

# THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

May 1, 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.*

## " THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH SERVES GOOD FOOD! "

As the story goes, there was a very popular restaurant in a small Mississippi town and the local newspaper reporter went to find the secret of its success. When the reporter asked the owner, the reply was simply "we serve good food". So simple but factual.

The Episcopal Church is just like that restaurant...serving "good food" and there is no better place than right here at Nativity. Just think of all the "good food" we serve! A few examples come to mind...worship, education, fellowship, music, and many great ministries led by our laity.

What about those not at our table? How do we get them to know this great Episcopal/ Nativity food? How do we share God? People are always looking for "good food"...healthy, nutritious, and life giving.

The word *invite* seems to be the answer. We (you and I) are called to *invite* people to our table. This simple word was the message of recent meetings I attended with our Bishop, Kee Sloan. We were directed to "invite, inspire, and transform" or in other words to "invite, welcome, and connect" others to our table. It all starts with the invitation and that is where you and I come in. We all know someone to invite to Nativity....whether it be a neighbor, friend, business associate, or a youth. You might even have a feeling about someone that God has been nudging your heart to issue an invitation to visit our Nativity community. Remember we do serve "good food" and we have plenty to share.

As Bishop Kee says "ships are safe in the harbor but we don't build ships to stay in the harbor." Is your ship staying in the harbor or are you going out and inviting others? God needs us "on the water sailing." The choice is clear. What will you do?

Rusty Stephenson  
Senior Warden, Church of the Nativity, Episcopal



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



"Nativity men, come join us for fun & fellowship"

at the home of Rusty Stephenson, 526 Adams Street

5:30 with chow from Moe's Original.

Backyard casual

No charge!



### The Nativity Choir In Concert

You will not want to miss The Nativity Choir's Spring Concert on Saturday, May 18 at 5:00 p.m. in the church Nave. Closing out The Nativity Music Series this year, the concert features The Nativity Choir and Friends singing Louis Vierne's *Mass in C# Minor* with Nicholas Bergin, organist. Dr. Stephen G. Schaeffer, interim Organist/Choirmaster, will conduct. Bergin, organist at First Presbyterian Church, Nashville, will also perform solo organ works by Vierne and Tournemire to frame the choral offering.

The blind French organist Louis Vierne (1870-1937) was organist at Notre Dame from 1900 until his death at the end of his 1750<sup>th</sup> concert at the console of this famous Parisian church. Vierne composed the *Messe Solennelle (Solemn Mass)* in 1899. Scored for two organs, this majestic and ingratiating choral piece will be sung on May 18<sup>th</sup> from the new edition for one organ and choir. Make plans now to attend what promises to be a wonderful musical finale.

### Adult Christian Education to offer Art & Literature

On May 5<sup>th</sup> and May 12<sup>th</sup> Lynne Berry, Jeannie Robison and Walter Thames will facilitate a lecture/discussion class based on Mary Magdalene and the Apostle. This class will take place in Bibb Chapel 10:00 a.m. For more information on this class and other Adult Church School classes on Sunday, you may contact Lane Tutt 256-533-2455 or visit [www.nativity-hsv.org](http://www.nativity-hsv.org)

### Bishop's Annual Visit and Confirmation Sunday to take place May 19

A reception will follow the 10:00 a.m. service in Ridley Hall. The Rt. Rev'd Kee Sloan will be preaching both services and attending the reception in honor of 2013 Confirmands.

**This will begin Summer Worship Schedule with services at**

**8:00 a.m. and 10:00 a.m.\***

**(Church school will convene in September)**



**Every Thursday Afternoon May 2 – Oct 31**

**4 – 8 pm from May – August**

**4 – 7 pm in September**

**3 – 6 pm in October**

## **TOHG MAY LUNCHEON—Tuesday May 21**

*Please call 256-533-2455 for reservations by noon Monday, May 20*

**Meet and Greet 11:30 a.m.**

**Luncheon & Program 12:00 p.m.**

**Cost \$8.00 per person**



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### **Upcoming Baptism date: June 23<sup>rd</sup> at 10:00 a.m.**

Please contact Connie in the church office for scheduling 256-533-2455 [cgacomski@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:cgacomski@nativity-hsv.org)

### **Choir Fundraiser Continues**

The Nativity choir has step-stools for sale with proceeds to benefit the choir tour to England and Scotland 2015. The choir's solid wood stools (choice of three stains) are available for \$50 each. Contact Joan East to place your order; 256-325-1418.

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### **YOUTH AND CHILDREN'S SUNDAY is MAY 12th.**

Be sure to come to support our youth and children. The kids are working hard getting ready for this special service. After the 8:45 service, we will have a moon bounce and refreshments in the church yard. Don't miss out on the fun!

Also, Parents, grandparents, and other parishioners be sure to visit the newly renovated second floor of Ridley Hall. This area offers classrooms for Club 56 (5th & 6th Grades) and Junior High (7th and 8th Grades.) The students are excited about their "new space" come see why! Open House & Refreshments is hosted by Nativity's Youth Renovation Team.



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](http://www.nativity.dioala.org) and click on the "Follow Nativity on Facebook" link.

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Press Release FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

### **Church Of The Nativity Episcopal Receives 2013 Best of Huntsville Award**

Huntsville Award Program Honors the Achievement

HUNTSVILLE April 24, 2013 -- Church Of The Nativity Episcopal has been selected for the 2013 Best of Huntsville Award in the Episcopal Churches category by the Huntsville Award Program.

Each year, the Huntsville Award Program identifies companies that we believe have achieved exceptional marketing success in their local community and business category. These are local companies that enhance the positive image of small business through service to their customers and our community. These exceptional companies help make the Huntsville area a great place to live, work and play.

Various sources of information were gathered and analyzed to choose the winners in each category. The 2013 Huntsville Award Program focuses on quality, not quantity. Winners are determined based on the information gathered both internally by the Huntsville Award Program and data provided by third parties.

SOURCE: Huntsville Award Program

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### **Book Signing Event in Ridley Hall Friday, May 10, 2013 10:00 a.m. until 12:00 noon.**

A Morning of 'Glamour' with Keva Harry featuring the launch of Keva's newly released memoir, *GLAMOROUS SACRIFICE Life...in the Shadow of Championships*

Event activities include:

- Exclusive chapter excerpt reading
- Question & Answer session
- Special-edition book signing

For more information please contact:

- Beth Moring at 256-520-6500 or [bmorring@knology.net](mailto:bmorring@knology.net)
- Event is free



## Parish Outreach News Page



### Sunday is HAP SUNDAY!

Pantry needs for May are Canned Meats, Canned Vegetables, Cereal, Bar Soaps, Diapers (any size.)

## **STOP HUNGER NOW!** May 11th - We need YOU to help

On Saturday, May 11th the Outreach Committee is sponsoring a Meal Packaging Event from 1:00-3:00 in the parish hall. **We need 35-40 people to make a commitment to help package the meals.** We will package **10,000** meals in two hours. **This is a fun, hands on mission project that is suitable for all ages - children, youth, families, adults, everyone!**



Stop Hunger Now's meal packaging program is a volunteer-based program that coordinates the streamlined packaging of highly nutritious dehydrated meals comprised of rice, soy, vegetables, flavoring and 21 essential vitamins and minerals. ***The meals are easily transported to crisis-burdened areas or supplied to school feeding programs around the world. The meals cost only \$0.25 per meal to create.***

### Outreach, making a difference

305 8th Street, a home for intellectually disabled adults, houses 19 full time residents. They receive no federal assistance, because their residents are just above the IQ range to qualify, yet they are far from able to live independently. 305 8th Street is totally dependent on the generosity of area churches and individuals like you. Your Outreach committee was able to fund two needed picnic tables to be delivered to the home in the coming two weeks. Thanks to Mike Innes for the identification of this need, the legwork to get it done, your Vestry for the approval of the project and Greg Brooks of Brooks & Collier for his special pricing. We hope to have more involvement with this worthy group in the future.

### Our Neighbor, The Vine

Using faith resources, The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center, helps the individual, couples and families find relief from depression, anxiety, distress, trauma, and many other issues. Supported by Nativity and nineteen other area churches, The Vine, is Nativity's neighbor at 333 Franklin Street, it brings healing to those members in the Body of Christ.

Since it's beginnings it has grown to five area offices, has four full-time staff and two part-time staff, has served members from over 150 congregations with over 32,000 counseling hours. Through the support of Nativity, it's other nineteen congregational partners, and YOU, services are available to all on a sliding scale (ability to pay) scale. Thanks to your invaluable support, 2012 saw 3647 sessions, 879 of these were scholarship sessions.

A self-help lending library, full of devotional and self help books is available for anyone who would like to borrow, keep, or simply use and return, is open to all. This library is supplied by monetary and book donations. If you have any devotional books you are ready to pass on, The Vine will receive them 8 - 11 a.m. Monday through Friday.

To make an appointment, please feel free to call 256-461-8580.

*I am the vine, you are the branches..... Apart from me, you can do nothing. John 15:5*

### HABITAT for HUMANITY UPDATE for house located at 6316 Banks Rd.

Cheers!! With the help of some community volunteers (Intergraph employees) we completed the vinyl siding and applied two coats of paint to the walls. We should be able to install the floor tile Tues. and Thurs. this week. The combined Dedication Ceremony for all the houses for has been put off to June 15.

DATE	ACTIVITY
Apr. 30, May 2, 4	clean floors and windows, install floor tile, paint and install interior doors, and trim,
May 7, 9, 11	install cabinets, electrical fixtures, landscape
May 14, 16, 18	install closet and door hardware, window blinds, shutters
May 21, 23, 24	catch up work, touch up paint, clean and wax floors
May 28, 30, Jun 1	work punch list,
June 15	DEDICATION CEREMONY at 11:00 a.m.

For directions, to volunteer, or for more information contact Bill Giardini, 256-539-0973giardini2@bellsouth.net

# Youth



# Notes!

Got questions? Call me, William Blackerby, at 205-240-3705  
or email [wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org)

## ALL EYC!

### • **STOP HUNGER NOW! - Saturday, May 11th, 1—3 pm in Ridley Hall**

Youth, let's get as many of us as possible to do our part at this parish-wide outreach event! Come help package **10,000 meals**. From what I've heard, it's a lot of fun! See you there!

• **Youth and Children's Sunday—Sunday, May 12th.** Don't miss the reception on the newly renovated 2nd floor of Ridley Hall during Sunday School hour!

## Junior EYC — 7th and 8th Grades

• **Teens Relaxing At Someone's House Sunday, May 5th from 4—6 pm at the home of Laura and Darren Malone.** Come ready to eat some snacks and play some games with Anne Elizabeth Cowan and Amy and Taylor Brooks!

## Senior EYC — 9th and 12th Grades

• **Boys' Spring Training, the spring version of Nativity Football League i.e. NFL, Sunday May 5th, 6:30—8:00 pm in the Youth Room.** This week we'll welcome **Tim Worley**, a former star running back at Georgia who played for the Pittsburgh Steelers and Chicago Bears in the early '90s. Supper will be provided. You really don't want to miss this! **Bring a friend!**

## CANTERBURY OF HUNTSVILLE

Canterbury is a ministry founded by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama and designed for Huntsville area **college students and young adults**. We gather weekly for **fellowship**, monthly for **worship** or theological programs, and semesterly for an **outreach** project. Canterbury seeks to be a ministry through which young adults can build relationships founded upon a shared sense of faith, and all are welcome to take part.

### SPRING-SUMMER 2013 EVENTS

- **Tuesday, April 23: Canterbury Open House**, 6 pm *Big Spring Park Gazebo* - graduating high school students and all other young adults are invited to join us for a free barbecue supper and the opportunity to get to know Canterbury.
- **Tuesday, April 30: Sam & Greg's**, 7 pm *119 Northside Square*
- **Tuesday, May 7: Jamo's Café**, 7 pm *413 Jordan Ln. NW*
- **Tuesday, May 14: Free dinner & program**, 6 pm *St. Columba in-the-Cove, 283 Mountain Cove Blvd. SE, Owens Cross Roads*
- **Tuesday, May 21: Moe's Original BBQ**, 7 pm *445 Providence Main St.*
- **Tuesday, May 28: Rosie's Cantina**, 7 pm *6196 University Dr. NW*
- **Tuesday, June 4: City Café Diner**, 7 pm *2070 Drake Ave. SW*
- **Tuesday, June 11: Viet Houg**, 7 pm *930 Old Monrovia Rd. NW*

We will continue to meet throughout the summer -- look for updates on our Facebook page.

**CONTACT INFORMATION:** Find us on Facebook: Canterbury of Huntsville Email: [canterburyhsv@gmail.com](mailto:canterburyhsv@gmail.com)  
Interns, Claire Douthit & Kristin Hanson

## INTERCESSION REQUESTS

### We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

RuthAnn Haymes, Brayden Durnya, Richard Martindale, Kingslea deroode Merkel, Ann Garnett, Louis Amis, Elaine Wood, Don Askins, Bob, Linda Giardini Drzycinski, John Randall Howard, Marian Delaney, Lynne Swanson, Phyllis Lawson, Eileen Sullivan, 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

### We give thanks for a marriage:

- Mary Rebecca Riggan and Jay Robert Epps on April 20th at St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Mobile, AL
- Tracye Garnet Graham and Donald L. Christian on April 27th at Church of the Nativity, Bibb Chapel
- Kristen Schaefer and Jack Hartley on April 27th in San Francisco, CA

### We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

5/6 Sam Kobler  
5/7 Christopher Laney  
5/10 Eleanor DeFiore, Evan Ellison  
5/12 Anna-Claire Stevens  
5/13 Dylan Clardy  
5/14 Zoe Maddox  
5/15 Ragan McCallum, Lucy Baggette, Evans Alison  
5/18 Gertrude Aboudonia, Robert Walker

## Acolyte Schedule May 2013

Please check over this schedule carefully as you may be in a different position.

### **May 5**

#### **8:45**

C Laurel Sharp  
T Sidney Gunter  
T Van Dodgen  
S SG Moore  
AS Gillian Sharp

#### **11:00**

C MM Ragland, SL Miller  
T Evans Alison, Caroline Knight  
T Sims Windham, John Sadler Evans  
S Karl Schneider  
AS Emily Evans

### **May 12**

#### **8:45**

C Neill Luther, Carter McDonald  
T Huston Moring, Cole Greco  
T Elise Greco, Leighton Luther  
S Cassidy Bates  
AS Tindall Moring

#### **11:00**

C Rosie Chilton, Hanly Ward  
T John Chilton, Anna Chilton  
T Molly Ward, Evan Ward  
S Allie Starnes  
AS Allison Taylor

### **May 19\*\*\*NOTE SERVICE TIME CHANGES!!**

#### **8:00**

C Travis King  
T Margaret Bryant, KN Hall  
T Ireland Braudaway, Maria Caprio  
S Karsten Correale  
AS Hall Blake Bryant

#### **10:00 Confirmation with the Bishop**

C Will Ellison, Rachel Quillen  
T Chloe Parsons, Katherine Hunter  
T David DiFranco, Emily Ellison  
S Spencer Anglin  
AS Julie DiFranco  
Banner Evan Ellison

### **May 26**

#### **8:00**

C Noelle Carter  
T Robert Walker  
T Bankston Creech  
S John Laney  
AS Franklin Aldag

#### **10:00**

C Jordan Dunn, Trace Markwalter  
T Lillie Markwalter  
T Robert McCown  
S Savannah Watson  
AS Foard Naumann

## Parish Pledge Report for

### April 28, 2013

\$1,000 or <	110
\$1,001—\$2,999.99	159
\$3,000—\$4,999.99	76
\$5,000—\$9,999.99	55
\$10,000 —\$14,999.99	11
\$15,000—\$24,999.99	9
\$25,000—\$39,999.99	1
\$40,000 or >	1
Total Number of Pledges	422
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	\$1,333,248.65
Average Pledge	\$3,159.36

## Have you received your Pictorial directory?

If you had your portrait made during the directory photo sessions last October, you may pick-up your directory in the church office during the week. Monday—Thursday 9-4:00 Friday 9-12:30

## **Stewardship of Creation tip for May 1, 2013**

*Several years ago, at the General Convention of our church, a resolution was passed entitled "Affirm Environmental Responsibility and Establish an Environmental Stewardship Team".*

*In honor of Earth Day, and our Diocesan Care of Creation Sunday, both of which were recently observed, here is the text of the main body of that resolution, to remind us of the importance of our Christian Stewardship of God's creation and of the amazing gifts we have been given AND the responsibility we have been given.*

*Resolved*, the House of Bishops concurring, That the 70<sup>th</sup> General Convention of the Episcopal Church, affirming our responsibility for the earth in trust for this and future generations:

1. Declares that Christian Stewardship of God's created environment, in harmony with our respect for human dignity, requires response from the Church of the highest urgency;
2. Calls on all citizens of the world, and Episcopalians in particular, to live their lives as good stewards with responsible concern for the sustainability of the environment and with appreciation for the global interdependence of human life and the natural worlds; and
3. Urges all Episcopalians to reflect on their personal and corporate habits in the use of God's creation; to share with one another ideas for new responses; and to act as individuals, congregations, dioceses, and provinces of the Episcopal Church in ways that protect and heal all interdependent parts of creation. Such action should include prayerful theological discernment and factual knowledge. It should also consider global and local links and the balance of environmental integrity with economic sufficiency for human living; *and be it further*

*Resolved*, That the Episcopal Church, acknowledging the sovereignty of God and God's call to us in the servanthood of Christ, continue to engage environmental issues, passionately caring for the earth and striving to live into the promises and mandates which are ours as stewards of creation; *and be it further*

*Resolved*, That this Convention calls upon the Presiding Bishop and the President of the House of Deputies to appoint an interdisciplinary, multicultural Environmental Stewardship Team, 14 members, representing each Province and a broad spectrum of Church membership, whose gifts and expertise are suitable to the task. The mission of the Environmental Stewardship Team is to educate, motivate and facilitate congregations, dioceses and provinces toward local and regional plans, advocacy and action. The Team will work with other environmental groups of common interest..."

Resolution Author: The Standing Commission on Stewardship and Development



### **Cruise for a Cause on the The Southern Belle**

Tour the Tennessee River, spend quality time with your friends, and raise money for a worthy cause all on a beautiful June evening!

**ALL PROCEEDS TO BENEFIT HUNTSVILLE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM**

Sunday June 9, 6:00—9:00 PM

Boarding from 5:00—5:45 PM

Depart & return to Ditto Landing in Huntsville

\$60.00 per person

Live Entertainment, heavy hors d'oeuvres and drinks

**SPECIAL GUEST BISHOP KEE AND TINA SLOAN**

Free child care at St. Thomas/Huntsville 5—19:00 PM

(Call St. Thomas at 256.880.0247 to reserve a spot for your child.)

Tickets available online at [www.cruiseforacause.org](http://www.cruiseforacause.org) or call 256.880.0247

### **SPONSORED BY THE NORTH ALABAMA EPISCOPAL CHURCHS:**

Church of the Epiphany, Church of the Good Shepherd, Church of the Nativity, Grace Episcopal/Cullman, Grace Episcopal/Sheffield, Holy Cross-St. Christopher's, St. Barnabas, St. Columba-in-the-Cove, St. John's, St. Luke's, St. Matthew's, St. Stephen's, St. Thomas, St. Timothy's, Trinity/Florence



## 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, May 13.**

### 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.

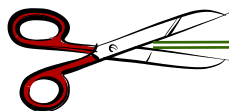
The number to call *In Case of an Emergency Only* is 256-533-7007. All other calls should be directed to church phone 256-533-2455 and follow the prompts to leave a message for a priest to respond.

## 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.

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

The following dates are available: August 25; September 1; October 13, 20, 27; December 1, 8, 22, 29.

**PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, THANK YOU.**

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:**