

# THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

December 4, 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.*

## Advent: We Begin Anew

Advent signals new beginnings. Our new year as pilgrims on the spiritual journey to knowing God begins now, not on January 1<sup>st</sup>. On the beginning of the temporal new year many resolve to live differently....usually making resolutions having to do with eating less, exercising more (the gym is always crazy crowded in January), and paying more attention to our spouses or children or friends or siblings. We might even think about our work and making changes with our life's direction. These are all great things to consider.

Advent is the season when we resolve to grow closer to God. We resolve to pay better attention to God's presence in the world, in our lives, and in the lives of those we share this life: those at home, at work, at school, and in our communities. We commit to a deeper love of God and a stronger love of the neighbors God calls us to serve.

Advent points to Christmas, which in the great symmetry of the rhythm of the faith calendar, occurs before our temporal new year. Celebrating Christmas, we realize God's great love for us and the world by choosing to come among us in the birth of Jesus. Thus, God intersects temporal time, sharing our lives in all of their joys and sorrows, even sharing death, but defeating death through Christ's resurrection.

Advent means "coming." Our season of Advent calls us to pay attention to Christ's coming, to wait expectantly and hopefully for God to act in our lives and the world in our new year of our spiritual journeys. This is a wise way to begin our new year of faith so that we can get onto the right road for the journey.

In Advent we focus on the three ways Christ comes. We prepare to celebrate Christ's first coming in history as the Babe of Bethlehem who grew up to be the savior and redeemer of the world. But before we think about that initial coming we observe during the 12 Days of Christmas, Advent compels us to think about Christ's final coming at the fulfillment of time, victoriously and as our judge. In Advent, we are sharply reminded to get on with the work Jesus has asked us to do before he returns in glory.

Between these two times of his coming, his first and his last, Advent is also about Christ's continual coming to us in faith each day. He comes to you today wherever you are in life. He comes in word and deed; in sacrament and in prayer. We meet him in each other. He will come to others through your sharing what you receive from him in blessing.

He comes when you allow his love, his forgiveness, his grace, to reach from your life to others, giving of yourself as God generously gives. He comes when you visit someone who is lonely or sick or hurting, and when you give a winter coat to someone who has none. He comes when your family shops for those who have nothing and you take a little less for yourself.

He comes when a teenager says, "No, I will not do that because God has shown me a better way of living." He comes when business people make decisions that might not seem the smartest by the world's standards, but they know are right by God's ethic. He comes when his irresistible way of living becomes the way you live every day.

As God's people in Christ, **every day** we discover anew God's grace for the journey. Advent not only establishes the pattern for our year, but for our daily living when we wake up each morning and proclaim, *Blest be the God and father of our Lord Jesus Christ. By his great mercies we are born anew **this day** to a new hope through Christ's resurrection.* (from 1<sup>st</sup> Peter)

In Advent and every day we live we can begin anew because Christ comes. What a great hope! The Welsh poet R. S. Thomas writes, "...and there is everything to look forward to."

*Andy +*



CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY,  
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

## WORSHIP TIMES

### SUNDAY

(\* Nursery available)

7:45 a.m. Rite I  
Holy Eucharist  
Bibb Chapel

8:45 a.m.\* Rite II  
Holy Eucharist  
Children's Chapel

11:00 a.m. \* Rite II  
Holy Eucharist

### WEDNESDAY

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

### THURSDAY

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



**Saturday,  
December 7, 2013**  
9:00 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

### Advent Quiet Day

Led by Father Anderson  
and the Centering Prayer  
Ministry

Guided meditations, Centering Prayer, Labyrinth and light meditative Yoga available, and Silence

\$15.00 includes a light breakfast, lunch and Yoga



### ADVENT COFFEE SALES

The Outreach Committee will be selling KaffeeKlatsch *Nativity Blend Coffee* after the 8:45 and 11:00 service on 12/8 and 12/15. Regular and Decaf will be available for \$10 per bag. This year, proceeds will be used to purchase **Battery Powered OB Doppler Monitors** that will be sent with our Medical Mission to Haiti in 2014. If you want a large order, please email Lee Hicklen @ [anthonyhicklen@knology.net](mailto:anthonyhicklen@knology.net).

## Christmas Traditions



*A Recital of Cello, Organ, and Voice*  
Veneta Billmeyer  
Charlotte Olson  
Stacy Moon

*Church of Nativity, Episcopal  
Bibb Chapel*  
Saturday, December 14, 2013  
3 o'clock, p.m.

*Save the Date:* Saturday, December 21, 5:00 pm

*Lessons and Carols, Nativity Choir*



Join the Choir for

### *Caroling*

- Saturday, December 14
- Meet at Russell Erskine Hotel
- 12:00 noon till 1:00 pm
- Cupcakes for carolers
- Questions? Contact Sarajane

"HERE WE COME A-CAROLING!" Tarter, 256-337-9541 or email [starter@hiwaay.net](mailto:starter@hiwaay.net)

## Christmas in the Holy Land with Father Andy

Place: Ridley Hall

Time: 10:00 a.m.

Dec. 8th – Nazareth, Church of the Annunciation, Church of St. Gabriel

Dec. 15th – Church of the Nativity, Bethlehem, Shepherd's Field Church & caves

Dec. 22nd - Church of the Holy Sepulcher and Jerusalem

## INTERCESSION REQUESTS

**We pray for those who are ill or recovering:** Nancy Kelly, Emile Joffrion, Leigh Wahl, Elsie Olsen, Eileen Sullivan, Phyllis Lawson, Nancy Colin Swenson, Louis Amis, Charles Mabie, RuthAnn Haymes, Barbara Hunkapillar, Carla King, Ann Garnett, William Stroud, Tom Robinson, Harry Beazley, Anna Post, Bess Wallace, Marian Delaney, Richard Crittendon

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

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

**For the birth of a child:**

**We pray for the departed:** Rosalind Forrest, parishioner; Elizabeth Pearson Shelton, daughter of parishioners Clyde and Virginia Pearson.

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

12/6 Betsy Stevens	12/7 Sloan Dill	12/8 Margaret Foster	12/9 Jacks McClung
12/10 Patrick Reid	12/10 Vivian Brouse	12/12 Will Knight	12/14 Hope Howell
12/14 Ireland Braudaway	12/16 Liddy Malone	12/17 Maggie Sanders	12/18 Chandler Mason
12/18 Alton Hudson	12/18 Hunter Whitworth		

## Children's Corner

Dec 8 —St. Nicholas Day – surprise visit at Children's Chapel!

—Pajama Day – Wear your favorite PJ's and bring a book and a pair of PJ's for a child at Oscar Mason

—Club 56 – senior visits and lunch at Tender's

—Art Work Contest Continues

Dec 11—Oscar Mason Christmas Party @ 3PM : volunteers needed to help host party, interested? contact Summer McClung: [summermclung@bellsouth.net](mailto:summermclung@bellsouth.net)

Dec 15 – last day of Art Work Contest

Dec 17 —BFF @ 4PM for girls in 1<sup>st</sup>-4<sup>th</sup> grade meet in the WoRM

Dec 22 —Pageant Rehearsal 4-6 PM for main roles

Dec 24 —Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist

Dec 25 —Happy Christmas!

Dec 28 —No Children's Chapel and No Sunday School – see you next year!

## Need a Sitter?



Going to a party or have some shopping you need to do next weekend? Nativity's high school girls LOFT Group is offering babysitting as a fundraiser for renovating the Joffrion Hall youth space! Available time slots are Friday, December 13<sup>th</sup>, 6:00-9:00 PM and Saturday, December 14<sup>th</sup>, 1:00-4:00 PM. Sign up in Ridley Hall this Sunday! Babysitters will come to your house. \$30 for one child, \$40 for two. Contact William Blackerby ([wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org)) with questions.

Nativity Women's Retreat  
St. Mary's, Sewanee, Tennessee  
February 21-22, 2014



## Registration

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate request\*: \_\_\_\_\_

\*double occupancy allows for the greatest  
number of women to participate

Cost: \$145.00 per person

**LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE**

**\*\*\* Deadline \*\*\***

**Return your registration form & FULL payment  
no later than December 13, 2013 to:**

**Church of the Nativity**

**ATTN: Lane Tutt**

**208 Eustis Avenue SE**

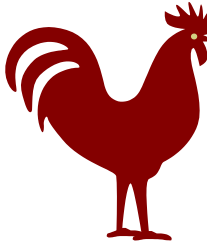
**Huntsville, AL 35801**

Questions? Contact Lane Tutt

[ltutt@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:ltutt@nativity-hsv.org)

256-533-2455 / 256-653-7200





- ARE YOU CURIOUS ABOUT CURSILLO?
- HAVE PEOPLE ENCOURAGED YOU TO ATTEND A CURSILLO WEEKEND?
- HAVE YOU BEEN THINKING ABOUT CURSILLO, BUT WANT MORE INFORMATION?

**WE HAVE THE PERFECT OPPORTUNITY FOR YOU!**

**WHAT:** Cursillo informational dinner

**WHEN:** Sunday, January 12, 2014

**TIME:** 5:30 pm

**WHERE:** Don and Kay Wheeler's home  
506 Eustis Ave

**BRING:** Anyone who may be interested in learning more about Cursillo



## The Greene Street Market Store is OPEN!

Enter from Eustis  
Come by and get your fresh local  
vegetables for your holiday meals.  
10 am – 5:30 pm, Monday – Friday.

*A unique Christmas gift for your friends  
and family. . .*

*Make a donation in honor of someone for  
Scholarship Assisted sessions for people  
who would not be able to afford it. We  
send you a gift card to give to the person  
acknowledging the donation.*

\_\_\_\$100 — 3 Scholarships Assisted

\_\_\_\$65 — 2 sessions

\_\_\_\$35 — 1 session

*Mail your check to The Vine, or call our  
office to pay by credit card.*

*The Vine*

*333 Franklin Street,*

*Suite 300*

*Huntsville, AL 35801*

*256-270-7399*



## 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)

Phone # \_\_\_\_\_



EYC Church of the Nativity

## Youth Notes!

### First Ever Great S.P.A.M. Hunt a Success!



On a recent brisk November afternoon, 33 Nativity youth led by 11 adult volunteers set out on Nativity's first ever Great S.P.A.M. (Serving People A Meal) Hunt. With boys and girls competing against each other, the youth split themselves up among 6 cars and proceeded to canvass over 30 houses across Huntsville to pick up generous donations of food by Nativity parishioners.

After about 90 minutes of collecting food, the teams returned to Ridley Hall to begin counting and sorting food items and tallying points. With a score of 1830 to 1305, the boys won this year's Great S.P.A.M. Hunt and received the Golden S.P.A.M. Award.

But after the trophy was awarded, we remembered the real reason for this activity when we filled 4 cars with the collected donations and dropped them off at the Huntsville Assistance Program, filling their conference room and intake room with food.

Based on an idea developed by some of the youth ministry volunteers at our church, the Great S.P.A.M. Hunt is a great example of sustainable, thriving youth ministry: volunteer-driven, intergenerational, service-oriented, and fun! Many thanks to everyone who participated, drove, and donated food!

*"My youth group at church is trying to help two families by collecting the foods listed on the accompanying sheet. We made it into a game to improve participation with some younger children, but it truly is to help these families as much as we can, since they can't provide for themselves this Thanksgiving. If you could help at all, it would be greatly appreciated, by both my youth group and the families that we are helping."*  
- Excerpt from a letter a youth left on her neighbors' porches



## Stewardship of Creation Tip

In a recent “Clergy Column” newspaper article printed in the Huntsville Times, The Rev. W. Bry Shields reminds us that during this holiday season, Christians are called, not to disdain the material goods of this world, but to exercise stewardship of God’s gifts. “We are to receive the time, talent and treasure bestowed on us by a gracious God, and look upon them as gifts to be used for the Kingdom of God. By putting God first in our use of created goods, and employing them for the satisfaction of needs and the service of our neighbors, we honor God and come close to God. ...To be stewards of shopping, we must first bear in mind the primacy of persons over things. We are to use things and love people, not the other way around.”

And here are some specific ways to put these ideas into practice:

### Buy Fair Trade goods.



What is Fair Trade? Fair Trade goods are just that. Fair. From far-away farms to your shopping cart, products that bear the Fair Trade logo come from farmers and workers who are justly compensated. Farmers in developing countries are helped to build sustainable businesses that positively influence their communities. Fair Trade USA is a nonprofit, but doesn't do charity. Instead, people in disadvantaged communities are taught how to use the free market to their advantage. With Fair Trade USA, the money you spend on day-to-day goods can improve an entire community's day-to-day lives.

### Buy greeting cards from St. Jude's Ranch for Children, Recycled Card Program.

And send your old cards to them to be recycled. St. Jude's is an organization that for years has cared for children who have been abused, neglected or abandoned. Send them your old greeting cards, either ones you've received from friends, or ones received as “gifts” in solicitations from charities. They recycle greeting cards of all types: birthday, thank you, holiday-themes, and all occasion. Cards are accepted all year. All types are accepted, as listed above. Only the front of the card is used. Please make sure there is no writing on the backside. 5” x 7” or smaller is best to send. No Disney, Hallmark or American Greetings can be accepted. To order cards, call (877) 977-7572.



### An indirect kind of “shopping” we do every day is the use of energy in our homes and businesses. When we pay the utility bill each month, we all have the opportunity to add a little extra to be donated to “Project Share”.

Project Share is the utilities assistance program, administered by the Salvation Army, with funds collected through Huntsville Utilities, which is available for utility customers 62 years of age or older, or customers who are certified as disabled or handicapped, who need help paying their utility bill during the winter months. Participants must be on a low or fixed income which does not exceed the Alabama Dept. of Human Resources household income eligibility guidelines. A wonderful “gift” we can give very easily is to add something for Project Share when we pay the utility bill. And to be especially good Stewards of resources, lower the thermostat and reduce your energy consumption, then donate the difference in your utility bill to this good cause. (Note: utility assistance is not currently given in the summer months because there are not enough funds.)

*The Rev W. Bry Shields is pastor of St. Ignatius Catholic Church and president of McGill-Toolen Catholic High School. Quotes used with permission.*



2014 Pledges by  
Dollar Range  
December 1, 2013

Thank you for pledging!

\$1,000 or <	66
\$1,001 -- \$2,999.99	124
\$3,000 -- \$4,999.99	60
\$5,000 -- \$9,999.99	50
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	10
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	9
\$25,000 - \$39,999.99	2
\$40,000 or >	0
Total Number of Pledges	321
Total Dollar Amount of Pledges	\$1,096,502.00
Average Pledge	\$3,415.90

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

**A Note from Chester - All is well!**

Hi! I don't know how to express myself too well, but I thank you all for the many things you have done. Without your Love and support I just don't know what I would have done. I am doing fine and have a place to live now, but will never forget you - I feel really Blessed. Love, *Chester*

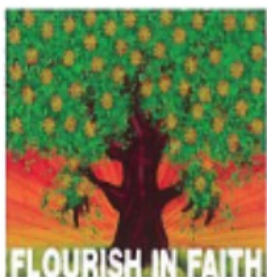
**Art in the Banister Room**



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

***Can you help us reach \$1,500,000.00 by January 6, The Feast of the Epiphany?***

Thanks to the Cloud of Witnesses who are Flourishing in Faith by making a pledge to the 2014 Stewardship Campaign. Having surpassed \$1,000,000, The Stewardship Team and Vestry would like to reach the milestone of \$1.5 million by January 6, 2014. Can you help by making a pledge today? Use the form below or go online to [www.nativity.diola.org](http://www.nativity.diola.org) (click giving, pledge now), The Finance Committee and the Vestry will be finalizing the 2014 Budget in January and your pledge will affect those calculations. We are stronger with you and hope you will participate in a meaningful way in the financial life of the parish. Please contact Beverly Franklin at 256-533-2455 ex. 219 or [bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org) with any questions or to make your pledge.



***My pledge for the support of God's kingdom in  
2014 through the mission and ministry of the  
Church of the Nativity, Episcopal***

Total pledge for 2014 \$ \_\_\_\_\_

To be paid: ( ) weekly; ( ) monthly; ( ) quarterly; ( ) annually

I/we would like pledge envelopes for 2014: ( ) yes ( ) no

Name \_\_\_\_\_ e-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ City \_\_\_\_\_ St \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

I/we have remembered Nativity in my/our will \_\_\_\_\_

## 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, December 16.**

### 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 Gadowski**  
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

### 2014 ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION FORM

To dedicate Altar flowers for 2014, 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: \_\_\_\_\_