

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

May 7, 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.

Knowing Christ in the Breaking of the Bread

Easter faith proclaims the disciples knew the Lord Jesus in the breaking of the bread. *And we do also.* Scripture makes it clear that in being present at the Lord's Table, through our regular participation in the Eucharist, we will know the Risen Lord in *all* of his redeeming work.

Knowing Christ and developing a relationship with him is how we become the church and are formed as Christ's body. This happens in our Nativity community as we are formed to be Christ in several important ways, including regular Bible Study, actions leading to loving our neighbors as ourselves, and praying together. For Episcopalians and all Christians of the historic, apostolic and catholic traditions, we will know him fully in the breaking of the bread, through our regular participation in the Eucharist.

Statistics about church attendance are unsettling. Regular church attendance twenty years ago was 3-4 Sundays a month. Today, that number is 1-3, and moving towards 1-2 Sundays a month. With this kind of attendance, Christ will be a nice acquaintance, but not the Lord of our lives.

There are so many distractions to keep us from getting here on Sunday mornings. There are sports events now on Sundays for our children: hockey, tennis, baseball, and pony clubs, etc.; there's the Sunday New York Times and Starbucks; there is *Our Lady of the Mattress(!)*; there is yet more work to be done at the office and there are lake houses, and hiking trails and bikes to ride. *All good things at the right time.* But if we don't show up regularly at church, how will we ever know Christ? How will we ever know who God has created and is redeeming us to be?

The Eucharist, a word that means thanksgiving and derived from two Greek root words meaning "good" and "grace," embodies the heart of our faith. We participate in Christ's "good grace" in gratitude when we gather in remembrance of Jesus---for all he has done for us, but especially in his sacrifice on the cross for us and for the sake of the world.

We share one bread and one cup every Sunday to know that we, who are many, are one in Christ's love and grace. Sharing the Eucharist, we are given spiritual strength to be his body. It is not easy to be one in the church, because we face so many challenges with differing perspectives. But when we receive the Christ's presence in the Eucharist, we are given the strength to forgive, reconcile, and work together.

Just as Christ took bread, blessed, broke and shared it, Christ takes our lives each and every week as we offer bread, wine and money, which by the way represent our entire lives, at the altar. In our offering, Christ makes us a living, holy, and reasonable sacrifice for the sake of the world. He takes us as we come forward, and then gives himself in return so that we can share his love and grace as we are sent forth into the world.

If we are not present at the altar we will miss out on knowing him fully scripture clearly tells us. This is both a wonderful claim and a challenge as we struggle to be the church in the world today. Sure it takes time, and we can struggle with spiritual, intellectual, and practical reasons that can keep us from being here. Knowing Christ, we are changed, our lives are transformed. Transformation is both difficult and scary. It is a frightening thing to fall into the hands of the living God. But in whose hands would you rather be held?

Christ invites us into a new future of God's purposes. In this new landscape of life and possibilities we will see wondrous things that we have never before dreamed possible. What are the sacrifices you can make to risk this incredible adventure of faith and spiritual growth? What would happen if enough parents told coaches and organizers, "We are not going to play sports on Sunday mornings?" Remember, too, we have options....multiple Sunday services, Wednesdays at Noon and Thursday evenings!

Bottom line: Knowing Christ will mean making your presence at church a priority. After all, God has made us and this world a priority so much that God would give away the entire shop, all that God has to offer, in Christ's life, death and resurrection for us. Here at this table, each time we gather, we see him face to face, for we know him in the breaking of the bread.

-Excerpted from Andy Anderson's homily on 4 May 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

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, May 13 *Suggested donation \$5*

6:30 am

6:30 am Simple Eucharist in Bibb Chapel

7:00 am Guest Speaker



Nativity Men's Ministry is Teaming Up with Habitat for Humanity ~



On Saturday, May 17 The Men's Ministry of Nativity will help build a house for Habitat for Humanity. The location is 2506 Smallbrook Circle in Huntsville (the house is located off Bluespring Road.

Please Google or Mapquest it). We will begin building at 8:00 with the shift over no later than 2:00. Please bring work gloves along with a hammer and nail apron (if you have them).

THANK YOU TO ALL WHO HELPED WITH

"ICONS IN TRANSFORMATION"

The Church of the Nativity feels blessed to have had the opportunity to host this exhibition and grateful for the chance to share it with Huntsville. The efforts of many volunteers over many months culminated in this amazing display of contemporary, spiritual art. Quite simply, it would not have been possible without the spirit of those volunteers and their enthusiastic support.

THANKS to Rector Andy Anderson for initiating the idea for this exhibition! THANKS to the Vestry for the base funds to finance this project. THANKS to ALL of you who worked on the ICONS COMMITTEE and planned, financed, organized, advertised, and promoted this exhibit. THANKS to the volunteers who served as Nativity's hospitable Docents, who helped lift very heavy crates, who unpacked and repacked over 100 pieces of artwork, and who prepared food for workers or for Ludmila and her family. THANKS to Ginney & Foster McDonald for housing the Pawlowskas. THANKS to David Reyes and the Huntsville Museum of Art for professional exhibit advice. THANKS to John Buyse and his ingenuity for literally making this happen, as well as the supportive help of Tom Lydon, Pat Ryan, Michael Shipley, Ron Hogan, John Cline, and Loch Neely. THANKS to the Church Office Staff for cheerful support AND constant help with printed material, bookkeeping, and phone inquiries.

With grateful hearts it has been our privilege to be a part of this meaningful project,

Helen Vaughn, ICONS Co-Chair Virginia Caruso, ICONS Co-Chair

Children's Corner

July 14th-17th — VBS : Under Construction-

Register online now!

Wednesday, May 7 @ 5 PM Children's Choirs *Important* final rehearsal for May 11 followed by pizza dinner

Sunday, May 11 @ 8:30 Youth and Children Sunday, ALL children are invited to come with their families to Ridley Hall and be a part of the opening procession for the 8:45 service

@ 10 AM NO Sunday School - Please join us on the lawn for a celebration of Mothers, Teachers and Children of all ages.

Wednesday, May 14 @ 5 PM Children's Choirs pizza party on the playground

Sunday, May 18 Bishop's visit;

@4PM BFF - Be Faithful Friends - meet in the WoRM

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 open

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



Mission Guild will meet on Monday, May 19, at 10 a.m. at the Dreher's home, 203 Westchester Avenue, SW, for our annual Salad Luncheon and White Elephant Sale. Ladies, bring an enticingly-wrapped mystery

"gift" and a favorite salad for this fun event. Be prepared to bid well, as all funds raised will be used to support missions. Lois Dreher and Betty Fletcher will be our hostesses.



The Icons in Transformation are packed and gone, Do you have a story or experience from their presence with us you would like to share? We would like to print it in the Steeple. Contact Cheryl Watts at cwatts@nativity-hsv.org. Read our first story on page 2!

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Ed Vaughn, Evin Yadegar, Janet Moret, Lynn Jones, Linda Browning, Barry Morton, Bess Wallace, Tom Robinson, Nancy Colin Swenson, Harry Beazley, RuthAnn Haymes, Carla King, Suzanne Johnson, 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; US Navy, Jesse Teal

We pray for the departed Kay Boyer; Marian Delaney

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

5/10 Eleanor DeFiore	5/10 Evan Ellison	5/12 Anna-Claire Stevens	5/13 Dylan Clardy
5/14 Zoe Maddox	5/15 Lucy Baggette	5/15 Evans Alison III	5/18 Gertrude Aboudonia
5/18 Robert Walker II	5/19 Jackson Morrison	5/19 Anna Katherine Ayres	5/19 Evelyn Warren
5/20 Evelyn Jones	5/20 Anthony Landers		



The program features music by Ralph Vaughan Williams – his Benedicite, with organ, and a suite of Dances for Choir and Brass in alternation, by South African composer Peter Klatzow. Organist for our concert is Dr. Faythe Freese, who is on staff at UA (Tuscaloosa), and a wonderful performer. <http://www.faythefreese.com/> The Brass quintet will be from the Army Band located here in Huntsville.

INSPIRED BY ICONS IN TRANSFORMATION

As Co-Chair of this Art Exhibition (Virginia Caruso), I took my grandson, Hardin Jones, to enjoy and calmly examine these beautiful works of art on several different occasions. He was so enthusiastic about the pieces that he talked at length to his other grandmother, Mary Jones (who taught Art at Randolph School for 26 years). These are her words and the project that resulted.

"It may have been difficult to imagine the scope of inspiration that the incredible "Icons in Transformation" exhibit would have on our community. Having experienced the exhibit first hand, I was struck with awe personally and professionally. However, I did not completely understand its impact until my grandson, Michael Hardin Jones, also the grandson of Virginia Caruso, co-Chairman of the exhibit, had a conversation with me about his church. On a recent visit he said, "I love my church because they have beautiful music and art. You should see them Mimi." When I told him that I had seen them, he was thrilled and we talked at length about the images we saw. His last comment was, You know Mimi, we are not allowed to touch the paintings. I wish I could do a painting to hang in my church that people could touch." Well, that's all it took. Out came the painting materials and we began! To have this little child so inspired by these paintings and the fact that he experienced them in his church is beyond words for me and my hope is that everyone involved in bringing, hanging, and sharing this experience with our community will be uplifted by this story. And oh yes, Hardin is only three years old!"



NATIVITY OUTREACH



We need to collect 75 **LARGE** Boys Swimsuits beginning on Sunday May 4th up through June 2 for Sawyerville.



Keep the Well from Running Dry: Nourishing the Spirit While Serving Others

June 15–18, 2014

Laura Lapins Willis, Leader

Spend three days immersed in conversation and reflection about the spirituality of outreach and service, in the context of Christian traditions and Biblical teachings. We will discuss how to keep the Spirit grounded and nourished as we consider the various ways God calls us into service. The retreat will offer time for learning and discussion, opportunities to participate in service projects, and periods of contemplation and worship. This retreat is designed for people who are involved in ministries and outreach programs and want to learn more about God's deep desire for us to care for others and also care for ourselves.

When: Sunday, June 15 @ 5:00 p.m. — Wednesday, June 18 @ 1:00 p.m.

Fees: St. Mary's Hall: \$500 (single)

New Building: \$600 (single)

Commuter: \$275

For more information or to register:

www.stmaryssewanee.org

931.598.5342

reservations@stmaryssewanee.org

FACE: Faith, Art and Creative Expression August 18, 2014 - August 23, 2014

Renewing the spirit. Enriching the mind. Inspiring hands and voices. The 17th Liturgical Arts Conference will embody the work of the church and the individual expressions of our faith through our hands, eyes and voices. Participants may choose from classes in embroidery, photography, weaving, painting, choral singing, flower arranging and intermediate canvaswork. Discover or develop your personal creative abilities as you work, share and play in an encouraging Christian community. <http://www.kanuga.org/conference-calendar/conference-calendar-details/liturgical-arts-conference>

Life After Loss: A Journey to Healing

Tuesdays, 3-4:30PM May 13th - July 1st

Facilitated by:

Rev. Carl Malm

Center for Loss, Grief and Change

Classes will be held at Brookdale Place

2815 Carl T. Jones Drive SE

Open to the Public. No

charge to attend

Reservations are requested but not required. Light refreshments will be served.

For questions or to make a reservation, please call Jana Seikel at (256) 8816111

"Surviving the Suicide of a Loved One"

The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center offers a support group for those suffering the loss of a loved one by suicide. You are not alone and we encourage you to join us for our next session on May 5, 2014 at First Christian Church on Whitesburg Dr. from 8:00am-10:00am.

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 Dates

Sunday, May 18 at 10:00 am
(Confirmation-Bishop's visit),
Sunday, June 8 10:00 am
(Pentecost) .

Contact Connie in the church office , 256-533-2455, to register.

Acolyte Schedule

May 2014

We have attempted to honor all requests for scheduling during the month of May. Please note that our schedule changes to the summertime 8 and 10 am services beginning on the 18th. That is a most important Sunday, as the Bishop will be in attendance for Confirmation and Baptism. If you are scheduled for that day and know that you have a conflict, please let me know as soon as possible so that we can fill in and have a full contingent on hand for the Bishop and our confirmands. Thank you for contributing to this very important ministry at Nativity.

May 4

8:45 A/M Putt
C K Correale, C Quirk
T F Webber, B Webber
T R Kamelchuk, Van Dodgen
S Cassidy Bates
AS Caroline Knight

11:00 A/M Nutt
C Jordan Cozby
T Bankston Creech
T Dylan Chenoweth
S Emily Ellison
AS Evan Ellison

May 11

8:45 A/M Putt
C Maria Caprio, C McDonald
Ragland
T I Braudaway, K Hunter
T Windham Hunter, C Pinson
S Franklin Aldag
AS Jackson Anglin

11:00 A/M Sherrill
C Foard Naumann, MM
T SL Miller
T JB Stockton
S Powell Stockton
AS Allison Taylor

May 18 NOTE SERVICE TIME CHANGE!

8:00 Nutt
C Palmer Ford, Tindall Morring
T Huston Morring, V Spera
T J Huskey, Sims Windham
S Meredith Walker
AS Ellie Walker

10:00 CONFIRMATION Nutt
C Emily Evans, HB Bryant
T Betsy Evans, M Foster
T J Laney, K Correale
S R McCown
AS A Young
Thurifer: P Quillen
Banners: E Allison, N Luther,
Steuart Evans

May 25

8:00 A/M Ward
C Laurel Sharp
T Parker Sanders
T SW Hall
S Gillian Sharp
AS KN Hall

10:00 A/M Ward
C J DiFranco, Allie Starnes
T C Parsons, Molly Ward
T Park Ellis, David DiFranco
S Savannah Watson
AS Evan Ward

Dear Nativity parishioners,

Episcopal Relief and Development has sent the 2013 End of Year Report for parish donations. Please accept my profound gratitude for donations totaling \$6700 from Nativity as undesignated and disaster support for the work of E R & D to heal a hurting world. Thank you again for this fabulous support.

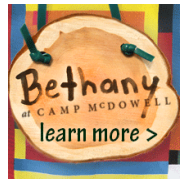
Faithfully in Christ,

The Reverend Judy Quick, Deacon
Diocesan Coordinator, ER&D



Thank you to those who have generously donated to expand our vision of Bethany Village.

Betty Hornsby



The Nativity Choir Thanks You!

The choir rummage sale was a wonderful success! We are very grateful for all donations, and shoppers, and hard workers! The weather could not have been better, and we are looking forward to our trip to the UK in June of 2015!



Hail Thee Festival Day!



EYC Church of the Nativity

Youth Notes!

Confirmation Trip 2014



On Saturday, April 26th, 9 Nativity youth confirmands, 2 acolyte masters, and a youth minister headed to Birmingham for a day of fun, fellowship, and learning about the Episcopal Church. The day started at Cathedral Church of the Advent, where the first ever Diocesan Acolyte Festival was held. The youth learned about liturgy, competed in the Acolyte Olympics, and participated in a Festal Eucharist.

That afternoon, the group headed to the Beantstalk Forest at Red Mountain Park for 2 hours of high ropes adventures. After a quick supper, the group returned to Huntsville worn out from having such a great time. Many thanks to Dorrie Nutt and Clay Sherrill for making the trip!



Join Us for A TN Valley Area Wide Cursillo Ultreya!

May 13th, 6PM at St. Stephen's in Huntsville, AL

Let's Reunion, Sing, Hear Some Inspiring Words & Eat!

Guest Speakers — Bob Serio & Debbie Collette

Please Bring a Salad of Your Choice — Tossed, Meat, Fruit, etc!

We'll Be Serving Wine by the Glass to Raise Money for Haiti

Water, Lemonade, Plates Napkins & Cups provided by St. Stephen's

Music Led by Jeannie Randall, Other Musicians Are Welcome to Join in!

ADVERTISE YOUR BUSINESS IN OUR NEXT CHURCH DIRECTORY!

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.



Stewardship of Creation Tip

Have you ever wondered what you personally can do to reduce carbon pollution? "Can I really make a difference?" Well, here are three tips for specific things YOU CAN DO, and information on the \$\$\$ these will save!

Tip No. 1: Change five lights

The average home has approximately 30 light fixtures and spends about 12% of its electricity bill on lighting.



Replace your five most frequently used light fixtures or light bulbs with *Energy Star qualified products*, and you will prevent carbon pollution while saving \$75 a year on energy bills.

A single light bulb that has earned the Energy Star can save between \$40 and \$135 in electricity costs over its lifetime. And that same single light bulb that has earned the Energy Star prevents, on average, between 570 and 1,825 pounds of carbon pollution over its lifetime.

Tip No. 2: Recycle

Did you know that recycling reduces carbon pollution?



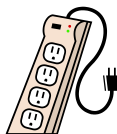
EPA estimates that our current national recycling efforts reduce carbon pollution by 49.9 million metric tons of carbon, which is equivalent to the annual carbon pollution from 39.6 million passenger cars!

Recycling everyday objects, such as paper, bottles, and magazines saves energy. The materials that you recycle are used to create the products you buy. This means less virgin materials need to be mined or harvested, processed, manufactured, and transported—all of which consume energy.

Saving energy also reduces greenhouse gas emissions. Learn more about how the things we throw away can affect climate change.

Tip No. 3: Plug electronics into a power strip

U.S. households spend approximately \$100 per year to power devices not in use! That's roughly 8 percent of household electricity costs.



Nationwide, the total electricity consumed by electronics while idle equals the annual output of 12 power plants.

Nationwide, it is estimated that standby power accounts for more than \$11 billion in annual U.S. energy costs! Using a power strip for your computer and all peripheral equipment allows you to completely disconnect the power supply from the power source, eliminating standby power consumption and cutting carbon pollution.

So, now you know, YOU can really make a difference, and these tips give you some specific steps to take.

Dining With Friends Friday, June 6th.

Annual fundraiser for the AIDS Action Coalition.

The Loaves and Fishes, Southern Style

(hush puppies and fried catfish)

If you will join us in hosting the 2014 Nativity dinner please let me know. Your participation makes the event possible. Contact Ron Hogan—ronhuntsville@yahoo.com or 256-697-5786.



Fish artwork for auction at the dinner.



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.

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, May 19.

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

2014 ALTAR FLOWER

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. August 10, Sept. 14, 21, 28, Oct. 12, Nov. 16, 30, Dec. 14, 28

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: _____