# THE STEEPLE



# CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

### *Fall* 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

### The Church of the Nativity

November 6, 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.

### Your Perfect Offering

I just ran across a wonderful story about the famous jazz musician Duke Ellington. The San Francisco Chronicle in 1965 was reviewing the very first "Sacred Concert" performance of Duke Ellington, which was heard at Grace Cathedral the previous night. That review, titled "Duke Swings at Grace Cathedral," reported that the performance "appeared to leave many of the audience discomfited, nervous, or edgy, not completely willing to accept the idea that the wild sound of a sax should pierce the austere heights of the Episcopal cathedral's nave. 'It's all very strange,' a high churchman commented during intermission, 'but oh, lordy, it's fascinating!' The point of the performance, according to Grace Cathedral's dean, was that any offering to God is sacred, whatever its form."

Duke Ellington himself went on to say, "It has been said once that a man, who could not play the organ or any of the instruments of the symphony, accompanied his worship by juggling. He was not the world's best juggler, but it was the one he thing he did best, and so it was accepted by God. For my part, I regard this concert as the most important thing I have ever done."

I think about "offering" a lot. At every Sunday service, I give the offertory sentence, leading into the part of the service which most of us recognize as the time the collection plate comes around the pews. In addition to money and bread and wine, the Church receives all sorts of offerings at this time. Musicians offer their music. Maybe a few of us offer silent prayers. At this time all are invited to offer to God whatever it is—whatever!—that we have brought to church that day. Some of us have brought great joy to church, and others of us have brought only some sadness or pain that we woke up.

A powerful miracle occurs every Sunday at the Offertory. God accepts whatever it is that we have offered, and God blesses it. God blesses all our various offerings at the same time that God blesses the bread and wine of the Eucharist. God blesses our money as a sacramental expression of our lives transformed to be utilized in God's mission in the world. God transforms our joys and our sorrows, our hopes and our fears, to reflect God's love, encouraging us to know God's abiding presence with us. When we physically receive the Body and Blood of Christ at communion, we spiritually receive back our own original offerings. But these original offerings are not the same; they have been consecrated and renewed. When we receive them back, they become the tools for ministry that enable us to be the Body of Christ in the world.

The dean of Grace Cathedral, San Francisco in 1965 was able to see that any honest offering to God is sacred, whatever its form. Duke Ellington offered his jazz that day, and God blessed it. The world is now a better place because Duke Ellington had his offering accepted and blessed.

Each one of us has so much to offer God because God has already offered the perfect offering to us in Christ Jesus. God gives us life, blessing us to share this holy life. Our faith in the abundance of God's mercy and blessings then flourishes. The first and most important offering we have is ourselves, our very hearts and lives and souls given as a living sacrifice to God and God's purposes. From this offering flow other offerings: our time, our talent, our hopes, our money.

Over the past two weeks, almost 250 households of Nativity have made an offering of the first fruits of their lives to God's work at Nativity by making a pledge for 2014. Witnessing the Pledge Card Procession on October 27, we visibly saw hundreds of lives offered to God represented by the pledge cards brought forward to the altar.

If you have not yet joined in this offering, please consider joining those whose hearts and lives have been sacramentally offered to God through pledging. We need for everyone to be a part of *this* sacred offering. Whatever you have to offer is enough, for all offerings are perfect when they are offered to God in love and thanksgiving. For God is the one transforming our offerings and our very lives, to be perfect as God's offering to us in Christ Jesus is perfect. Thanks be to God!

Andy +



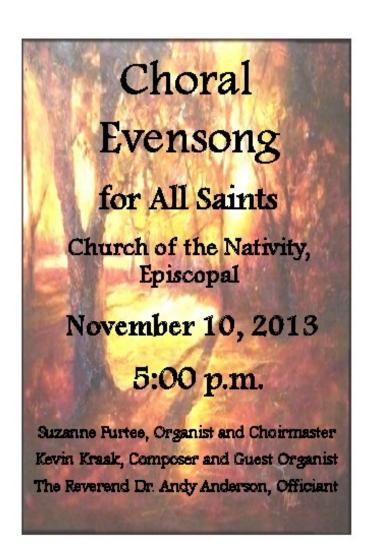
### Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, November 12
6:30 am Simple Eucharist in Bibb Chapel
7:00 am Speaker: Bob Thurber
Ridley Hall
Suggested donation \$5



### The Greene Street Market Store is OPEN!

Enter from Eustis Come by and have a cup of coffee. The hours are 10 am – 5:30 pm,



### Congratulations to new Vestry Members:

Brenda Chynoweth, Beverly Farrington, Margaret Day Baker, Allen Daniels, Kelly Hudson and Bill Starnes.

### From the Stewardship Committee:

We had a great start to our 2014 pledge drive and want to keep the momentum going! If you have already submitted your pledge, THANKS!

If not, please try to get it in this week.

Your gifts are appreciated!

### 2014 Pledges by Dollar Range November 3, 2013

\$ 500 or <	18
\$501 - \$999.99	25
\$1,000 - \$2,999.99	94
\$3,000 - \$4,999.99	42
\$5,000 - \$9,999.99	42
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	10
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	5
\$25,000 or >	2

Total Number of Pledges 238

Total Dollar Amount of Pledges \$843,392.00

Average Pledge \$3,543.67

### INTERCESSION REQUESTS

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

Nancy Kelly, Emile Joffrion, Leigh Wahl, Elsie Olsen, Eileen Sullivan, Phyllis Lawson, Elaine Wood, Nancy Colin Swanson, Louis Amis, Charles Mabie, RuthAnn Haymes, Barbara Hunkapillar, Carla King, Ann Garnett, Kristen Clute, Michael Brown, George Thacker, William Stroud, Tom Robinson, Harry Beazley, Anna Post, Linda Frost, Marcia Cobun, Larry Sepansike

### We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Bahrain: Jonathan Serwecki; South Korea: Tim Fuhrman; Afghanistan: Michael Knight

<u>We pray for the departed</u>: Guy Rankin, brother of Beezie Lindsey; Mary Ellen Galloway; Robert Smith, former parishioner

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

11/7	Anne Louise Wilson	11/7	Caroline Knight	11/8	Zoe Church	11/8	Rowan Cline
11/9	Jackson Knight	11/10	Maura Berman	11/10	Caroline Hornsby	11/10	Sarah Hornsby
11/10	Morgan Watkins	11/10	Steuart Evans III	11/11	Ellie Webber	11/15	Evans Bryant
11/15	Peyton Ann Mickle	11/17	Frederick Fortner	11/19	Vivian Hinton		

### Plea for Casseroles for the Bazaar Sale

Frozen and refrigerated food items (casseroles, soups, salads, etc.) are one of the top profit producers of our Bazaar. There is always a shortage of vegetable casseroles. Broccoli, sweet potato, and squash are very popular. There have also been requests for items that serve two people.

To get your dish ready for sale at the bazaar, prepare it as you normally would, then cool your dish in the fridge, freeze it uncovered for a short time, and slip it into a plastic freezer bag. Finally, please attach a label of some kind listing the main ingredients and approximate number of servings of your dish along with Instructions for its final preparation. You may also include anything about the dish you think would be of interest, including your name.

Thank you for your support of our great bazaar!

### **SMOKED TURKEYS** available

A whole smoked turkey, 10-12 lbs. for \$40. The choir is



selling tickets and they will be on sale Sunday morning. The deadline for ordering Thursday, November 14. Proceeds from the sale will benefit the choir and the bazaar.

Turkeys will be available for pick up on Wednesday, November 27th between 2:30 pm-5:30 pm. Enter the circular drive on Greene St.

### The Nativity Bazaar Thursday, November 21

The Bake Sale and Bazaar starts at 10:30 a.m. Luncheon seatings are offered at 11:15 a.m. and 12:30 p.m.

Co-chairs: Stephanie Sherman and Beth Mooring

### To make donations for the Bazaar:

Baked goods:

Lynne Evans (536-7422, <a href="mailto:stuadair@bellsouth.net">stuadair@bellsouth.net</a>), Lane Tutt and Andrea Vandervoort.

Frozen/refrigerated items: Jane Brocato, refrigerated items (256-489-1694 jbroc5342@knology.net); LORA BOHAN (256-534-9659 lorabohan@bellsouth.net) for frozen items.

Crafts: Mary Wilson ((256) 859-6140 or email her at wilsonmd50@googlemail.com.)

Luncheon Tickets for the 11:00 a.m. and 12:15 p.m. seatings are \$15 each or \$12.50 /ticket for purchases of 8+ tickets. Luncheon tickets and raffle tickets (\$1/ticket, 6 tickets for \$5 or 12 tickets for \$10)will be available for sale by calling Marilyn Grundy at 533-9546.

Take-out lunches must be ordered in advance by contacting JENNIFER HUSLEY at 256-880-5242 or <u>Jat.hulsey@yahoo.com</u> or CATE DEFIORE at <u>catedefiore@yahoo.com</u>. Take-out lunches may be picked up between 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. the day of the Bazaar.

**Table Decorations** will be done by Kelli Markwalter and Jean Warren. They will also be for sale at the end of the event.

For additional information, call the church office at 533-2455 or logon to www.nativity-hsv.org.

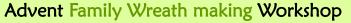
# SPONSOR A CHILD FOR CHRISTMAS through FOCAL—



Foster Children Alliance of Madison County

Nativity's FOCAL team is headed up by Gail & Ronnie Rogers. They will

have the list on the annual FOCAL board on November 10! You may choose a tag and purchase gifts from the child's wish list. You can share a wish list with a friend. The gifts are brought back to Nativity for delivery to FOCAL.



Sunday, December 1 10:00 am Ridley Hall

The cost is \$8 for the wreath base and Advent candles. Please bring your own greenery (holly, boxwoods, etc.) and garden clippers if you have them.





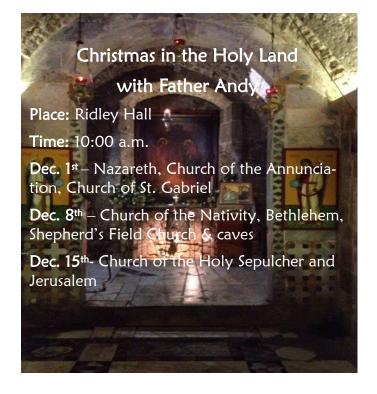
Advent Quiet Day

Led by Father Anderson and the Centering Prayer Ministry

Guided meditations, Centering Prayer, Labyrinth and light medi-

tative Yoga available, and Silence

\$15.00 includes a light breakfast, lunch and Yoga



# 2013 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION FORM

Please complete and mail this form with your check payable to "Flower Guild" to Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801.

Christmas dedications are \$20 each. The deadline is December 18.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

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

All dedications will read: "To the glory of God and...

"in loving memory of" "in thanksgiving for" "in celebration of"

Name for this dedication:

Your Name as it is to be listed in Christmas service leaflet (if you do not wish your listed, please indicate)



# **Youth Notes!**

EYC Church of the Nativity

### THANK YOU!







Thank you for your support during the Boston Butt Fundraiser to renovate the EYC LOFT!

With your help, we were able to raise over \$2000 for this project! Thank you to everyone who purchased a Boston butt or soup, helped with preparation and sales, and big, big thanks to our chefs Aubrey and Kim Tycer!

### Need a Babysitter for Taste of Nativity?

### Nativity's high school girls LOFT Group is doing a babysitting fundraiser!

Proceeds will go toward the renovation of the EYC LOFT. Look for sign-up sheets outside Godly Play and Theology Theater this coming Sunday, November 10th. First come, first serve. We expect available slots to go fast!

### Third Annual Secular & Sacred Christmas

Saturday, December 7th through Sunday, December 8th

The cost of the trip is \$75 and includes travel to Nashville and Sewanee, admission to Opryland ICE!, and Saturday night lodging. There is financial assistance available. Sign up soon so we don't lose our reserved seats at Lessons & Carols!

The deadline to sign up is Thursday, November 7th. Click here for online sign up. Questions? Email William Blackerby

### Ski Trip 2014

Who? Youth from Nativity, St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands, Birmingham, St. John's, Decatur, and St. John's, Montgomery. When? Friday through Monday, January 17th-20th, 2014.

How much? \$510 including travel, lodging, rentals, lift ticket, and meals while we are at the resort. Scholarship assistance is available by request.

### How to Sign Up:

- 1.1. Full details are at <u>nativityyouth.org/ski-trip-2014.html</u>. Read the information found there very carefully and fill out the form.
- **2.**2. Turn in a \$200 deposit to William in the church office. **Your deposit will hold your place on the trip.** The deadline for deposits is **Tuesday, November 19th.**

ONLY THREE SPOTS LEFT. Between now and November 19th, registration is only open to youth who are members of Nativity. After November 19th, if there is still space available, registration will open to friends. Once available spots have filled, I will start a waiting list in case additional spots become available. Questions? Email William Blackerby.

### 5th annual Nativity Women's Retreat

Author, Karim Shamsi-Basha will share his incredible faith journey, documented in his new best-seller:

"PAUL and me"

A Journey to and from the Damascus Road

From Islam to Christianity



One Night Only! Friday, Feb. 21 - Saturday Feb. 22, 2014



at St. Mary's, Sewanee, Tennessee

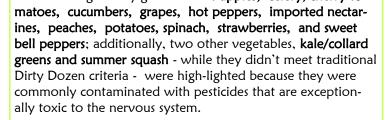
Cost: \$145.00 per person

Registration Deadline: Friday, December 13, 2013

Contact: Lane Tutt, 256-533-2455

### Stewardship of Creation Tip: The Clean Fifteen List

In the last Steeple, we discussed, "When is it important to buy organically-grown items?" The Environmental Working Group Dirty Dozen List, the 12 fruits and vegetables that typically have the highest levels of pesticide residues, thus are important to buy organically-grown were: apples, celery, cherry to-



This week, the "Clean 15" list is our topic. These are the fruits and vegetables that are lowest in pesticides: onions, sweet corn, pineapples, avocadoes, asparagus, cabbage, cantaloupe, eggplant, grapefruit, kiwi, mangos, mushrooms, papayas, frozen sweet peas, sweet potatoes.

Choosing foods from the "Clean 15" list will slash the pesticide volume by more than 90 percent. Reducing pesticides in your diet is critical to reducing the toxic effects of pesticide exposure for you and your family. Infants and children are the most vulnerable because of their lower body weight; also their bodies don't have the detoxifying mechanisms that adults do.

"We have very good data showing that if people eat organic, measurable pesticide levels in their tissues drop, and this has been shown with kids as well," says Dr. Andrew Weil. Of course, while the EWG strongly encourages going organic when it comes to items on their Dirty Dozen List, they do clearly state that conventional produce is certainly better than none at all: "The health benefits of a diet rich in fruits and vegetables outweigh the risks of pesticide exposure." Eating conventionally-grown produce is far better than not eating fruits and vegetables at all.

Check out the Environmental Working Group's website for additional information.

### Art in the Banister Room

New Artist featured in the Banister Room
Mircea Lacatus. Sculptor
Brouse through the Banister Room and
enjoy an art exhibit a little different this
month.



### A Place at the Table

November 12, 2013 Trinity United Methodist Church.

5:30 - Potluck Local Harvest dinner (bring a dish to share) in Wesley Hall

6:15 - Agency Vendor Fair in the New Room Lobby

6:45 - Showing of the film in the New Room (Free)

8:00 - Panel Discussion

Fifty million Americans—1 in 4 children—don't know where their next meal is coming from. Award-winning film, *A Place at the Table*, tells the powerful stories of three such Americans, who maintain their dignity even as they struggle just to eat. In a riveting journey that will change forever how you think about the hungry, *A Place at the Table* shows how the issue could be solved forever, once the American public decides—as they have in the past—that ending hunger is in the best interests of us all.

Sponsored by the Food Bank of No. Ala., the Interfaith Mission Service, the No. Ala. Food Policy Council, the NE District of the United Methodist Church, and Trinity United Methodist Church.

			worship sche	DULE November 2013 (	(updated 11/5/13)				
			SUNDAY	November 3, 24th Sunday after	Pentecost				
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Scheide – out)		Lector	Intercessor			
7:45 am	McCown	McCown	Sue Johnson		Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson			
8:45 am	Anderson	McCown	Michal Turner, Lee Hig	cklen Virginia Kohler	Lane Mickle	Shirley Hale			
11:00 am	Anderson	McCown		ra Buice, Hanns Billmayer	Ted Briggs, Pamela Briggs	Sally Ann Culver			
11.00 am	Anderson	WICCOWII	Nonnie Nogers, Darbe	WEDNESDAY, November 6, HE	red bliggs, i ameia bliggs	Cally Alli Culver			
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12:00 noon		bison	Marilyn Lands						
				THURSDAY, November 7, HE					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher		,					
6:00 pm		erson	Virginia Kobler						
SUNDAY, November 10, 25th Sunday after Pentecost									
	Cele-	Dunnahau		<u> </u>		Intercore			
Service	brant	Preacher	LEM		Lector	Intercessor			
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	Ken Barnett		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett			
3:45 am	McCown	Anderson	Don Lambert, Lewie B	Bates	Meredith Walker	Martha Joffrion			
11:00 am	McCown	Anderson	Erin Elliott, Will Elliott		Chris Jackson, Rich Goodwi	n Don Askins			
				WEDNESDAY, November 13, HE					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM						
12.00 222	And	lerson	Joan Foot						
12:00 noon	And	lerson	Joan East						
Namela a	Calabuant	Dunnahau		THURSDAY, November 14, HE					
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Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Robison – out	:)	Lector	Intercessor			
7:45 am	Anderson	Scheide	Lea Ann Barnett		Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett			
8:45 am	Anderson	Scheide	Robert Dunn, Lane Mickle, Joan East Sally Ann Culver, Rich Goodwin, Walter Thames		Jim Douthit	Clay Sherrill			
11:00 am	Anderson	Scheide			Mickey Ellis, Mike Innes Ronnie Rogers				
<u> </u>		I .	1	WEDNESDAY, November 20, HE					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM						
12:00 noon	Mc	Cown	Mary Hendricks						
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6:00 pm	And	erson	Sally Ann Culver	JDAV November 24 Christ the I	/:				
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Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		Lector	Intercessor			
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	John Hendricks	NA/	John Hendricks	John Hendricks			
3:45 am	McCown	Anderson	Warren Vann, Charlie		Mhairi Kerr	Virginia Kobler			
11:00 am	McCown	Anderson	Deborah Baker, Ed Va		Sandy Brown, Mike Brown	Jordan Cozby			
	0-1-1	D		', November 27, HE Thanksgiving					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	Chard Wette		Lector				
12:00 noon	And	lerson	Cheryl Watts	HOUEDO	Don Askins				
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3:45			en Daniels, Andy Kelly, Pat Sampson, Clay Sherrill, Ward Wilson Ilmayer, Madalyn Hicks, Don Askins, Ernie Thomas, Susan Thomas, John Lewis						
11:00	Hanns Billn	nayer, Veneta E	silimayer, Madalyn Hicks,		i nomas, John Lewis				
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2 Wanda Cobb, Sara Little, Rose Anne Shearer, Caffey Litkenhous, Gail Brown									
9 Lea Ann Barnett, Mary Johnson, Renée Elliott, Flo Stockton, Emily Moody									
			vell Reynolds, Alice Lanie						
			e Reynolds, Suzy Nauma	•					
30 Sara	∟ittle, Judy Van	n, Nancy Colin,	Wanda Cobb, Rose Ann						
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	8 – November	3 N	ovember 4 – 10	November 11 – 17	November 18 – 24	November 25 – December			
	obison	ı	Anderson	McCown	Robison	Anderson			

### 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

**Upcoming Baptism Date** January 12, The Baptism of Our Lord, 8:45 & 11:00 services. Contact Connie in the church office to register.

### 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: cwatts@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is Monday noon, November 18.

### **CLERGY & STAFF**

The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson Rector

The Rev'd Rusty McCown
Associate

The Rev'd Mary Groff
Associate for Pastoral Care

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

Carol Ann Reagh

Assistant to the Rector

Cheryl Watts

Communications 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





Join us for a spirited evening of sweet and savory treats prepared by many of Nativity's Chefs

Virginia and Mike Caruso's Home and Garden
621 Franklin Street
November 14, 2013
6-8 PM

Suggested Donation of \$25

RSVP Kate Noble Purvis - katepurvis412@gmail.com