

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

June 5, 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.

Blessings Rain Upon Us

*For as rain and snow fall from the heavens
and return not again, but water the earth,
Bringing forth life and giving growth,
seed for sowing and bread for eating,
So is my word that goes forth from my mouth;
it will not return to me empty;
But it will accomplish that which I have purposed,
and prosper in that for which I sent it.*

From Canticle 10, *The Second Song of Isaiah* (Isaiah 55:1-6)

Attending the Greene Street Market at Nativity on Thursdays, the natural truth of these holy words come alive. Experiencing the bounty of God's creation in the fresh vegetables, herbs, fruits, flowers, specialty foods and other creative objects that abound help me realize that God indeed waters the earth to bring forth good things for us to know and share.

Seeing old friends and meeting new ones, listening to great music, tasting food from the chef of the week, and browsing the bountiful tents of the vendors, offer a glimpse of heaven. God's purposes are being accomplished. God's blessings bring forth life and give grace, never returning empty. And we know how blessed we are. Will we notice?

The Greene Street Market helps me realize that heaven is not simply some far off destination, but a place I can live in today; a place I can share with others. It's not just about the vegetables and fruits and bounty of the earth. It's the complete package of what takes place at the market. God's blessings don't return empty for those who attend. It is a joyful thing to be there! The growers and artisans help us accomplish God's purposes of reaching out to others who are hurting and hungry in this world, returning blessings far beyond the transactions made each week. What happens is exponential.

God's blessings rain upon us each and every day. The Greene Street Market helps us realize that God is always showering love and life upon us in many ways. God is blessing your life with so much...do you realize that? Are you allowing God's blessings to create a sense of heaven for you and others, or do they stop at your doorsteps and go no further?

God is hoping that you will allow the blessings showered upon you to bring forth life and growth for others. Summer is a good time for us all to reflect upon our role in God's purposes being accomplished. Attend the Market on Thursdays and attend our Sunday On Thursday Eucharist at 6pm and offer your life to God. Are you returning God's blessings of money, time and talent to God's work? At Nativity, many of our fellow parishioners have discovered this joy of allowing God's blessings flow from them and into the world through our life and ministry they participate in by giving time, talent, and money. What an incredible thing to realize that God's purposes *will* be accomplished through you!

Andy +



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

(* Nursery available)

8:00 a.m. Rite I
Holy Eucharist
Bibb Chapel

10:00 a.m.* Rite II
Holy Eucharist
Children's Chapel

WEDNESDAY

12:00 noon
Holy Eucharist &
Healing
(Bibb Chapel)

THURSDAY

6:00 p.m.
Holy Eucharist Rite II
Bibb Chapel



the
Greene
Street
Market
at Nativity

Farmers' Market

Thursday's through – Oct 31st, 4 - 8 p.m.

No Market on July 4th

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! 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 and meal at St. Thomas/Huntsville 5—9:00 PM. Please call St. Thomas at 256.880.0247 to reserve a spot for your child.

Tickets available online at www.cruiseforacause.org or call 256.880.0247

SPONSORED BY THE NORTH ALABAMA EPISCOPAL CHURCHES:

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

Vacation Bible School ~ Save the date for July 16,17,18.

VBS is a great time to reconnect with church friends and serve our community. We are excited about our theme this year,

"Breathe it in, God gives life"

Children ages 4-3rd grade will enjoy VBS here at Nativity. And, children 4th - 6th will go on mini-mission trips around town to spread God's love. It takes a village (and then some) to make VBS a success. We need you! Email Elizabeth at elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com to volunteer.



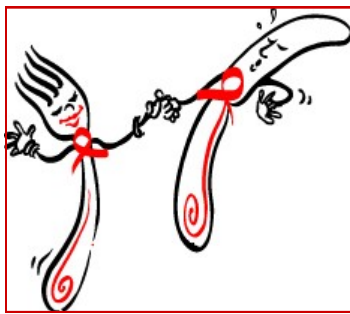
The Return of Just Stuff It

We'll be gathering once again in Joffrion Hall Library for a meal pack stuffing adventure on

Sunday, June 9, just after the 10 o'clock service.

Come and join the fun! The entire family can help with this outreach project!

Bill Goodson, First Stop Volunteer



Dining with Friends celebrates 15 Years!

What is Dining With Friends?

Dining With Friends is a fundraiser that benefits people that live with HIV in North Alabama. Supporters host dinner parties and charge \$50 a person to attend. At the dinner party you are given a ticket to the dessert reception, which is organized by the AIDS Action Coalition. Then everyone that has hosted or attended a dinner party comes together for one fantastic night at the dessert reception.

If I don't go to a dinner party can I still come to the dessert reception?

Of course you can! Tickets are available at www.diningwithfriends.org under the section labeled "Tickets."

Held this year at Burritt on the Mountain's Baron Bluff, revelers will enjoy a 1920's Speakeasy setting with decor, costumes, delicious desserts & hors doeuvres.

Where is Baron Bluff?

Baron Bluff is the newest event venue at Burritt on the Mountain located at 3101 Burritt Drive SE

In addition to the fabulous desserts we have a new spin on the silent auction "The Shoppes" with specially commissioned art from our great local artist supporters. Plus you will find novelty gaming (Roulette, Blackjack, Poker, Craps,) and feature entertainment straight from New Orleans by jazz vocalist, Ingrid Lucia. In past years attendance has reached 700 guests making it one of the best attended fundraisers in the Tennessee Valley.

How do I bid on auction items?

On the back of your event ticket is your bid number. Use the number to bid on silent auction items throughout the evening.

We are happy to announce this year's Honorary Chairman, Toni Terrell. Toni will be helping AAC celebrate the 15th Anniversary of Dining With Friends as the \$1 Million (since the creation of Dining With Friends) pinnacle mark is within reach in 2013. You don't want to miss this year's Dessert Reception.

What should I wear?

The official theme for this year's Dessert Reception is "The Big Easy Speakeasy" which means you will see a wide variety of clothing styles ranging from 1920's-style costumes to modern casual attire. We suggest you wear something that makes you feel comfortable and attractive, but don't be afraid to have fun! We guarantee you won't be the only person in costume!

Until a cure is found please consider lending your support to help us temper the suffering of those affected by HIV and AIDS.

Tickets are available at www.diningwithfriends.org under the section labeled "Tickets."

Follow Dining with Friends on [Facebook](#)!

HAVEN'T PLEDGED YET? NO PROBLEM! (AND WE'RE MAKING IT EVEN EASIER FOR YOU!)

If you're one of the more than 430 households who have made a pledge for God's work through the mission and ministry of the Church of the Nativity for 2013, THANK YOU. If you haven't made a pledge yet, there's still time. There are several ways you can make a pledge: (1) complete a pledge card and place it in the alms basin at offertory time, (2) contact bookkeeper Beverly Franklin (bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455) and give her your pledge, and (3) COMING SOON - online pledging on Nativity's website - www.nativity-hsv.org. We need several more families to make a financial commitment in order to honor all requests for outreach, youth, historic preservation and other funding for this year and we hope we can count on you!

-The Nativity Stewardship Ministry

Linda Wheeler No Longer at Nativity

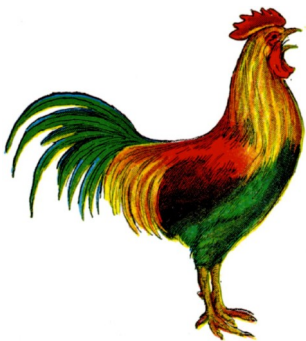
Effective May 23, Linda Wheeler, the Ministry Assistant for Membership and Communications and Assistant to the Rector, resigned to pursue another job opportunity. We wish her well in her new endeavors. Connie Gadomski has graciously agreed to handle the Newsletter and Room Reservations/Calendar for the interim period while the Rector and Vestry consider our administrative needs and the opportunities Linda's departure presents. Linda's leaving without any notice has meant that several of her responsibilities will either not be covered, or will be handled by volunteers during the interim period. Fortunately the summer schedule helps with its slower pace. However, the Rector's Office and the Music Ministry Department will have limited administrative assistance during this period. We are grateful for our office volunteers and others who have stepped up to offer invaluable assistance during this time. We are especially grateful for Connie Gadomski and Beverly Franklin who will see that the office is covered. For the past two years, Father Anderson has been asking the Vestry to consider the possibility of funding a part-time director of communications who could bring new media skills to our parish's mission and ministry along with effective communications experience to keep the Steeple and other communication vehicles telling our story and reaching out to include our members and others in our vibrant ministries. This would be in addition to the administrative assistance needed for the Rector's Office (including Vestry support) and Membership records. Of course, this means finding additional funding. Please keep these matters in your prayers.

Security Locks on Entry Door!

Please note that a keypad has been placed at the double entry doors (entry from back circle drive-parking lot.) What you need to know:

- The doors will be UNLOCKED during all church services and special events (concerts, receptions, etc.) NO CODE NEEDED!
- The keypad will be enabled all other times and you will use the keypad CODE for entry. The code is the same as the keypad entries to Joffrion Hall and the Church Office.
- As an extra measure of security please be reminder to close the doors after you enter the building. DO NOT prop them open. If your group is in a classroom and the doors are left unattended this causes a potential problem of persons entering the premises without anyone's knowledge.

If you have questions they may be directed to Brad Hall, Junior Warden or John Cline, Building and Grounds Chair. If you are uncertain how to use the keypad you may call the church office for instructions.



ARE YOU INTERESTED IN CURSILLO?

There are two Cursillo weekends remaining in 2013...

- September 12-15 (application deadline mid July 30)
- October 10-13 (application deadline mid August)

If you are interested in attending one of these Cursillo weekends, contact David or Debbie Collette.

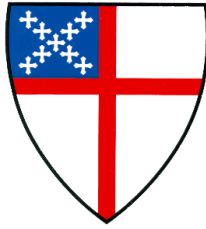


Follow Nativity on Facebook!

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.

Youth



Notes!

Summer Time!

School's out and summer is here! Though we'll all be busy with summer camps, sports camps, band camps, family trips, holidays, and the like, we'll have several opportunities to have fun together as Nativity youth! Below you'll find a list of **some** of the main things we'll be doing this summer. Keep an eye on Facebook and in your email for other events and trips as summer continues!

- Saturday, July 20, **Serve lunch at Sawyerville** – If you've ever wanted to staff Sawyerville but aren't old enough yet or haven't found time to spend a week in Hale County, here's your chance to see what it's all about! Emily Rodgers (and others!) will take a group of youth and parents to serve lunch to the staff of Sawyerville's third session. **Mark your calendar, details to follow! If you're interested in participating, let me know!** Many thanks to those of you who have already done so.
- Friday-Saturday, August 9-10, **Jonathan Daniels Annual Pilgrimage** – This powerful weekend trip will offer the opportunity to learn more about the Freedom Movement's history in Alabama and the Episcopal Church's role in it, to cross cultural borders, and to meet and have fun with other youth from around the Diocese of Alabama. Friday night, August 9th, Church of the Ascension, in Montgomery and just 45 minutes from the Lowndes County courthouse in Hayneville where we'll be Saturday, will host a **lock-in for youth. Keep an eye out for logistical details in the coming weeks, and let me know if you want to go!**
- Friday-Saturday, August 16-17, **EYC Kickoff Rafting Trip!** – **Mark your calendar, details to follow soon!**

Headed to camp this summer? Let me know the address and I'll send you some mail!

Got questions? Call me, William Blackerby, at 205-240-3705, or email wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org

Three ways to register:

1. Fill out and mail the form below
2. Call the IMS office at 256-536-2401
3. Online at www.interfaithmissionservice.org

Name: _____
Address: _____
City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____
E-mail: _____
Phone: _____ Phone 2: _____

Choose sponsor options:

- ____ Sponsor Platinum Table (8 seats) \$ 1000
____ Sponsor Gold Table (4 seats) \$ 500
____ Purchase individual seats \$ 100 each*
*Early registration (by June 10th) discount of 25%

Choose meal options:

- ____ Roasted Chicken Florentine
____ Parmesan Crusted Tilapia
____ Portobello Mushroom Napoleon (vegetarian)

I cannot attend the Annual Dinner, but enclosed a donation to IMS in the amount of \$ _____

All contributions (except \$15 dinner expense) are tax-deductible under Section 501(c)(3) of the IRS code

Make Your Reservations Soon!

The Power of We

Member Congregations of the
Interfaith Mission Service

You are Invited

Interfaith Mission Service
2013 Annual Celebration & Awards Dinner



Standing on "Common Ground"

Keynote Speaker: *Wendi Thomas*
Common Ground, Memphis, Tennessee

June 24, 2013
5:30 p.m.—8:00 p.m.

UAHuntsville University Center
Exhibit Hall
301 Sparkman Drive, 35899

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Frank Troup, George Thacker, Will Joyner, Dan Lester, Joe McDaniel, Dot Kitchens, Mary Vann, Bill Dilworth, Angel Colin, Barbara Hunkapillar, E. Ray Tanner, RuthAnn Haymes, Ann Garnett, Louis Amis, Elaine Wood, Don Askins, Bob, Linda Giardini Drzycinski, Lynne Swanson, Phyllis Lawson, Eileen Sullivan, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl, Emile Joffrion, Nancy Kelly.

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Afghanistan: Matthew Spivey, Denver Colin

Bahrain: Jonathan Serwecki

We pray for the departed:

Mary Jane Eiland, mother of Ed Eiland

We pray for those attending Cursillo #188 June 6-9 at Camp McDowell:

Pilgrims: Richard Clay, Margaret Devenish, Tom Devenish

Staff: Valerie & Jim Chesney, Laura & Rusty McCown, Peggy & Bob Serio

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

6/10 Nyssa Henderson

6/12 Jack Copeland, Ella Duncan

6/14 Abby Amis, Alee Clayton, Katherine McCown

6/15 Joshua Huskey, Ian Artrip, Kate Miller

We give thanks for a marriage:

Elizabeth-Claire Moore and Andrew Philip Knox on June 8th at Nativity

PARISHIONER DEATH NOTIFICATION

If you would like to receive an email notification when a parishioner dies, please contact Connie in the church office at: cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org

HABITAT for HUMANITY UPDATE for house located at 6316 Banks Rd. Huntsville AL

It's not too late for you, a group, or your family to join in this project!

DATE:

June 15

ACTIVITY:

DEDICATION CEREMONY at 11:00 a.m.

Contact Bill Giardini for more information at 256-539-0973 or giardini2@bellsouth.net

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, 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










Interns, Claire Douthit & Kristin Hanson

Stewardship of Creation tip: Now is a great time to get into Birding!

Birds have a unique ability to inspire and delight us. They connect us with nature, with the passage of the seasons, and with each other. According to the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 48 million Americans identify themselves as birdwatchers. How about you? There's a wonderful world just waiting to be explored.

Birds of every kind - songbirds, raptors and shorebirds – fly from their winter homes in the south to their summer breeding grounds in places as far north as the Arctic in the spring, and then back south in the fall. Along the way they encounter many perils, including bright lights and tall buildings, cats and toxic lawns.

Fortunately, people can help ensure a safer journey. With a few simple steps your yard can become a bird-friendly rest stop. Here are some tips to help:

-  Reduce or eliminate pesticides and herbicide use. By using fewer chemicals in and around your home, you will help keep birds, pets and your family healthy.
-  Plant native plants. Native flora provides birds with food in the form of fruits and seeds, and can be home to tasty bites in the form of bugs and spiders.
-  Identify the non-native invasive plants in your region, and work to remove them from your yard. And don't bring any new invasives into your backyard habitat! Invasives don't provide as much good food or habitat as natives do, and can threaten healthy ecosystems.
-  Attract hummingbirds with sugar water. Here is the recipe for hummingbird juice: **four parts boiled water to one part cane sugar. Never use honey, artificial sweeteners or food coloring.** Clean hummingbird feeders with a solution of one part white vinegar to four parts water. Rinse three times before re-filling. Don't use soap or bleach on hummingbird feeders.
-  Make your windows visible to birds to prevent crashes. Put up screens, close drapes and blinds when you leave the house or stick multiple decals on the glass. Decals need to be spaced closely together to be effective – no more than two to four inches apart!
-  Help birds stay on course. Close your blinds at night and turn off lights you aren't using. Some birds use constellations to guide them on their annual migrations, and bright lights can disrupt them.
-  Provide a source of water, such as a well-maintained birdbath or small pond. A water source will attract birds and beneficial insects such as butterflies. Shallow edges allow birds to bathe and drink without getting too wet.
-  Along with having bird feeders filled in the fall and winter, it is okay to keep feeding birds in the spring and summer as well. During spring migration and fall migration - which begins in late July - bird feeders can be very welcome sources of food for exhausted migrants. At the Cornell Lab of Ornithology's Treman Bird Feeding Garden, the feeders are filled year-round for the benefit of the birds and the pleasure of the visitors and staff.
-  Summer feeding does entail a few extra precautions because many diseases can grow more rapidly as temperatures rise. To ensure a safe bird-feeding environment, change hummingbird nectar every three days in hot weather, and more often in extreme heat. Rake up and dispose of wet or moldy birdseed regularly. Change water in birdbaths two to three times per week when mosquitoes are breeding, and daily in very hot weather.

Birding is an easy, fun activity. All you really need to begin your bird watching hobby is a pair of good binoculars.

Bird watching is a great excuse to spend time outdoors. Too many of us spend the year either closeted inside our homes or in a job cubicle. We've forgotten what it's like to breath fresh air and commune with nature. We've forgotten that we're not the only creatures blessed to live on this planet. We've forgotten that it's natural to be outdoors.

Bird watching can be very convenient. What's more convenient than watching birds in your very own back yard? You can go down to your local garden center, purchase a bird house and/or a feeder and some feed, and have a bird sanctuary in your back yard in one afternoon. If you've done your homework correctly, your newfound bird friends will love you. If you're industrious enough and handy with a hammer and saw, you can even build a custom bird house.

Birding provides you with your own private animal reality show. You'll quickly find yourself involved in the bird family pecking order. Who's dominant? Who's selfish? Who's nurturing? Who's a bully? You'll start to recognize distinct personalities.

An important aspect of bird watching is that it is a very relaxing activity. No matter how stressed out your day has been, once you sit down with your binoculars and aim it towards your bird friends, you'll notice a sense of calm and tranquility coming over you.

And remember, you'll be helping nature by helping the species to survive. In many parts of the country, the natural habitats of the native creatures, including birds, have been destroyed. In modern society, new industrial or housing development trumps nature every time. With your bird watching hobby, you can help restore some of the habitat balance by providing nesting places, shelter from predators, and food for the birds that you enjoy.

News from the Nativity Outreach Committee

New Tables for 305 8th Street!



305 8th street, is a non-profit home for mentally challenged individuals who score high enough on IQ tests to receive no government aid, but are not able to take care of themselves without assistance. This home houses 19 residents. It is totally debt free, and depends solely on donations for its existence. Outreach, supplies some food, primarily from the efforts of Ginny McDonald and others. After a visit to the home, it was apparent they were in great need of replacing two old wooden picnic tables. The Nativity Outreach

Committee, with the approval of the Vestry, were able to replace the old wooden tables with concrete tables! These tables will not need repair or replacement any time soon! This is just another example of how our parish helps in the community.



Much Needed Supplies for Sawyerville!



The Outreach Committee, with collaboration from the Vestry and The Children's Outreach, Nativity was able to provide the cleaning supplies for **ALL** the Sawyerville Sessions this Summer. William Blackerby, Nativity Director of Youth Ministry, was kind enough to volunteer to drive the church van full of supplies down to Birmingham to drop them off.

Another example of Nativity Reaching out!

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, June 17th

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

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



2013 ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION FORM

If you are interested in dedicating Altar flowers for a specific Sunday in 2013, please complete this form and mail with your check made payable to *Nativity Flower Guild* 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 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 - underline or circle 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: _____