

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

August 7, 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

We Begin Anew

Winding down the summer, August looks toward new beginnings. The school year for our children and their families begins soon. Goodbye sleeping later, afternoon swims, and flexible evenings. Hello car pools, school activities, and homework. Summer, with its change in pace and leisure activities, came as a gift. Many parents are perhaps feeling that the returning school schedule also comes as gift! We may laugh at that thought, but new schedules, new opportunities, new challenges infuse the ordinary routine of our lives with grace.

Although life sometimes feels like a series of starting the same thing over again, each new beginning contains a whole new world for us; a whole new way of knowing ourselves, others, and the creation God charges with grandeur. And so we always begin again, but we always begin anew.

This is not only true for the upcoming fall schedule, but for every day we live. *Blessed be the God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ! By his great mercy we have been born anew to a living hope through the resurrection of Christ Jesus from the dead (1st Peter 1:3).* The Prayer Book, in the section Daily Devotions for Individuals and Families, encourages us to consider this great thought every morning as we begin our day. We are born anew to new hopes and joys because of our belief in the Resurrection.

We can choose to live into the routine of each day with resurrection possibilities or we can choose otherwise. We can hope to meet Christ in people and events. We can look for the God who changes disappointments and shortcomings into new life by forgiveness and grace. The choice is ours, for us and for our children.

What possibilities will the fall schedule bring for you and your household? How can you bring the possibilities of Resurrection Life into recurring or new activities? Someone once put it well, "We have to make room for God, otherwise life's busyness can squeeze God out."

Our church family begins our new year of activities after Labor Day. But now is the time to begin making room for and committing to God's presence we share in the church. Our choirs for children and adults begin rehearsing in August. Some Bible Studies and Education for Ministry Classes will begin in August, others after Labor Day.

The parish staff is busy making plans for superb Christian Education classes for all ages. Lane Tutt and the Adult Christian Formation group are on fire with creative new options this fall. William Blackerby and the Youth Council are making final plans for a renewed youth ministry with sustainable programming and lay leadership. A planning retreat with parish leaders August 22-24 will reap the fruits of last 12 months renewed focus on our youth ministries. Club 56 (5th and 6th grades) and Junior High Youth will convene in the most beautiful space in the whole campus outside of the church and chapel! Elizabeth Foster continues to lead our exciting Children's Ministries with new things happening in the fall as well.

The Education and Music Ministry Fair will take place on Sunday, August 18 in the Parish Hall at 9:00 a.m. and after the 10:00 a.m. service. Come check out the possibilities and commit to being a part of the new and renewing life God calls us to know through our parish family. Begin anew, making certain sure God has room on your schedule this fall!

Andy +





EfM
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

EfM Classes are now being formed. REGISTER BY AUGUST 16 to BE SURE YOUR TEXTS ARRIVE from Sewanee BEFORE CLASSES BEGIN.

For more information contact:

Lea Ellison: 256-520-6652 or
George Thacker: 256-533-3005

Nativity Men go "Straight to Ale"



**Sunday,
August 25th
5:30 pm**

**Come find out everything there is to know
about running a brewery!**

**RSVP: Church Office - 256.533.2455 or
cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org**

Nativity Welcomes Guest Priest Sunday

This Sunday, August 11, we welcome the Rev'd Van Foreman to the pulpit. An Alabama native, Father Van recently retired after 31 years of parish ministry in our Diocese. He has served parishes in Decatur, Pell City, Albertville and Gadsden, and was Secretary of the Diocese for many years. Fr. Van is a graduate of Birmingham-Southern College and Yale Divinity School. Before attending seminary at Yale, he pursued graduate studies in theology at Tübingen University in Germany as an International Rotary Foundation Fellow. He recently completed a Master of Arts degree in English literature at Jacksonville State University. Fr. Van and his wife Heidi now divide their time between Gadsden and Huntsville, where Heidi's mother, now a vital 97 years old, still resides. Heidi became acquainted with the Episcopal Church as a teenager at the Church of the Nativity. She has an art background and in the past few years has been pursuing studies in iconography.

Taste Wonderful Local Foods

Support the Fresh Food Initiative

**Sunday, August 11, 2013
5 to 7 p.m.**

Church of the Nativity

**Tickets available for purchase
Sunday in Ridley Hall foyer**



**the
Greene
Street
Market**
at Nativity

Enjoy great local food while helping the Fresh Food Initiative. All proceeds donated to the Food Bank of North Alabama to double the amount of EBT dollars spent at farmer's market. The program helps low-income people afford Healthy, nutritious food for their families.

[Click here for information and to order tickets.](#)

Nativity Ministry Fairs

Looking to get involved in your church, the community, the Diocese, and the world?

Here are three opportunities to find out how you can get more involved in building God's Kingdom through the mission and ministry of the Church of the Nativity:

Sunday morning, August 18 – EDUCATION and MUSIC MINISTRY FAIR

[Find out more about our Christian Educations offerings as well as our Music ministry at Nativity]

Sunday morning, September 15 – INREACH MINISTRY FAIR

[Find out how you can be involved in and sign up for various worship, parish life, welcoming & hospitality, senior, and other ministry opportunities]

Sunday morning, October 13 – OUTREACH MINISTRY FAIR

[Find out how you can be involved in various outreach activities in the community, the Diocese, and the world]

We hope you will mark your calendars, participate in these ministry fairs, and get involved where God is calling you to act!

We're looking for a few good men and women... who have ideas about making the senior ministry stronger than ever.

If you have an interest in helping steer our efforts... or some ideas for programs, speakers, daytrips, or great places to eat Sunday lunch, please join us for a kick-off meeting for 2013-2014.

What: Nativity's Senior Ministry (Top of the Hill Gang) Steering Committee meeting

When: Tuesday, August 27, 2013 at 3:00 p.m.

Where: Nativity Library



2013 ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION FORM

To dedicate Altar flowers for one of the remaining three open dates 2013, **December 1, 8, 29** please complete this form and mail with your check (\$40 or \$20 for shared dedications) 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.

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: _____



It's time for ACOLYTE TRAINING!

Sunday, August 18
following the 10:00 service
Prospective AND returning Acolytes in
7th-12th grades

Please call or email the contact below to let us know if your child will be able to attend. If they're not able to come, but still want to be an acolyte, we'll arrange to meet with them individually for training.

Acolytemasters:

Dorrie Nutt 256/533-1128 dorie.nutt@gmail.com
Nina Putt Clay Sherrill Mike Ward Patrick Quillen

New for Wednesdays in September



Four Weeks of Miracles

Facilitator: Rusty McCown

The miracles of Jesus are some of the most enlightening and thought-provoking passages in the entire Bible. Here we get a wonderful glimpse of Jesus' ministry in helping others. But should we concentrate on only the miracles themselves? Is there more to their stories? Can the miracles present a larger picture of the ministry of Jesus?

This four-week course, beginning Wednesday Sept. 4 from 6 - 7 pm, will look at miracle stories that are exclusive to each of the four gospels. We will address the reason why Jesus performed these miracles given his circumstances, how these stories resonant with a modern audience and what they mean for all Christians today.

Haiti Medical Mission Team Forming



We are in the process of putting together the team for our February Medical Mission to Haiti. The date has not been fixed but we are looking at the first full week in

February. We especially need medical personnel but also need some support staff so if you are interested please call Bob Serio at 256-881-6242 or e-mail rserio001@gmail.com. We will have an information session August 11 at 9 am between the services in the Bannister Room.

Blessing of the Backpacks



HEY KIDS! bring your backpacks to church!

Sunday, August 25th at the 10:00 service.

Reflection Bible Study for Busy Moms

Resumes August 29 at 9:30am
Nursery provided

We will begin on August 29th with a discussion on the book "**Undaunted**" by Christine Caine. The following Thursday, September 5th, we will begin the study "**Gideon: your weakness. God's strength**" by Priscilla Shirer.

Newcomers are welcome and no previous bible study experience is necessary. Teachers for the class are Connie Stephenson, Debbie Collette, Shelley Whitney, Lisa Caprio and Kim Hartley. For more information contact Debbie Collette at 256-527-5050 or any of the other listed teachers. We look forward to a new year with lots of old and new faces!

Dave Ramsey Class



Nativity is so excited to be offering a Dave Ramsey class beginning Wednesday, August 28th at 5:45 until 7:00p.m. and ending October 16th. The class will be located 2nd floor Joffrion

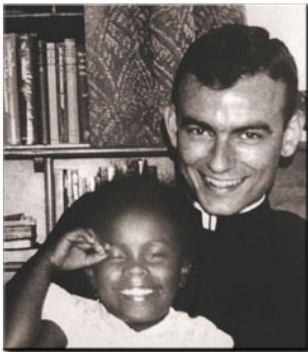
Hall. If you want to do something really special for yourself and your family, you don't want to miss this class. I have participated in this class three times and still love it and still learning!! "It provides biblically based, common sense education and empowerment which gives HOPE to everyone from the financially secure to the financially distressed." Dave Ramsey says "If you will live like no one else, later you can LIVE like no one else!" The cost is \$100.00 which you will see is well worth it - you get a lot for your money!! Contact Lane Tutt to order your material - 256-533-2455 or 256-653-7200.

Youth



Notes!

Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage, August 9-10



7th through 12th graders will be attending this year's Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage and Youth Lock-in, in Montgomery and Hayneville, AL. The lock-in begins Friday night at Church of the Ascension in Montgomery, where youth from all over the diocese will come together to learn about Jonathan Daniels, the martyred Episcopal seminarian, and the Civil Rights Movement of the 1960s in Alabama.

Saturday morning, the pilgrimage will begin, with visits to the sites where Jonathan was jailed and murdered. The event ends with lunch in front of the Lowndes County Courthouse on Saturday.

Got a youth in your house?

**Want to know what's
going on in Nativity's
youth ministry?**

Complete the survey found
at this link to get in the loop!

bit.ly/eyccomms



Nativity youth and parents setting up lunch for the Sawyerville staff on 7/20. Great job all!

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

Save the Date!

Nativity Annual Parish Picnic/Rally Day

Sunday, August 25th following the 10:00 service

Food, Fun & Fellowship

In the courtyard



Dear Dr. Anderson,

Thank you for the Church of the Nativity's generous contributions totaling \$2000.00 to Episcopal Relief and Development. Your commitment to fighting poverty and disease is essential as we continue our work in support of the Millennium Development Goals and communities around the globe. Specifically, your gifts have been applied to Tornado Response.

Our programs in nearly 40 countries provide agricultural training that helps farmers produce better crops while protecting the environment, and distribute livestock that give families a source of food and income. Our health initiatives help prevent malaria in sub-Saharan Africa. We also support disaster preparedness and response efforts, internationally throughout the United States. You can learn more about our programs by visiting www.episcopalrelief.org.

In partnership, we are healing a hurting world.

Faithfully,

Robert W. Radtke

THANK YOU

A Thank You from Sawyerville Day Camp

I am delighted to write to you on behalf of Sawyerville Day Camp expressing sincere appreciation for Nativity's generous donation in support of the ministry. Please know how much Nativity's unselfish support went in ensuring the seamless execution of the program for the three sessions. As you are aware the commission has been overwhelmed by requests for more campers to be accommodated. The additional session was fully subscribed which made your parish outreach donation even more generous and significant.

It was an honor to spend a week as a counselor on staff at the second session. What I witnessed and experienced was profoundly emotional. It well up in me a fountain of thanksgiving to God for the labor of love coming from our young people who were the staffers, counselors, and also, those responsible for critical logistical pieces like catering, cleaning and organizing the kitchen activity. What was even more transformational was the sight of joyful expressions shown on the faces of campers.

Every blessing,

The Rt. Rev. Santosh K. Marray

Upcoming Baptism Dates

- September 15th at the 11:00 service
 - November 3, All Saints', 8:45 & 11:00 services
- Contact Connie in the church office to sign-up

The Dream and Intimacy with God Retreat

August 9-11

Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center, Cullman

A retreat entitled *The Dream and Intimacy with God* will be held August 9-11 at the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman. Numerous scriptural accounts attest to the importance of dreams in the spiritual lives of our Judeo-Christian ancestors. In this retreat, clinical psychologist and spiritual director Dr. Joseph Howell will use presentations and experiential dream interpretation sessions to focus on the ancient art of dream interpretation as a way to foster daily closeness with God. There will be time for personal reflection and prayer, rest, and strolling the beautiful monastery grounds.

The cost for the weekend is \$210 for a private room or \$185/person for a shared room.

Meals and linens are included. To register or to obtain more information, please contact the Retreat Center at (256) 734-8302 or retreats@shmon.org.

Prayer Offered by Father Anderson

(July 31 Meeting Madison County Commission)

Most gracious God, you have called us into communities of purpose that reflect your desires for all. We give you thanks for inter-woven communities that make the larger community of Madison County, for the many blessings we share, and for our leaders who meet this morning. Be present now with the Madison County Commission Members as they make decisions for the welfare of your people and the various municipalities that must work together for a larger good. Bless our commissioners with the vision to make Madison County a community of justice, where no one will diminish the rights of others; a community of plenty, where greed and poverty are eliminated; a community of shared humanity, where success is founded upon service and integrity; and a community of peace, where order is fostered by love and our commitment to the common good. Send down upon our leaders the spirit of wisdom, charity and justice that with steadfast purpose they may faithfully serve in their office to promote the well-being of all citizens. Renew the ties of mutual regard which form our civic life so that women and men and children from different cultures and with differing talents may find that we all belong to each other because we all belong to you. Hear our prayer, Loving God for the sake of your future alone that can heal our community and indeed all the nations of the world. Amen.

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, Angel Colin, Barbara Hunkapillar, Will Joyner, Nancy Colin Swenson, Gary Glover, David Corriveau, Louis Amis, George Thacker, Elise Goodson, Tom Nixon, Charles Mabie, Juanita Delaney, Tracie Carpenter, Joan Bennett, Richard Hubbard

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Bahrain: Jonathan Serwecki; South Korea: Tim Fuhrman

We pray for the departed:

Walter Paul Gibson, Jr., parishioner and father of Suzy Naumann

Robert Joseph Andrews, father of Brian Andrews

Tuffy Hudson, father of Blake Hudson

We give thanks for the birth of: Harvey Charles Wilson, July 11 to Mindy and Patrick Wilson

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

8/8	Hunter Ray	8/8	Samuel Cline	8/9	Matthew Doty	8/9	Wilhelm Clardy
8/10	Gillianne Sharp	8/13	Sarah Huskey	8/15	Pierce Anderson	8/16	Charlotte Klos
8/16	Read Klos	8/17	Ayden Schuppener	8/18	Warren Towry	8/18	Emily Church
8/20	Sumter Park	8/21	Caleb Arnette				

Stewardship of Creation tip

Eat Fresh – Eat Local: Come to the Nativity Local Foods Tasting benefiting the Fresh Food Initiative

Just what is the **FRESH FOOD INITIATIVE**?

It grew out of discussions among the members of the Food Bank of North Alabama, the City of Huntsville and the Alabama Sustainable Agriculture Network.

“It was clear residents wanted to know more about where and how their food is grown, wanted greater access to fresh, healthy food choices, and wanted to support local north Alabama farmers,” says Kathryn Strickland, who is community food security director of the Food Bank of North Alabama. One of the results of these discussions was the Fresh Food Initiative, which is an organization that seeks to make fresh, healthy food choices accessible to seniors and families who qualify for SNAP benefits (formerly food stamps) and are trying to eat healthfully on a limited budget. The program doubles the value of SNAP benefits up to \$20 when participants purchase foods directly from farmers at participating farmers’ markets. This is a win-win-win for local farmers, the local economy and seniors and families who are trying to eat healthy. The organization is a partnership among Greene Street Market, Food Bank of North Alabama, Huntsville Housing Authority, and the North Alabama Food Policy Council.

The Greene Street Market at Nativity is hosting its second local foods tasting event to benefit the Fresh Food Initiative.

This celebration of local foods and farmers is open to everyone.

We hope that you will attend this benefit, coming up next Sunday - AUGUST 11 - from 5 - 7 pm in Ridley Hall at Nativity. We hope you will encourage your friends & neighbors to be there, too. Families are welcome. Come taste recipes made with fresh ingredients from North Alabama farmers.

Tickets are \$15 per person and are available at the Greene Street Market or by email from sbeckgrace@aol.com or by sending a check made payable to GSM at Nativity, to Local Foods Tasting, 415 Randolph Avenue, Huntsville 35801.

In addition to attending the Local Foods Tasting, what else can you do to help support the Fresh Food Initiative and local food producers? Here are some suggestions:

- Make monetary contributions to the Food Bank of North Alabama designated in support of the Fresh Food Initiative.
 - Urge area businesses to support local producers. Kathryn Strickland says, “We encourage residents to ask where their food comes from, in restaurants, or grocery stores.” If local businesses know that consumers are interested in knowing the source of their food, they will be encouraged to buy from local sources.
- After attending the Nativity Local Foods Tasting, host a local foods dinner for family and friends, asking guests to make a contribution to the Fresh Foods Initiative.

Hope to see you at the Local Foods Tasting, on Sunday Aug 11.

STEEPLE SCHEDULE

The Steeple is published each 1st and 3rd Wednesdays.

To submit events or articles, you may bring them to the church office or email:

cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is Monday noon, August 19.

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev'd Rusty McCown
Associate

The Rev'd Jeannie Robison
Deacon

The Rev'd Mary Groff
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

FINAL REMINDER – VESTRY NOMINATIONS DUE

Sunday, August 18th is the last day!

The Vestry Nominating Committee is asking for your help in identifying candidates for the Vestry, and we've made it easy for you to nominate a candidate or yourself for consideration. Simply fill out the form and put it in the drop box in Ridley Hall or mail it to the Church Office: The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal, Attention: Nominations Committee, 208 Eustis Avenue, Huntsville, AL 35801.

We encourage you to get involved in this very important process and thank you for your participation. We're looking forward to your submissions!

The Vestry Nominating Committee

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.