

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

April 2, 2014

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.

2014 STEWARDSHIP CAMPAIGN GOAL WITHIN REACH

414 Households pledge \$1,325,000

GOAL: 450 Pledges Sought for \$1,380,000

36 Pledges totaling \$55,000 gets us there!

Have you made a commitment to Flourish in Faith? Thanks to the 414 households who have generously committed to Flourishing in Faith by pledging to God's mission and ministry at Nativity in 2014. Over 850 households identify Nativity as home. In order to meet our goals for 2014 and do all that the Vestry hopes to accomplish, we hope 36 of the 436 households who have not made a pledge will step out in faith and pledge. **We are only \$55,000 shy of the goal!**

Nativity is here for you and your family. If you have spent any time wandering around Nativity, you do not simply see beautiful, splendid church buildings and gardens. You see people whose lives are transformed because they have found their way here. We are blessed by the patina of 155 year-old prayer soaked wood. We are blessed in the multi-colored light shining through stained glass windows into the dark church on a quiet afternoon.

All this points toward a deeper blessing: God's light in Christ shining into our hearts and into the world. That light shines through Nativity's ministries in times of great need and especially in times of personal darkness as we seek consolation and hope. Christ's light shines brightly when we celebrate God's life imparted in baptism, confirmation, marriage, and weekly worship or by incredible music offered to God's glory. When the clergy visit you in the hospital or after the death of a loved one, Christ's presence reaches out in your deep need. When one of our lay pastoral care givers connects with you, you are enfolded in God's love.

At Nativity, lives are transformed through Bible studies and Education for Ministry classes, Centering Prayer, special speakers, choirs, and weekly Sunday Church School. Lives are changed and blessings shared at our Greene Street Market and the Sawyerville Day Camp; through tutoring at the Adult Learning Center and people taking Meals on Wheels; by building a Habitat for Humanity House and reaching out in Haiti. Seeing the bright smile on a child's face in the WoRM or the enthusiasm of our youth selling cookies for a mission trip, we see lives being shaped and formed in Christ's love for the world.

Here's the kicker: All this takes money. But thinking about it, you do not simply see needs that must be met by a budget, as many as they are. You won't just see fantastic programs and ministries funded. You are seeing lives changed through a holy place that serves as a beacon of God's love in the heart of downtown Huntsville.

God is giving you many blessings through Nativity. And God is counting on your allowing the blessings to continue to flow by your pledging to God's work through Nativity in 2014. God is counting on your growing and flourishing in faith. It all belongs to God and God wants some of it back...not much, 10% is what the Bible states. If you can't start there, start somewhere according to the Alabama plan and give proportionally.

YOU CAN PLEDGE ON LINE AT WWW.NATIVITY-HSV.ORG OR CALL BEVERLY FRANKLIN AT 256-533-2455 OR FILL OUT THE PLEDGE CARD ON THE BACK OF THIS NEWSLETTER. Only 36 people giving \$55,000 and the Vestry won't need to make budget cuts. Please get your pledge in before the end of April. We can do this!

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

"Transformation in Lent"



Tuesdays at Noon
Lent 2014

Noonday Preaching Series
The Church of the Nativity,
Episcopal
30 minute Service

Series Preachers

Tuesday, April 8
The Rev. Katie Nakamura
Rengers,
Associate Rector
St. Luke's, Birmingham

Following the Services, box Lunches (\$7.00 each) will be available in Ridley Hall .
Reservations for the lunches are required by the previous Monday noon, 533-2455.

Wednesday Evening Lenten Series "Transformation in Lent"



April 2nd

Rev. Fr. Paul Costopoulos
Dean, Holy Trinity/Holy
Cross

Greek Orthodox Cathedral,
Birmingham

"Icons Transforming Orthodox
Worship & History"

April 9th

The Rev'd James Knox Polk
Van Zandt
Rector, St. Paul's Church
Murfreesboro, TN

Dinner 5:30 p.m.

Programs for all ages 6:10 p.m.

Nursery is available.

*Reservations are required for
both nursery & dinner.*

Lenten Programs for Children

***Lenten Series:**
"Ways People Pray"

Wednesday's

Supper: 5:30 pm

Program: 6:00 pm

*Reservations by noon
Tuesday prior*

**April 2nd: Mandala
Meditations**

***Nursery available by
reservation**

**For reservations, call
the church office at
256-533-2455**



Monday, April 14	12 noon, Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel
Tuesday, April 15	12 noon, Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel
Wednesday, April 16	12 noon, Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel 6:00 pm, Stations of the Cross
Thursday, April 17	6:00 pm, Maundy Thursday Liturgy 8:00 pm, Prayer Vigil, Bibb Chapel till 11:00 pm
Friday, April 18	6:00 am, Prayer Vigil continues until 12 noon 12 noon, Liturgy for Good Friday
Church office closes at noon on Good Friday for Paschal Triduum	
Holy Saturday, April 19	7:30 pm, The Great Vigil of Easter, Holy Baptism, Holy Eucharist
Easter Day, April 20	7:45 am, Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel 8:45 am, Festal Holy Eucharist 10:15 am, Easter Egg Hunt; <i>meet in Ridley Hall</i> 11:00 am, Festal Holy Eucharist

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Gene Sullivan, Eric Olsen, Linda Browning, Vernon Hutchens, Leslie Vallely, David Mynahan, Abraham Greene, Barry Morton, Bess Wallace, Tom Robinson, Nancy Colin Swenson, Ray Dawson, Harry Beazley, RuthAnn Haymes, Carla King, Suzanne Johnson, Phyllis Lawson, Eileen Sullivan, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl, Emile Joffrion.

We pray for Michael Shipley and the Team of Kairos #57 at Limestone Prison April 3-6.

We pray for Ronnie and Dottie Crawford who are attending Cursillo #192 at Camp McDowell April 10-13.

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

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

We pray for the departed Louis Amis, parishioner; William D. Battle, father of Bill Battle; Masato Sakatani, father of former parishioner Keiko Sakatani

We give thanks for birthdays of our children: (apologies for omitting the late March, early April birthdays)

3/22 Travis McClendon	3/22 Lizzie Clute	3/24 Luke Allison	3/29 Robert McCoy
4/1 Alana Putt	4/1 Brayden Durnya	4/2 Sidney Gunter	4/2 Karl Schneider
4/2 Carter McDonald	4/3 Tindall Morring	4/4 Maggie Jones	4/4 Nannette Aboudonia
4/5 Sean Burke	4/5 Celest Nelson	4/6 Harry Cantey	4/6 Bankston Creech
4/7 Carter Watson	4/8 Sarah Miller	4/9 Mary Kathryn Brooks	4/10 Trey Schriber III
4/10 Ralph Hornsby III	4/10 Harper Dawes	4/12 Preston Heritage	4/12 Greer Heritage
4/13 Elizabeth Walker	4/14 Sam Rice	4/14 Sadie Anglin	



Nativity Choir Rummage Sale Saturday, April 26th,

Donate items for this sale to raise funds for their 2015 trip to England.

EMAIL Suzanne Purtee, suzanne.purtee@gmail.com, if you have questions about making donations or need large item pick-up.

No clothing accepted.



HAP Sunday is April 6

Needed are: peanut butter, spaghetti sauce, bar soap, cereal. We can always use canned fruit.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, April 8 *Suggested donation \$5*

6:30 am

6:30 am Simple Eucharist in Bibb Chapel

7:00 am Guest Speaker, Dr. Charles Morley

Medical aspects of the death of Christ.



The Daughters of the King are having new-member training on April 6 after the 11 o'clock service. Anyone interested in becoming a member or learning more about the order is welcome to attend.

Please call Caffey Litkenhous (256-883-2668) or Joan East (256-325-1418) if you would like to come.

Children's Corner

Save the Dates: May 2-4 Parish Weekend: *get unplugged!*
July 14th-17th — VBS : Under Construction

April 13, 8:45 Palm Sunday Parade

April 20, 10:15 Easter Egg Hunt, Bring your basket!

The Mite Box: A small box for receiving gifts of gratitude. Each day during Lent, add coins to your box. If you haven't received a mite box yet, you can still get one at church. Decorate your box with flowers and bring to Ridley Hall @ 8:45 on Easter Sunday, April 20th.

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 Pre-K & up

Camp McDowell Summer registration now open

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



Mission Guild will meet on Monday, April 21, at 10 am in Joffrion Hall Library. A very interesting program "Living With Alzheimer's Disease" will be presented by Marsha Farrell, Education Nurse at Hospice Family Care. Hostesses are Karen

Scriven and Mary Vann. Guests are welcome. Please bring Bingo prizes for the Aquarius Club.

MUSIC AT NATIVITY!

♪ Friends of Music at Nativity presents

Concert organist **Herndon Spillman** in a solo organ recital **Friday, April 4th at 7:30 p.m.**

A native of Huntsville, Professor Spillman has earned an international reputation for his interpretations of the works of French composers. A student protégé of Maurice Duruflé, Herndon Spillman is highly regarded as an important link to Duruflé and his style.



♪ **Christie Weber, solo concert Sunday, April 6, 6:00 pm**
Eric Wilson, accompanist. A string quartet and small vocal ensemble joins in at the end.

♪ EVENSONG

Sunday, April 13, 5:00 pm

Sung by Huntsville Collegium Musicum
Service music by Harwood, Moore, and Victoria.



NATIVITY OUTREACH



Yuki, the Librarian at the Oscar Mason Library, and her cousin Carl are loading the "after school snacks." Generous [funding from the Nativity Bazaar](#) allows the Outreach Committee to purchase nutritious snacks for the children from the Sparkman Homes area who come to the library after school to work on their homework. For many of these children it serves as their "dinner" since many of them have a single parent who does not get home from work until after their bedtime.

The Christian Faith and Whole Person Health

Presented by

**The Huntsville Association for Pastoral Care
Health Ministries of First Baptist Church**

Will be presented on Saturday, April 12, 9:00 am - Noon (breakfast and registration at 8:15) at the Community Room of the Family Life Center of First Baptist Church, 600 Governor's Dr. Presenters: Eugenia Graves, RN, BS, FCN; Faith Community Nurse, FBC and Debbie Duke, MSN, RN, Congregational Health Program Director at Samford U. Cost: \$25. *CEU's available for nurses.* This class will help more effectively manage stress and experience healthier relationships with God, self and others. It will use curriculum developed by Dale Fletcher (<http://www.faithandhealthconnection.org/>). For more information or to register: malmcarl@hotmail.com or 256 883-6539.

GUIDE BOOK AND DIRECTORY ADVERTISING OPPORTUNITY

We have contracted Guide Book Publishing to publish our church directory that will be updated and delivered directly to your homes annually. This book will be the Who, What, When, Where, Why and How of our Church. The book is being provided at no cost to our church. Local businesses are being solicited to advertise in the book. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call Amy Baxter at the church office, 256-533-2455.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide book advertiser over a non-advertiser. It "will pay" to advertise in our new Guide Book and Directory.



Intensive CENTERING PRAYER Retreat May 2-4

The Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman and Contemplative Outreach Birmingham are sponsoring a Centering Prayer retreat to be held in Cullman. This retreat, designed for those who have already attended an introductory retreat or workshop, will focus on developing further the discipline of Centering Prayer, a form of Christian prayer rooted in the ancient Christian contemplative tradition. The cost for the weekend is \$210/person for a private room and includes lodging, meals, and linens. For more information or to register, please contact the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center at (256) 734-8302 or by e-mail at retreats@shmon.org.



EYC Church of the Nativity

Nativity Youth Report from Rites of Spring/Diocesan EYC Convention

Youth Notes!



Julie DiFranco, Robert McCown, and Allie Starnes all attended this year's Rites of Spring at Camp McDowell, a bookend to Spring Break for youth of the Diocese of Alabama at which the annual Youth Department elections are held. All 3 of our youth were voting delegates to the Diocesan EYC Convention, and both Robert and Allie ran for seats on the Youth Department. This involved giving a short speech in front of their peers, and both Robert and Allie did a phenomenal job with this task. In the end, Robert was elected as a member-at-large to the Youth Department, and Allie is looking forward to running again next year. The weekend was rounded out by plenty of camp activities (hiking, games, arts & crafts) and a spectacular program called Hear My Voice about dis-

- **Diocesan Acolyte Festival, Saturday, April 26th, 9 AM to 4 PM at Cathedral Church of the Advent.** This inaugural event is a day all about honoring the ministry of acolytes. The day will include a visit by Bishop Marray, workshops on different aspects of being an acolyte, Acolyte Olympic games with a special prize for the winning acolyte team, catered lunch, and a Festival Eucharist with procession of participants. **All Nativity acolytes are invited to this event! Some transportation will be provided from Nativity.** To sign up, visit <http://bit.ly/acofest>. **The deadline to register and get a t-shirt that fits is April 11!**



ICONS in Transformation

Stunning Display of over 90 pieces of Art

By acclaimed abstract artist

Ludmila Pawlowska

thru April 20

Exhibition Hours

Tuesday through Friday

11:00 am until 3:00 pm

Saturday

1:00 pm until 3:00 pm

PASS THE WORD to friends, neighbors, fellow workers at your office, your Book Club, your Supper Club, your Civic groups! Any other clubs, organizations, parents of your children's sports teams, etc.

COME VISIT ICONS IN TRANSFORMATION!



Always with You by Ludmila Pawlowska

Would you like to see a part of Icons in Transformation stay at Nativity? Several people have expressed an interest in contributing to an **Icon Purchase Fund**.

The price of this contemporary work of art from the Icons in Transformation exhibition is \$1,500. You can see this beautiful blue and gold piece, #55, in the Banister Room.

To participate you may make a pledge by calling Amy Baxter, the Rector's assistant at 256-533-2455. Funds for this purchase must be raised prior to Easter.

The Metropolitan
Opera **HD**
LIVE

Two chances to see Susanna Phillips on the big screen ...

There are two *Met Opera Live in HD* performances in April, and Susanna will be in each of them. They will be showing

at the Hollywood 18 movie theater on Memorial Parkway SW, starting at 11:55 a.m.

- Saturday, April 5, in Puccini's *La Boheme* as Musetta
- Saturday, April 26, in Mozart's *Così fan Tutti* as Fior-diligi. There will also be an encore performance on Wednesday, April 30, at 6:30 p.m.

The Top of the Hill Gang will meet at Gibson's for breakfast at 10:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 26, and go to the opera afterwards. No reservations required. Just join us for breakfast, Mozart, and Susanna on April 26th.



COME FIND OUT IF CURSILLO IS FOR YOU

If you want to learn more about the Cur-sillo Community at Nativity, please attend a brief informational session this coming Sunday. We will meet immediately after the 11:00 am service on Sunday, April 6 in J2E (approximately 12:15 - 1:00 pm). If you're ready to sign up or just curious, we encourage you to attend this no-pressure information meeting.

Dining With Friends

Please join in hosting Nativity's Dining With Friends annual fundraiser for the AIDS Action Coalition. This year's theme is *The Loaves and Fishes, Southern Style*; that is, hush puppies and fried catfish. Our fish fry is scheduled for Friday, June 6th.

Each host is asked to contribute to cover expenses such as food, printing, and setup. Additionally, hosts who attend should also purchase the Nativity's dinner / ACC Dessert Reception ticket.

If you will join us in hosting the 2014 Nativity dinner please let me know early; plans are in the works and your participation makes the event possible.



Stewardship of Creation Tip

A former priest associate at Nativity, Father George Wood, always asked us to consider not just giving up something as a Lenten discipline but to ADD something that would be a valuable Lenten discipline. The Book of Common Prayer, which we use every Sunday, has rich resources for us in addition to the Eucharist rites.

Here is a prayer from The Book of Common Prayer that could be a good point of emphasis for Lenten devotions or just to think about from time to time as you go about your daily routine and make decisions about purchases and habits:

We give you thanks, most gracious God, for the beauty of earth and sky and sea; for the richness of mountains, plains, and rivers; for the songs of birds and the loveliness of flowers. We praise you for these good gifts, and pray that we may safeguard them for our posterity. Grant that we may continue to grow in our grateful enjoyment of your abundant creation, to the honor and glory of your Name, now and forever. *Amen*

from "Thanksgivings for the Natural Order,

8 For the Beauty of the Earth; pg. 840

Now, here are some very practical ways to put into practice our appreciation and "safeguarding" of what God has given us:

Should I leave the lights on when leaving a room for a short period? The cost effectiveness of turning lights on and off depends on the type of bulb. Incandescent bulbs are very inefficient and should be turned off whenever they are not needed. Compact fluorescent lamps (CFLs) are highly efficient and their operating life is affected by the number of times they are switched on and off. ***Leave CFLs on if you will be out of a room for 15 minutes or less.***



For light bulbs, are lumens the same as watts? Lumens measure light output, while watts represent the power used. Energy-efficient lights, such as CFLs and LEDs, provide more lumens per watt than conventional bulbs. While this saves energy, it makes shopping for bulbs more complicated. Lumens are now what matter most. "Watt equivalent" comparisons on lighting packages can help you choose the right product.

What is the best thermostat setting for saving energy and remaining comfortable? For winter a temperature setting of 68°F when you are at home and a lower setting at night or when you are away. In summer, set the thermostat at 78°F to stay comfortable when you are at home, and raise it to 85°F to save energy when your home is unoccupied.



Will closing off vents help lower my heating and cooling costs? Typically, closing or covering up vents is not a good way to save on energy costs. Heating and cooling systems are balanced through the duct system; and closing vents throws the system off balance. Pressure can build up in the ductwork, causing leakage and reducing the amount of air circulating in your home. This reduces system efficiency and comfort.

—from an article in the Duck River EMC *Green Energy & You* newsletter

As you go about your daily life, be mindful of your actions and choices as responses to God and in thankfulness for God's gifts.

O merciful creator, your hand is open wide to satisfy the needs of every living creature: Make us always thankful for your loving providence; and grant that we, remembering the account that we must one day give, may be faithful stewards of your good gifts; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who with you and the Holy Spirit lives and reigns, One God, for ever and ever. *Amen. BCP pg. 259*

Parish Weekend is just around the corner!

The registration form is available on the Nativity web-site. Sign-up **NOW!**

<http://www.nativity.dioala.org/>

get
@Camp McDowell
unplugged
May 2-4, 2014

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, April 14.

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

Amy Baxter
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

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



PILGRIMAGE TO GREECE AND TURKEY, OCTOBER 8-25, 2014

Join Father Andy Anderson and Academy International Travel and their experienced guides for a rich experience exploring New Testament Foundations with Paul's missionary travels and the early church's growth and development in Greece and Turkey. For more information, please visit Nativity's web site or contact the Church office.

Upcoming Baptism Date Saturday, April 19 (The Easter Vigil) at 7:30 pm . Contact Connie in the church office , 256-533-2455, to register.

EASTER Flower DEDICATION FORM

Flower dedications for Easter are being accepted from now until Sunday, April 13, for a contribution of \$20. please complete this form and mail with your check made payable to *Nativity Flower Guild* to: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801. If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 539-2673.

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: _____