

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

February 5, 2014



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

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.

Bethany Village: Where Jesus' Friends Live

Bethany is the home of Jesus' good friends, Lazarus and his sisters, Mary and Martha. This is where Jesus raised Lazarus from the dead, showing his tenderness and love as he wept over his dear friend before calling him forth from death to life. It's the place where Jesus spent the night before he made his triumphal entry into Jerusalem. At dinner there, Mary anointed his feet as a gesture of preparation for his death. Jesus retreated to Bethany after confronting the religious authorities when he cleansed the temple. Bethany was a safe, warm, and secure place where Jesus could rest with those he loved.

Everyone needs a place to go to enjoy the company of friends—even Jesus. In the Diocese of Alabama, we are creating such a place—a village where everyone can go and gather as friends of Jesus. Fittingly, we are calling it Bethany Village, and it may be the most ambitious and exciting project our Diocese has taken on in many years. Our Bishop Kee Sloan is sharing his bold vision of Bethany Village with us this week, inviting us to share his faith, enthusiasm and commitment.

Many of us love Camp McDowell. We spent summers there as children and youth. We went to Cursillo as new pilgrims, returning again and again to celebrate the gift of the Fourth Day. We have attended the Folk School or gathered for a conference or journeyed on spiritual retreat, embracing the riches that Camp offers. Our parish family has made Camp McDowell a second home holding our annual Parish Weekend on its sacred grounds. Our vestry meets there on retreat to plan for the future. Many of our children and grandchildren have attended the Environmental Center along with other students in our local schools. Camp McDowell has helped shape the lives of countless children of God, and our parish has been a part of it all.

Everything we love about Camp McDowell will grow through the Bethany Village project. New cabins, new lodges, new meeting spaces, a new dance and music hall, a new lake, a new swimming pool—it will be a whole new camp that does even more of what we have always loved. But the vision is even larger. Bethany Village will make use of "green" technology so that our life together will model more closely what the whole world should be like. It will include a teaching farm that will open opportunities for school children to come and learn about where their food comes from. Perhaps most importantly, every cabin, every sidewalk, every resource, every activity will be designed as accessible to all—especially those who are mobility impaired. Special Sessions Camp will be expanded. **All** of God's children will be able to gather at Bethany Village and enjoy "Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell."

The vision for Bethany Village is compelling, and Nativity cannot afford to let this opportunity go by without our being part. It is time for Jesus' friends at Nativity to step out in faith to support this \$9,000,000 capital campaign—but the benefits to our parish, to the Diocese, and to people from all over is far deeper and richer than a dollar-figure. Yes, it will require all of us giving to make this dream incarnate, but, in doing so, Nativity joins something truly remarkable and enduring. We will help build a place where Jesus' friends come to rest and be renewed, and that is something to celebrate.

Mel Ford, Betty Hornsby, and Chris Whitney are chairing Nativity's campaign. I am grateful to them for their leadership. In the coming weeks, every household at Nativity will be contacted, and we hope that each will take part in the campaign, making a pledge over three to five years. Wouldn't it be great if we could build the Nativity Lodge, raising \$400,000 (which by the way, could be done with 27 people making a \$3000 gift for 5 years)! For generations to come, may we stand alongside those who shared the vision for making Camp McDowell a place where all of Jesus' friends can gather and experience the beauty of God's creation.

Andy +

So He Told Them This Parable: *The Moral Lessons of Jesus*

As a Rabbi, or teacher, Jesus was constantly instructing his disciples to live a more Godly life. A common way he did this was through parables....relatable stories that had a moral and deep meaning. During our six weeks together we will look at these parables and try to find the true meaning of the stories presented so long ago as we also strive to better understand their relevance in today's Christian society.

Wednesdays now through February 26
Ridley Hall
6:00 — 7:00 pm
Led by: Rusty McCown

Centering Prayer for Busy People In Bibb Chapel, led by Father Anderson and others from the Centering Prayer Ministry.

Wednesdays now through February 26,
6 - 7:00 pm

News from the Top of the Hill...

Tuesday, February 25th at 11:30

Luncheon featuring guest speaker Heidi Foreman (wife of Rev'd Van Foreman) will discuss her experience creating religious icons.

Book your reservation by noon, February 24th.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, February 11th
6:30 am Simple Eucharist in Bibb Chapel
7:00 am Guest Speaker, Mark Stearns of Lincoln Village Ministries in Ridley Hall.



Suggested donation \$5

Children's Corner

Feb 9 8:45 St. Cecelia's choir sings
Club 56 Tenders
Senior Visits after Sunday School - drivers needed
Feb 16 BFF for girls 1st - 4th grade at 4:00pm.
Feb 23 Cherub Choir sings at 8:45am.

Sundays at 10:00am

3&4 year olds – Godly Play
k-3 Workshop Rotation: John the Baptist
4th grade: Grapple
5th & 6th grade: Club 56

Wednesdays at 5:00pm

Children's Choirs PreK & up

Camp McDowell Summer registration now open

<http://campmcdowell.dioala.org/>

VBS Save the Date: July 14th-17th
"Under Construction"

The Mission Guild will meet Monday, February 17 at 10 am in the Library of Joffrion Hall with Ann Moses, Berta Hargett and Joan East as hostesses.

A very special program about installing shallow wells in African villages virtually eliminating water bourn diseases will be presented by Meg Presley of Birmingham. She has been going to Africa with the Marion Medical Mission for eight years. What stories she has to tell! All are invited. Please come see how YOU can save so many lives for only \$400 a well.

The Mission Guild meets the third Monday of each month at 10 o'clock at Nativity. On February 17 we will meet in the church library in Joffrion Hall. Please come.

Interested in attending a Cursillo weekend in 2014?

Cursillo is an incredible experience that begins by attending a Cursillo weekend at Camp McDowell. The weekend propels you back into the "real world" with renewed vigor toward the worship, study, and service aspects of your life. Hundreds of Nativity parishioners have attended a Cursillo weekend and are active in the Cursillo Community today.

Cursillo weekends for 2014 will be held

March 13-16
April 10-13 (April 13 is Palm Sunday)
June 12-15 (June 15 is Father's Day)
September 11-14
October 9-12

If you are interested in attending one of these weekends and becoming a member of the Cursillo community, please contact David Collette (drc3898@knology.net) or Debbie Collette (dtc3898@knology.net).

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Fred Lackey, Barry Morton, Jeanne Shaw, Vernon Hutchens, Nancy Colin Swenson, Marian Delaney, Bess Wallace, Anna Post, Harry Beasley, Tom Robinson, RuthAnn Haymes, Carla King, Suzanne Johnson, Barbara Hunkapillar, Louis Amis, Phyllis Lawson, Eileen Sullivan, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl, Emile Joffrion

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Bahrain: Jonathan Serwecki; South Korea: Tim Fuhrman; Afghanistan: Michael Knight; Navy, Jesse Teal

We pray for the departed:

June Thomson, parishioner

Jep Moody, father of Jack Moody

Frank Troup

William Stroud, infant son of Heather & Justin Stroud

We pray for the Medical Mission Team serving in Haiti Feb. 1-8: Dr. Bob Serio, Deacon Mary Groff, Lisa Hardy, Debbie Collette, Margaret Devenish, Libby Potter and Cheryl Watts

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

2/6	Cameron Pinson	2/6	Patrick Quillen	2/8	Clara Keener	2/11	Cooper Gunter
2/11	Andrew Rawson	2/13	Alex McCarty	2/14	Robert McCown	2/16	Harris Whitfield
2/16	Mem Mullins	2/18	Franklin Aldag	2/18	Crawford Watson	2/19	Laurel Sharp

Annual Newcomers' Welcome Dinner on

Sunday, February 9 at 6:00 p.m.

New to Nativity? Visiting, Seeking? **You're invited!**

Recently became a new member at Nativity or moved back recently? **You're invited!**

You are invited to a casual dinner held in your honor at the home of **Xan and Tim Curran**, 509 Adams St. The clergy and staff of Nativity would love to take this opportunity to get to know you better.

Please contact the church office at 256-533-2455 or

RSVP to cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org.

Please note that child care will not be provided for this event.

Save your attic treasures, cast off decorative items, and beloved trinkets!

The choir is holding a Rummage Sale on

Saturday, April 26th, and wants your donations!

all proceeds benefit their trip to England in 2015



2014 Pledges by Dollar Range February 4, 2014

\$1,000 or <	89
\$1,001 -- \$2,999.99	150
\$3,000 -- \$4,999.99	72
\$5,000 -- \$9,999.99	58
\$10,000 - \$14,999.99	14
\$15,000 - \$24,999.99	10
\$25,000 - \$39,999.99	2
\$40,000 or >	0

Total Number of Pledges
395

Total Dollar Amount of
Pledges \$1,301,357.00

Average
Pledge \$3,294.58

Parish Financial Report for Period Ending 12/31/2013

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 199,943.27	\$ 105,833.33	\$ 1,362,578.63	\$ 1,270,000.00
Plate	\$ 14,179.25	\$ 6,666.67	\$ 87,025.98	\$ 80,000.00
Other Revenues	\$ 16,694.35	\$ 8,733.33	\$ 100,788.88	\$ 104,800.00
TOTAL	\$ 230,816.87	\$ 121,233.33	\$ 1,550,393.49	\$ 1,454,800.00
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 77,371.42	\$ 23,841.64	\$ 298,723.96	\$ 286,099.98
Personnel	\$ 66,379.31	\$ 65,201.73	\$ 779,946.87	\$ 783,048.02
Other Expenses	\$ 46,641.23	\$ 32,137.71	\$ 380,691.42	\$ 385,652.00
TOTAL	\$ 190,391.96	\$ 121,181.08	\$ 1,459,362.25	\$ 1,454,800.00
NET	\$ 40,424.91	\$ 52.25	\$ 91,031.24	\$ -

MUSIC FROM AROUND THE WORLD

The Flint River Brass Quintet

Presents a concert, "Passports to the World"

Featuring music by composers from Norway, Russia, England, America, and Spain

Saturday, February 22, 5:00 pm.

Attendees are also invited to the Grand Opening reception for

ICONS in Transformation at 6:00pm in Ridley Hall

Church of the Nativity, 208 Eustis Ave 256-533-2455 nativity-hsv.org

SPONSORS SOUGHT FOR EPISCOPAL FAITH SEEKERS' CLASS IN 2014

Our Adult Episcopal Faith Seekers' class is for people seeking to be Confirmed and Baptized Members of the Church of the Nativity, people seeking to be received into our Episcopal Church, and for Confirmed Episcopalians seeking to deepen and renew their faith and Baptismal Vows.

We are looking for sponsors for each of our Seeker's Class members. Sponsors are members of Nativity who will encourage Seekers and be available for discussions about the faith we share as Episcopalians. Sponsors will not be assigned until February. For seven of the class sessions, Sponsors will attend classes with Seekers and participate in small group discussions (from February 23-April 6). Also, please be present on Sunday, February 23 at the 8:45 a.m. service, and stand with your Seeker in a special service of Welcome. The Bishop will celebrate the commitments our Seekers are making on Sunday, May 18, 2014.

If you would like to serve as a Sponsor, please e-mail Carol Ann Reagh at careagh@nativity-hsv.org or call her at the parish offices, 256-533-2455.

FLOURISHING IN FAITH: A note from your Stewardship Ministry

If you are one of the nearly 400 Nativity families who have made a financial pledge for 2014, THANK YOU! Your pledges have brought us close to our goal and we are most appreciative.

If you have not yet made a pledge, we are asking you to step up to the plate and help us reach our goal for the mission and ministry of the church in 2014. We hope that everyone in the parish will make a pledge for God's work and help us strengthen our ministries within the parish, community, diocese, and the world.

We have made it simpler than ever to make your pledge this year:

- Complete your pledge card and place in the alms basin or bring it by the church office
- Call our bookkeeper, Beverly Franklin, at 256-533-2455 and make your pledge
- E-mail Beverly at bfranklin@nativity-hsv.net and make your pledge online at the Nativity website (dioala.nativity.org à GIVING tab à Pledge Now)

Stewardship of Creation tip for February 5th: A note from your Stewardship Ministry

On these cold days, get a head start on spring cleaning. Here is some information about getting rid of 7 Nasty Things that may not be good for you or your family:

Piled-Up Plastic Containers

Containers with *recycle codes 3 or 7 may contain BPA*, a hormone-disrupting chemical that *leaches into food as containers age or get heated in the microwave or dishwasher*. Tupperware made before 2010 can also have BPA. *Replace with glass or new plastic containers, which do not contain the chemical.*

Hazardous Waste

Aerosol cans, batteries, motor oil, antifreeze, paint — they all need to be disposed of properly so they don't contaminate the environment *or accidentally harm children or pets*. Remember, **you can take items to the local Household Hazardous Waste Collection Site on the first Saturday of each month from 8:00 a.m. to noon at the Huntsville Landfill**, which is at 4100 Leeman Ferry Road, just south of the Leeman Ferry and Johnson Road intersection. Add a reminder on your calendar for a few days ahead so you have time to gather things to take.

Expired or Unused Medications

Toss your old drugs in a safe, legal, eco-friendly way. Do not flush them down the toilet or put them in the trash. Take them to official collection sites on *National Take-Back Initiative Day, April 27*. Check the *SMARxTDisposal* website on/after April 1st for nearby local collection sites and other approved disposal ideas. On occasion, there are additional local collection events.

Old Spice(s)

Dried-up, decades-old spices won't make you sick, but they won't add flavor to food or impart any nutrients either. The experts at McCormick say: *seasoning blends last one to two years; herbs and ground spices, one to three years; and whole spices, up to four years.*

Moldy Makeup

Makeup stays safe for only a limited time; after that, bacteria that may cause infection can start to grow — especially in eye makeup. Mascara has the shortest shelf life (two to three months), followed by lip gloss (six months). Replace foundation after six months to a year, at most.

Pathetic Pillows

When was the last time you replaced your pillow? Pillows older than 18 months contain fungi, dead skin and dust mites that can aggravate allergies, asthma and sinusitis. Try this: Fold your pillow in half and squeeze out the air. If it doesn't spring back, it's too old. When you get new pillows, put the date on them with a permanent marker in an inconspicuous place.

GermY Kitchen Sponge

Start fresh with a new kitchen sponge. Studies show it's the germiest thing in most American households, with bacteria thriving in the damp crevices, says microbiologist Philip Tierno, Ph.D., of New York University. To cut contamination, microwave your sponge daily in an inch of water for a minute on high heat.

Happy Spring Cleaning; choose some or all of these good things to make your environment healthier for you and your family and all those around you!

LADIES! Remember to make you reservation 5th Annual Nativity Women's Retreat, Feb. 21-22, 2014. Speaker: Karim Shamsi-Basha, author of "Paul and me". Friday, Feb. 21-Saturday Feb. 22, 2014 at St. Mary's, Sewanee, Tennessee. (*Application forms are on church bulletin boards.*) Cost: \$145.00 per person –Checks to *Church of Nativity*. Questions? Contact: Lane Tutt, 256-533-2455 or 256-653-7200.

Upcoming Baptism Date March 2nd at the 11:00 service. Contact Connie in the church office to register.

Cornerstone Conference for Community Compassion: Feb. 25th, Jackson Center 8:30am to 3:00pm

Often, programs addressing poverty center around "betterment" - free food, free clothing free utility or rent assistance. Yet could it be that we are actually enabling poverty and creating entitlement and dependency?

"Beyond Relief" will provide opportunities to listen, learn, share, vision, and collaborate for actions yielding long-term solutions for economic, educational, social, and/or spiritual poverty according to Christ's relational model so all parties mutually give and receive as we work together for positive social change. Register Now at www.cornerstone-al.com

ICONS in Transformation

COMING to NATIVITY

OPENING RECEPTION

Saturday Night, February 22nd from 6:00 pm —8:00 pm

Stunning Display of over 90 pieces of Art

By acclaimed abstract artist

Ludmila Pawlowska

*The featured artist,
will be in attendance and give a short talk*

The modern three-dimensional artwork incorporates traditional icon elements such as the use of eyes, metallic paints, and the colors red, blue, and gold – while at the same time “bending the rules” through the use of sculpture, collage, large-scale wood panels, natural stone, fabric, and even handwriting in multiple languages.

Pawlowska’s work includes 12 very large, two-sided panels that will hang in the arches of the Nave, as well as traditional size pieces that will be dramatically displayed throughout Nativity – locations to include the Bannister Room, the Ambulatory, and Bibb Chapel.

Volunteers will be needed as docents, helpers unloading, general assistants setting up, and providers of meals and transportation for the artist. For further information, contact Virginia Caruso 256-533-6969 virginiarcuso@gmail.com or Helen Vaughn 256-534-4422 vaughnart@bellsouth.net



February 23 -

April 20

Exhibition Hours

Tuesday through Friday

11:00 am until 3:00 pm

Saturday

1:00 pm until 3:00 pm



DOCENTS NEEDED

for

ICONS in Transformation

**We need LOTS of HELPERS to MEET, GREET, and DIRECT VISITORS to the wonderful
ICONS EXHIBITION!**

Shifts are only 2 hours!

**Your commitment can be for 1 time during the 2 months the exhibit is at Nativity –
OR for a few scattered shifts – OR for once a week – OR whatever fits your schedule!**

DOCENT TRAINING SESSIONS

(You need to attend only one of these training sessions)

Wednesday, February 19 at 5:30 pm

Thursday, February 20 at 10:00 am

Enjoy playing an ACTIVE ROLE in presenting this interesting art exhibition to our COMMUNITY!

Contact Wimberley Watts at 256-755-3980 or wimberleywatts@comcast.net

Soup Fundraiser — Sold Out!

The 9th Grade Confirmation Class's SOUPer Bowl Fundraiser was a success! After gathering early Saturday morning for donuts before packaging over 80



quarts of soup and 20 dozen cookies, this year's Confirmation class sold every last cookie and quart on Sunday. The youth will decide what to do with



the funds they raised — put them toward the cost of their pilgrimage in North Carolina this

spring, save them for a bigger, future trip, or donate them to renovating the EYC Loft. **THANK YOU** to everyone who purchased soup or cookies or made a donation, and **THANK YOU** to Lori Webber for managing all the

Diocesan Events Coming Up

- **Diocesan Convention Youth Lock-in 2014, Friday and Saturday, Feb. 21-22 at St. Luke's in Birmingham.** This event is an effort to bring a larger youth presence to our Diocesan Convention and is open to all **9th-12th** graders! We will have fun, food, games, worship and more, all in less than 24 hours! The cost to attend is \$25. **William will provide transportation to and from the event.** [Click here to sign up](#) by Friday, February 14th.
- **Happening #64, Friday, February 28th through Sunday, March 2nd, 2014.** Church of the Ascension, Montgomery. The sign-up deadline for happeners is February 14, 2014. [Click here to apply!](#)
- **Rites of Spring at Camp McDowell, Friday through Sunday, March 28-30.** A retreat at the end of Spring Break for youth in grades 9-12. Cost to attend is \$115. [Click here to sign up!](#)

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, February 17.

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

Barbara Bonner
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

Lou Durnya Sr Warden
Frederick Lanier Jr Warden
Michele Hunter Clerk

Brenda Chynoweth Treasurer
Robert Mullins Finance Chair
Mike Innes 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

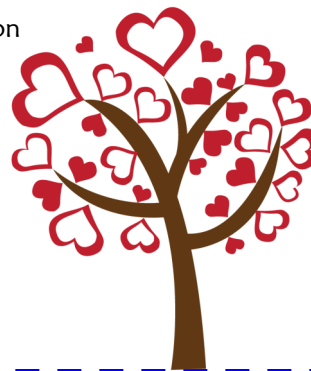
208 Eustis Ave. SE Huntsville, AL 35801

256-533-2455 Fax: 256-533-2374

www.nativity-hsv.org

Sweets for your Sweetheart!

St. Valentines Day will be here soon on Sunday February 9th, The Choir will be selling Pralines, Cookies, and for your 4-Legged sweetie, dog biscuits! Stop by Ridley Hall to pick up these delicious treats!



get unplugged
@Camp McDowell
May 2-4, 2014

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. Current available dates are: March 23, 30. April 13.

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: _____