solar water heater or a point-of-use hot water heater.
- Wednesday 6th of March:** Unplug your mobile phone charger: it uses electricity even when it's not charging.
- Thursday 7th of March:** Switch off lights as you leave the room.
- Friday 8th of March:** when you replace old electrical appliances look out for energy-efficient models, they could save a third of the energy.
- Saturday 9th of March:** Only run your washing machine when you have a full load.





Wednesday Nights in Lent — Bring your homework to church! Once supper's over, we'll head upstairs to study and hang out from 6—7 pm during the adult program.

Junior EYC — 7th and 8th Grades

Here in Huntsville

- **Teens Relaxing At Someone's House Sunday, March 10th from 4—6 pm at the Creechs'.** Come ready to eat some snacks and play some games! Details to follow!

Around the Diocese

- **Registration for Young People Paint Birmingham,** a unique **mission** opportunity for **rising 7th, 8th, and 9th graders,** is online at <http://bit.ly/yppb2013>.

Senior EYC — 9th and 12th Grades

Here in Huntsville

- **Guys' Pizza Night!— Sunday, Feb. 24th from 5—7 pm** in the Youth Room. Come relax before the week starts! We'll eat some pizza, put on a movie, and play some ping-pong and air hockey.
- **Girls' Art Night!—Sunday, March 3rd from 4—6 pm at home of the Morrings.** Come for snacks, a fun art project, and opportunity to meet me if you haven't already! Details to follow!

Around the Diocese

- **Rites of Spring at Camp McDowell — Friday— Sunday, March 15th — 17th,** a retreat and EYC convention (when Youth Department elections are held) for 9th through 12th graders from all over the Diocese of Alabama. This year's program, "Life to the Fullest," is about discovering who we are, who God is, and what our God-given gifts are. Register by March 7th at <http://bit.ly/ritesala>
- **Sawyerille Day Camp staff applications are online now!** The deadline to apply is **March 22nd.** I cannot recommend this experience enough for all youth 16 and older. Find out more at www.sawyerilleworkproject.org

Get in touch!

William Blackerby, Youth Ministry Coordinator

Email: wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org

Phone: 205-240-3705 (cell)

256-533-2455 (church)

FINANCIAL CORNER

Pledge Report

January 13, 2013

\$1,000 or <	102
\$1,001—\$2,999.99	149
\$3,000—\$4,999.99	73
\$5,000—\$9,999.99	54
\$10,000 —\$14,999.99	10
\$15,000—\$24,999.99	9
\$25,000—\$39,999.99	1
\$40,000 or >	1
Total Number of Pledges	399
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	\$1,291,878.65
Average Pledge	\$3,237.79

Contemplative Outreach Birmingham announces their 20th Annual Conference.

Topic: "Centering in the Midst
of Commotion: Thomas
Merton, Contemplation and
the Living Life."

Gray Matthews, Ph.D., a former
board member of the Thomas
Merton International Society, a
Lay Cistercian and Assistant
Professor at the University of
Memphis, will join us for a
meditative conversation on
lessons drawn from the life of
Thomas Merton.

He will share how Merton prayed
and conceived the nature of
prayer as well as how Merton's
monastic opening to the world
helps us better appreciate the
paradox of living in the world but
not of it.

This event will be held at St.
Stephens Episcopal Church in
Birmingham, AL on March 9,
2013. Cost is \$60 for the day
including lunch.

To inquire or register call Diana
Tschache at
205/991-6964 or
tschached@bellsouth.net.



Its getting close to building time. Pray for cooperative weather.
Schedule is below. For more information about how you too can
volunteer please contact me at giardiniw@bellsouth.net or 539-0973.

Bill Giardini

This year our house will be built at 6316 Banks Rd. It will be built for Vickie Hambrick and her four children, Demitria 15, Kennesha 8, Zanyah 5, and Zavion 21 months. Vickie works two jobs, Krystal and H&R Block. Our group will include Church of the Nativity Episcopal, First Christian, St. John's AME, St. Mathew's Episcopal; First Presbyterian, Aldersgate Methodist, United Church of Huntsville, & Covenant Presbyterian. I look forward to a good response from all. This is a great opportunity for small group participation (study group, reunion group, etc.)

DATE	ACTIVITY
Feb. 26, 28, Mar. 2	Cut lumber & mark plates, build walls in warehouse
Mar. 5, 7, 9 March 9	Deliver walls to site, Erect walls and trusses, HOUSE RAISING CEREMONY 9:00 AM Sat.
Mar.12, 14, 16	Apply blueboard to walls, deck roof, install windows, exterior doors, hurricane clips, and deadwood
Mar. 19, 21, 23	Install porch beams, barge rafters, fascia, attic access, electrical rough-in, (plumbing, HVAC rough-in by others) start vinyl siding
Mar. 26, 28, 30 Apr. 2, 4, 6	Install wall insulation, (sheetrock by sub) Paint walls, continue vinyl siding, install shutters
Apr. 9, 11, 13	Clean floors and windows, install vinyl tile, landscape
Apr. 16, 18, 20	Install and paint interior doors and trim, install cabinets (plumbing by others) and electrical fixtures
Apr. 23, 25, 27	Install closet hardware, window blinds, storm doors, bathroom accessories
Apr 30, May 2, 4	Catch up work, touch up paint, clean and wax floors
May 7, 9, 11 May 11	Work punch list DEDICATION CEREMONY

Regular working hours are from 8:00 AM to 3:00 PM with a break for lunch
around noon.

Lunches are provided on Saturdays only. Bring carpentry tools, a utility knife,
gloves, safety glasses if you have them.

Directions to site:

Go North on Parkway to University Dr. Go west on University to Pulaski Pike.
Go North on Pulaski Pike to Stringfield Rd. Go west on Stringfield pass Alabama
Concrete. Look for Banks on the left opposite the last rock quarry. Turn left
onto Banks.

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, March 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

William Blackerby

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

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.

Altar Flowers are \$40 or \$20 for shared dedications

The following dates are available; March 17; April 14, 28; May 5, 19, 20

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...

in thanksgiving for...

in celebration of...

Name for this altar flower dedication: