

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

July 3, 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.



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

Goodbye.

Lest we forget, this word is actually the contracted form of "God be with ye."

And God is with us. In all of our beginnings and endings, in our hellos and goodbyes - God will continue with us.

The coming days and weeks will hold some particularly difficult goodbyes. Elizabeth, the children, and I love Nativity - this parish is part of our family now. Rowan was baptized in that fabulous font at the Easter Vigil, Hattie and Noah have felt at home running through the parish hall and eating more cookies than I care to admit, Elizabeth has been embraced by that special community called the choir. And you all have formed me into the priest I am today. What grace and gift you all have been to us!

My emotions have been all over the map over these past few days, ranging from great excitement of what's to come, and also great sadness at saying these goodbyes. My feelings are perhaps best summed up by the Apostle Paul's words to his beloved congregation in Thessalonica, "So deeply do we care for you that we were determined to share with you not only the gospel of God but also our own selves, because you have become very dear to us." (1 Thessalonians 2:8)

The sadness is real, but so too has been the Spirit's call to us. St. Paul's Episcopal Church & Montessori School in the city of San Antonio is a wonderfully unique and gifted parish. They are a diverse and welcoming parish that finds their identity strongly rooted in the Anglo-catholic tradition (think smells, bells, and chanting). This emphasis on transcendent worship is expressed incarnationally in the parish's outreach to their immediate surroundings. This relatively small parish sponsors a food pantry twice a month, and the student population at the school is ethnically and economically diverse.

Some of you have asked if we know anyone in San Antonio. After all, it's not very close to our home state and diocese. Part of the draw to move to San Antonio is that my sister has recently moved there, and my dad's side of the family are all within easy driving distance of San Antonio. Several of our closest friends from Sewanee are from the Diocese of West Texas. In fact, it was one of these best friends who - a few months ago - asked if I'd be interested in learning more about St. Paul's.

In the next year I hope to begin the Doctor of Ministry program at Sewanee during the summer. That means we will be close by for several weeks each summer of the coming years, and we'll be sure to come down the mountain to visit Nativity.

Nativity has been such a gift to us. I want to thank Fr. Andy for his support and for extending the opportunity to serve as curate and associate rector here these past three years. And so as we are saying our "goodbyes," may we remember what we really mean - God be with you.

With love,

Vacation Bible School ~ July 16,17,18 from 9:00 am until 12:00 noon.

Sign up by July 8



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.

Farewell Reception for Father Brad and his family

Sunday, July 21, 2013

Following the 10:00 service

Father Brad will be giving the sermon on the 21st. His last day with us will be July 24. If you would like to contribute to a farewell purse, please make your check payable to: *Church of the Nativity* with "Landry gift" on the memo line.



Want to know more about the Bible, church history, theological ideas and how to live into your faith? EfM teaches you how to think theologically, deepens your faith and your understanding of our Christian heritage, and provides you with a new confidence to be Christ's minister.

Classes are now being formed.

For more information contact: Lea Ellison: 256-520-6652 or George Thacker: 256-533-3005

CHASING DOWN THE MISSING HAND OF ST. FRANCIS!

The exuberant statue of St. Francis that greets visitors to Nativity's office building was sculpted by well-known and accomplished Huntsville sculptor Glenn Dasher as a memorial to Katherine Tubb Jones, wife of former Nativity parishioner Jack Jones who is now living in Ashville, N.C. A few years ago when there was a great deal of vandalism going on downtown, St. Francis' hand was broken off. The hand remained with the statue for a year or more, but has gone missing. Gifts to the Memorial Fund in loving memory of Bob Crump by friends, and by Jack Jones, again in memory of his wife Katherine Tubb Jones, have been given so that Glen Dasher can restore the statue of St. Francis. If you know the whereabouts of Francis' missing appendage, would you please let the church office know...no questions asked...we just want his hand back! Have you also noticed the beautiful bronze miniature of St. Francis in the Foyer to Ridley? This is the model for the sculptor of St. Francis and as noted in a previous *Steeple* is a gift to the Glory of God and in loving memory of Katherine Tubb Jones by Jack Jones.

HAP Sunday (Huntsville Assistance Program) is July 7.



Needed are the following:
Canned meats and fruits,
spaghetti sauce and noodles,
peanut butter, jelly, cereal,
all sizes of diapers.

Nativity Summer Choir



beginning Sunday, July 7th

All are welcome

No experience needed
rehearsal is at 9:10 in the Church



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.



A NOTE FROM THE BISHOP

June 18, 2013

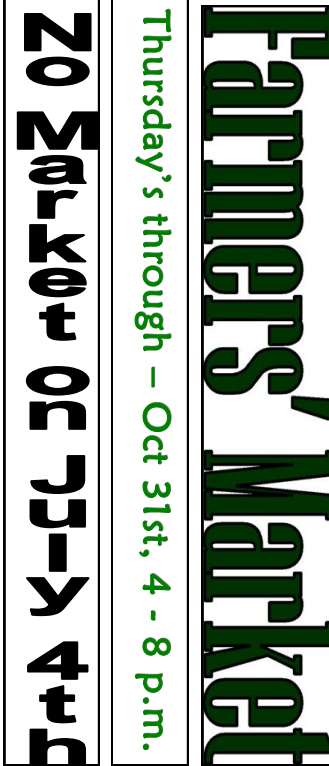
Hello Friends,

Recently the leadership of another denomination has decided to distance that denomination from the Boy Scouts of America, in response to the national BSA structure's decision about involving or including people who are homosexual. I do not want to intrude into another institution's controversies or difficulties - either that denomination's or the Scout's - we have enough to deal with on our own. But it's boys and young men who will be most affected by this decision, as their Boy Scout Troops might well be turned away from the local church that has been sponsoring them, and I do want for us to respond to that as appropriate. I am asking you to be mindful of the Boy Scout Troops in your community, especially those who will no longer be able to meet and have some of their activities in some of the churches. I am asking that our parishes extend our Lord's hospitality, and consider sponsoring a Boy Scout Troop.

As clearly as I can I want to say and I want you to be able to say that I am not at all interested in criticizing another denomination of our Lord's one holy catholic and apostolic Church; I am not at all interested in taking a side in the ongoing argument about sexuality in the Scouting movement. I am interested in extending hospitality, as one institution torn by this controversy to another, to the boys and young men of the Boy Scouts of America, and to the adults who give their time and energy to work with them.

God's Peace,

The Rt. Rev. John McKee Sloan
Bishop of the Episcopal Church



YOUR VESTRY NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE SOLICITS YOUR INPUT

Do you have a suggestion for the Vestry Nominations Committee? We seek input from all parishioners, and the form below is a simple method for you to communicate your recommendation. There are also forms available at the church. Names are maintained in a perpetual pool to consider for the annual election each November. Thank you for your help with this important process.

For your convenience a drop-box is located in the foyer of Ridley Hall or you may mail the form to:

The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal
Attn: Nominations Committee
208 Eustis Ave.
Huntsville, AL 35801

VESTRY NOMINATION PROPOSAL

Church of the Nativity

Name of candidate: _____

E-mail: _____ Phone: Home _____ Cell _____ Work _____

What strengths would this person bring to the Vestry _____

In what Parish activities has this person participated? _____

Have you discussed this with the person; if elected, would he/she agree to serve on the Nativity Vestry? _____

Thank you for your input on this candidate. The Nominations Committee meets regularly to consider all proposed nominees and to ensure representative leadership from the entire Parish.

Your signature _____

Printed name _____ Date: _____

The Work of the Greene Street Market Recognized by IMS



Congratulations to Marilyn Evans and the Greene Street Market Board and Volunteers for being awarded the Interfaith Mission Service 2013 Direct Service Award! This annual award goes to an individual or organization that has reached out to the community to help the most vulnerable.

As Father Anderson said when he presented the award, the Greene Street Market— now in its third phenomenal year — has helped our community in a number of ways. The Market has provided thousands of dollars to Nativity's hunger-fighting Outreach programs. These funds come from the nominal fees charged to vendors at the Market. The Market has also given local farmers (45 of them) an excellent opportunity to sell their locally grown (within a 70-mile radius) produce to Nativity's neighbors and a growing number of people coming in from other sections of Huntsville to buy fresh vegetables, herbs, prepared meals from local chefs, exotic popsicles, cheese, eggs, bakery items, meats, crafts, and the most beautiful fresh flowers in town. After its first year of operation (2011), one local grower made the heartfelt comment that, without the Greene Street Market, his farm might not have made it that year.

It's a win-win-win situation all around. We all get to buy fresh local food, the proceeds go to Nativity's Outreach programs, and vegetables bought by Nativity folks and donated by vendors find their way to the Russel Erskine low-income Senior Living Facility and to a local group home.

www.greenstreetmarket.com
www.interfaithmissionservice.org

[The Interfaith Mission Service is a cooperative of congregations, individuals, and organizations that promote respect for the diversity of faiths, cultures, and races in our community. Through Direct Service, the members of the cooperative help the hungry, homeless, and students and teachers at disadvantaged schools. Deacon Jeannie Robison is the Chief Administrative Officer of IMS and welcomes your inquiries and your participation!]

To the Rev. Andy Anderson and the Parishioners of The Church of the Nativity,



St. Thomas Episcopal, Huntsville, and the committee of the Cruise For A Cause want to thank each of you in helping us to have a very successful cruise on Sunday, June 9th. A very fun evening was had by all. We wanted to let you know that the Huntsville Assistance Program was given a check for \$2275.32 because of your generous support.

Because of the success of this effort, St. Thomas will once again sponsor a cruise next year and we are hoping to have your support.

Sincerely,

Susan Pearson
Cruise For A Cause Chairman



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.

The Daughters of the King confidential Prayer Box

If you would like prayers for someone or have a prayer intention but would rather keep the name or intention private, the Daughters of the King offer a confidential prayer box for you intentions. The names and intentions put in this box are prayed for by the Daughters but the names are never revealed. Once a month, the slips in this box are burned without ever being read.

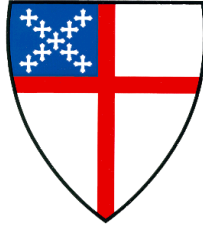
The DOK Confidential Prayer Box is located in Ridley Hall on the pamphlet rack.

HAVEN'T PLEDGED YET? NO PROBLEM! (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

Youth



Notes!

Serving at Sawyerville



We did a great job pretending not to be exhausted in this picture, didn't we? That's because despite the hard work, heat, lack of sleep, and frustrations with campers (who were wonderful most of the time!), we had a blast being the hands and feet Jesus and serving God and our neighbor in Hale County. I am so proud of the great job Spencer, Julie, and Katherine did serving as Sawyerville Day Camp counselors. Spencer and Julie didn't get enough at Session 1, so they head back to Greensboro at the end of this week to sleep on a church floor and serve as counselors for another session! Katherine headed straight to Camp McDowell once Sawyerville Session I ended to serve as a counselor at Special Session. Nativity certainly has some hard-working, service-minded youth, and adults! Holly Ellis and Madeline Mullins were vital to the camp program and to pulling off the Tuscaloosa field trip day. All six of us can attest to the fact that cleaning supplies donated by Nativity were put to great use, and you can see in the picture above right that goggles donated by Nativity's choir were too!

Save the Date! — Contact William if you want to go!

- Saturday, July 20, **Serve lunch at Sawyerville**
- Friday-Saturday, August 9-10, **Jonathan Daniels Annual Pilgrimage & Lock-in**

I love feedback! Call me, William Blackerby, at 205-240-3705, or email wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org

Sharing a Sacred Space by The Rev. Daniel Simons

One of the great heritages that a church passes on is its buildings. Yet how we inherit the worship space of a particular time, make it our own, and hand it on to others, is a delicate question. If we are mere preservationists then worship can be frozen, becoming itself an object of worship, which is idolatry and the death of lively spirituality. On the other hand, if we forget that we are just a tick of the clock's hand in time and rebuild to suit the fad of the moment, we can mangle the coherence of a particular age's architectural voice or leave behind a dated legacy that can't speak beyond its generation (many churches are still cleaning up liturgical spaces designed in the 50's and 60's).

Trinity Wall Street is not exempt from these considerations. Our church (meaning the people of God) is housed in two spectacular edifices: Trinity Church, the third building on the site and now dwarfed by the elegant old skyscrapers of early Manhattan, but for many years the tallest building on the island; and St. Paul's Chapel, a city treasure that is New York's oldest public building in continuous use.

One of the tributes to the architects who designed Trinity and St. Paul's Chapel is that the buildings have needed so little redesign over the centuries. Every time we put St. Paul's to another use the founders would have never considered, we discover what perfectly designed proportions we're working with. We have had dinners, concerts, dances, and classes there, and after 9/11 it was a clinic and a kitchen and a dormitory. And then, of course, we have worshipped in so many different styles there, and it all works harmoniously because those who built it were listening deeply to the poetry of the space.

But that doesn't mean we haven't radically changed those spaces. Somewhere along the line at St. Paul's, the pew boxes that had kept people warm in winter became charming but impractical, and all but two, including George Washington's, were removed entirely. Having experienced the capacity of the chapel to be something

much more than a church, Trinity's leadership listened deeply to the need of the moment and decided that the bones of the building could withstand, and even incorporate, that radical decision. In the years since, that choice has proved itself to be a good one, and once-skeptics now comment on what a new range the chapel has.

I'm not making a case for removing pews; I'm making a case for listening deeply both to a building's heritage and its call to mission in the moment. There are often ways of having both.

Our mark in some ages calls for great reform, in some ages holding steady, and sometimes we are even called to leave the building entirely. Look at your building—

What does it say about the community that build it?

How has it shaped you and how have you shaped it?

How does it help or hinder you in living out the gospel now?

What do you think God is calling your community to do or be in the next chapter of your mission, and how will that be reflected and enhanced by what you do with your building?

This year we are beginning to consider a master plan to renew the interior of Trinity Church. Much of it is the boring but important stuff: heating/cooling/light/sound. Some of it goes into that deeper stewardship of prayer: shall we make some of the pews moveable so that we increase the flexible use of the space? How does the altar area relate to the people, and is there a one-size fits-all solution, or do we make the rear of the church more welcoming to visitors—more porous to the outside world while maintaining its coherence and integrity?

As the architects work on these questions, we are all wrestling with this tension: any change we make affects those who come after us. In the same way that our architects gave us such good bones to work with in these buildings, our work has to be thoughtful

and careful enough to be appreciated by our spiritual descendants, who will have different concerns from ours that we cannot see.

Tradition is the process of handing on the past to the future. In that process we inevitably leave our own mark. In every age the call is faithfulness to the Gospel as we hear it, the call to follow Jesus in our own time.

The Rev. Daniel Simons is Priest and Director of Liturgy, Hospitality, and Pilgrimage for Trinity Wall Street. He can be contacted at dsimons@trinitywallstreet.org.

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Nancy Kelly, Emile Joffrion, Leigh Wahl, Elsie Olsen, Eileen Sullivan, Phyllis Lawson, Lynne Swanson, Bob, Elaine Wood, Ann Garnett, Joe McDaniel, Louis Amis, Barbara Hunkapillar, Angel Colin, Will Joyner, George Thacker, Julian Kobler, Elise Goodson, Nancy Colin Swenson, RuthAnn Haymes, Gary Glover, Tom Nixon.

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Afghanistan: Denver Colin; Bahrain: Jonathan Serwecki; South Korea: Tim Fuhrman

We pray for the departed: Lauren C. White, step-father of Lynn Lewis; Marty Benzle, mother of Curt Benzle; E. Ray Tanner, brother of Dianne Nettles; Dot Kitchens, parishioner, mother of Laura Pierce

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

7/3	Finola O'Halloran	7/3	Eamonn O'Halloran	7/5	Alexander Cahue	7/7	Kate Noble Hall
7/8	Kate Allbritton	7/9	Catherine Peterson	7/10	Alexander Allbee	7/10	Daniel Starnes
7/10	Emily Evans	7/12	McKenna Watson	7/12	Laura Elliott	7/14	Allison Taylor
7/15	Mary Ragland	7/16	Elise Greco	7/16	Lisa Smith	7/17	Caroline Ayres

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

July 2013

July 7

8:00	C Jackson Anglin	Acolytemaster: Dorrie Nutt
10:00	C Noelle Carter, Karsten Correale	Acolytemaster: Mike Ward
	F Molly Ward, Evan Ward	
	T Sidney Gunter, Allison Taylor, Ireland Braudaway, Cassidy Bates	
	S Savannah Watson	
	AS John Laney	

July 14

8:00	C Travis King	Acolytemaster: Dorrie Nutt
10:00	C Spencer Anglin, Trace Markwalter	Acolytemaster: Patrick Quillen
	T Van Dodgen, Lillie Markwalter, Katherine Hunter, Huston Morring	
	S Tindall Morring	
	AS Windham Hunter	

July 21

8:00	C Gillianne Sharp	Acolytemaster: Clay Sherrill
10:00	C William Ellison, Kate Noble Hall	Acolytemaster: Nina Putt
	T Emily Ellison, Sims Windham, Ellie Walker, Caroline Knight	
	S Meredith Walker	
	AS Evan Ellison	

July 28

8:00	C Carter McDonald	Acolytemaster: Mike Ward
10:00	C Mary Margaret Ragland, Scott Louis Miller	Acolytemaster: Nina Putt
	T Franklin Aldag, Evans Alison, David DiFranco, Steuart Evans	
	S Julie DiFranco	
	AS Allie Starnes	

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:

cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is Monday noon, July 15.

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.

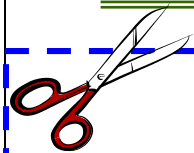
The number to call *In Case of an Emergency Only* is 256-533-7007. All other calls should be directed to church phone 256-533-2455 and follow the prompts to leave a message for a priest to respond.

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:

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..."