

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

August 6, 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.

Stewardship Thoughts – Walking the Way



Our stewardship theme for 2015 is “Walking the Way.” Early Christians were known as “People of the Way” and were recognized for their love of neighbor, fellowship in the breaking of the bread, and their commitment to follow the life and practice of Jesus. The Apostle Paul confessed to worship God according to the Way (Acts 24:14). Jesus shows us that The Way to life abundant is through the practices of prayer, forgiveness, giving, and unconditional respect to all, especially those who live on the margins of society. Jesus shows us that it is through these practices that we find The Way into God’s heart.

We have seen, both across the world and here at Nativity, a resurgence in taking pilgrimage. Whether it is walking the Camino de Santiago Compostela, following the footsteps of Jesus in the Holy Land, or walking in St. Paul’s travels in Greece and Turkey, pilgrimages take us to unfamiliar places to find new life in Christ. On pilgrimage, you take only what you need, keeping focus on the necessities of life, often depending on the kindness of strangers. On pilgrimage, you learn to give and receive in gratitude, realizing that all comes by the grace of God. It is in this time that a deep trust in God emerges and defines the journey.

How can we bring the concepts of the pilgrimage experience into our daily lives? How does the spiritual practice of giving shape us into being *People of the Way*?

One means by which we can Walk the Way is to fully embrace the spiritual act of giving back a portion of what God has so freely given us – especially as it relates to our time, talent, and financial resources. Over the coming months, Nativity will offer several opportunities for you to discern how God is calling you to give. Here are a few of these offerings:

September 14 - **Inreach Ministry Fair** (Learn about opportunities to serve through worship, parish life, education, and enhanced spirituality)

October 12 – **Thankfulness Sunday** (What are you thankful for? We will focus on thankfulness and offer our thanks up to God)

October 19 – **Outreach Ministry Fair** (Learn about opportunities to serve God’s people in the community, the Diocese, and the world)

October 26 – **Commitment Sunday** (Offer your financial pledge for 2015 to support the building of God’s Kingdom through the mission and ministry of the Church of the Nativity)

We invite you to prayerfully consider how God is calling you to Walk the Way in the coming year and to use the opportunities listed above to discern how to best give of your time, talents, and financial resources. We look forward to Walking the Way with you and discovering how our gifts draw us closer to God and help us continue the ministry of Jesus Christ here in this broken and hurting world. In doing so, we will have our own pilgrimage experience: focusing on the necessities of life, gaining a deeper trust in God, and freely giving as God has so generously given to us.

In Christ,

The Nativity Stewardship Ministry



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

SUMMER WORSHIP TIMES

SUNDAY

(* Nursery available)

8:00 a.m. Rite I
Holy Eucharist
Bibb Chapel

10:00 a.m.* Rite II
Holy Eucharist
Children’s Chapel

WEDNESDAY

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

THURSDAY

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



September 14 is **FOOD TRUCK SUNDAY** @ Nativity. Stay for lunch after Sunday School or after the 11:00 am service!

SPECIAL CLASS OFFERED BY FATHER ANDERSON

Father Andy Anderson will be teaching a class on the influence of Paul on church growth beginning Sunday, August 10th at 9:00am in Joffrion Hall Library.

The August dates are: 10, 17 and 24. September 7, 14, 21, and 28. October 5. November 9, 16, and 23.

SAVE THE DATE: Parish Weekend at Camp McDowell will be April 17-19, 2015

Children's Corner

Welcome to **Mary Coe**, our new assistant for Children's Formation

Aug. 10 — Blessing of the Backpacks 10:00 service

Aug. 17 — SS teacher training for grades 1-6 at 11:15 am. Reservation needed for lunch.

Aug. 20 — Children's Choirs resume

Aug. 24 — Rally Day!

Contact Barbara Bonner: bbonner@nativity-hsv.org,

Music Notes:

- **SUMMER CHOIR** has room for YOU! (Through August 24th.) Meet in Bibb Chapel at 9:10 and sing at the 10 am service.
- **Twickenham Fest 2014** Check the website for information: <http://twickenhamfest.org/>
- **Nativity Organ Crawl**, August 17 following the 10:00 service. All ages welcome.
- **All Choirs** begin rehearsals the week of August 18. For more information, call (256-533-2455), or email Suzanne Purtee, Suzanne.purtee@gmail.com
- **Friends of Music Presents...** Jeffrey Dortch, Violin & Dr. Frank Contreras, Piano, Friday, August 22nd at 7:30pm. Featuring works by Mozart, J.S. Bach and Grieg



Register now for Education For Ministry, EFM. Gain a better understanding of the Christian faith through study of the Bible, church history, and theology. EFM is a course developed for layman by The University of the South's School of Theology. We will be meeting Tuesday nights, **beginning September 2, 2014**. Come join us for evenings of discussion, reflection, education, and fellowship. Contact Ron Hogan at 256-679-5786 or ronhuntsville@yahoo.com for details.

LIBBA WALKER BIBLE STUDY

Answer the Question

Covers all Four Gospels – The Three Year ministry of Jesus, led by Suzanne Matthews.

Wednesday nights in August and September.

6:00p.m. – 7:30 p.m. Library – Joffrion Hall

Cost: \$25.00

Contact: Lane Tutt 256-653-7200 or 256-533-2455 to register or for information.



DINNER AND A MOVIE! Tuesday, August 26, Ridley Hall

Centering Prayer at 5:30 PM
Dinner & Movie at 6:00 (bring a ready to eat dish to share for supper; eat while watching the movie).

Philomena A world-weary political journalist picks up the story of a woman's search for her son, who was taken away from her decades ago after she became pregnant and was forced to live in a convent. Starring Judi Dench, Steve Coogan, Sophie Kennedy Clark
Reservations are not required. Call Brenda Chynoweth, 256-464-9457, if you have a question.

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Lucy Waesche, Julian Kobler, Betty Ann Councill, Tom Robinson, Lynn Jones, Barry Morton, Lorene Dilworth, Bill Dilworth, Gene Sullivan, Nancy Colin Swenson, Harry Beazley, RuthAnn Haymes, Carla King, Eileen Sullivan, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl, Trip Elliott, Sue Campbell, Tom Flowe, Gary Baker, Leann Herrin, Ann Garnett

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military: US Navy, Jesse Teal

We pray for the departed: Phyllis Lawson; Ronald Coe, husband of Jennie Coe, father of Mary Coe; Mary Wilson, mother of Wendy Wilson; Barbara Hunkapillar

We give thanks for the birth of a child: Carter Anderson Whitehead, son of Elizabeth & Greg Whitehead, grandson of Lynn & Ric Ayer; Everlyn Love Colin, great-granddaughter of Nancy and Skipper Colin; William Pollard Elliott III (Trip), son of Erin and Will Elliott; Lily Anne Durnya, daughter of Cameron & Nichol Durnya, granddaughter of Beth and Lou Durnya.

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

8/8 Hunter Ray	8/8 Samuel Cline	8/9 Matthew Doty	8/9 Wilhelm Clardy
8/10 Gillianne Sharp	8/13 Sarah Huskey	8/15 Pierce Anderson	8/16 Charlotte Klos
8/16 Read Klos II	8/18 Warren Towry		

Vestry Nominations deadline is August 24th.

The Vestry Nominating Committee is asking for your help in identifying candidates for the Vestry. It's easy for you to nominate a candidate or yourself for consideration. Pick up a form, available at the church, and place it in the nominations box.

Upcoming Baptism Dates

Contact Mother Bonnie to schedule, 256-533-2455. **Sunday, September 7** (deadline August 11) and **All Saints' Sunday, November 2** (deadline is Oct. 6).

Nativity Annual Parish Picnic/Rally Day

Sunday, August 24th following the 10:00 service

Food, Fun & Fellowship

In the courtyard

Wear your casual clothes to church and stay for the Picnic!

Please bring a SIDE DISH to share.

The Church will provide:

- ~ Meat
- ~ Dessert
- ~ Drinks
- ~ paper products



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
ACOLYTE TRAINING 2014

For all **PROSPECTIVE ACOLYTES**, training will be held on Sunday, **August 10th** following the 10:00 service. We'll plan to start in the sanctuary at 11:30 and be finished by 12:30. Parents are welcome to attend, or you may drop your child off. If you're interested but not able to attend on this day, call the or email Dorrie Nutt to find out about additional training times for new acolytes.

RETURNING ACOLYTES may choose one of the following sessions to be held in the sanctuary:

Mon August 11, 4:30-5:30

Wed Aug 13 7:30-8:30

Sun Aug 24 4:30-5:30

If you can't attend any of these sessions, you may set up an individual meeting with one of the Acolytemasters. **ALL acolytes must attend a training session this year.**

QUESTIONS? Call or email Dorrie Nutt: 256/533-1128 dorrie.nutt@gmail.com

ACOLYTE SCHEDULE
August 2014

This is a reduced Acolyte Roster—everyone will not appear on this schedule. We hope to see EVERYBODY for Acolyte Training this month (see above) You'll notice some services listing "new acolytes"—for the rookies that attend New Acolyte Training on Aug 10. Do stop by the back hallway if you're at church to see if we can use you as a last minute substitute.

August 3 8:00A/M Putt

C Karsten Correale

10:00 A/M Putt

C Emily Ellison, Allison Taylor
T Dylan Chenoweth, Joshua Huskey
T Kate N. Hall, Sarah W. Hall
S John Laney
AS Evan Ellison

August 10 8:00A/M Nutt

C Jackson Anglin

10:00 A/M Sherrill

C Emily Evans, Franklin Aldag
T Riley Kamelchuk, Sims Windham
T Chloe Parsons, Parker Sanders
S John Sadler Evans
AS Ireland Braudaway

August 17 8:00A/M Sherrill

C Gillianne Sharp

10:00 A/M Ward

C Meredith Walker, Cassidy Bates
T Anna Chilton, new acolyte
T Ellie Walker, new acolyte
S Sidney Gunter
AS Caroline Knight

August 24 8:00A/M Nutt

C Allie Starnes

10:00 A/M Putt

C Maria Caprio, Neill Luther
T Van Dodgen, new acolyte
T Cameron Pinson, new acolyte
S Bankston Creech
AS Leighton Luther

August 31 8:00 A/M Nutt

C Acolytemaster

10:00 A/M Ward

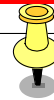
C Jordan Cozby, Scott Louis Miller
T Margaret Foster, new acolyte
T Park Ellis, new acolyte
S Evan Ward
AS Mollie Ward



**INTERESTED IN
ATTENDING A
CURSILLO WEEK-
END?**

One Cursillo weekend remains for this year—October 8-11 (application deadline August 28)

If you have any questions about Cursillo or are interested in attending a weekend, please contact Debbie or David Collette (drc3898@knology.net; drc3898@knology.net).



Please bring your "Summer Travel" Church Leaflets to Amy Baxter in the office so we can pin it to the map!



EYC Church of the Nativity

Youth Notes!

New Look for the LOFT



I'm sure that many Steeple readers don't often get the chance to take a trip to the third floor of Joffrion Hall. It's probably been a while since you've been up there. Next time you're at church, I encourage you to make the trip! The EYC Room (called the LOFT nowadays) has a brand new look: new floors, new colors, and a new mobile island. It's going to be a great place for the youth to spend some time every week when our program year gets started on September 7th!

Parents of 7th-12th graders, you are extended a special invitation to come see the space on Sunday, August 24th, which is also the church's rally day. Sunday School sign up for 7th-12th grader will be in the LOFT, and EYC calendars for your refrigerator at home as well as forms to sign for the year will be available. You'll also be able to learn about ways you can help and sign up to pitch in!

Finally, a week from Sunday, all of Nativity's EYC (7th-12th grades) are invited to eat supper and play games with First Presbyterian youth on Sunday, August 10th. We'll meet in the circle at 5:30 PM. Email me at wblackery@nativity-hsv.org to sign up!

Nativity seeks Director of Communications

We are seeking someone to help tell Nativity's story to both parishioners and the wider community. Nativity seeks a half-time Director of Communications (approximately 20 hours per week) to join our staff family.

The ideal candidate will have knowledge of HTML, excellent communication, writing, and marketing skills. The Director will be responsible for publishing our twice monthly newsletter; management of the Nativity web site; assist with Nativity Notes; work with our Communications Committee; assist with stewardship publications, handle publicity for Friends of Nativity Music events; be familiar with Social Media and marketing via social media.

If you, or someone you know, is interested, please have them send their resume and a cover letter to Communications Position, The Church of the Nativity, 208 Eustis Ave., Huntsville 35801, or to Amy Baxter at abaxter@nativity-hsv.org.

NATIVITY OUTREACH

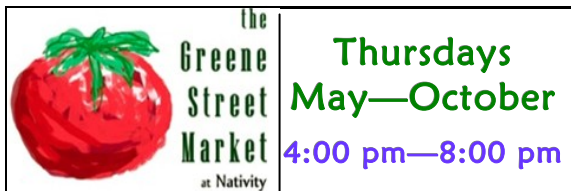


Nativity Volunteers Filled 100 Back Packs with school supplies at the Oscar Mason Library. Thanks to the ECW Bazaar for funding this program!



Do you have a Kroger Plus Card? Beginning in August, you can register for the Huntsville Assistance Program to receive a donation every time you use your card.

All you have to do is go to: www.Krogercommunityrewards.com, create an account using your card #, and select Huntsville Assistance Program.



Beginning August 7th, parking spaces will be reserved for handicapped/mobility-impaired customers during Greene Street Market hours, 4pm - 8pm Thursdays. These spaces will be in the First Presbyterian Church parking lot at the Greene Street entrance.

FALL 2014 FOLK SCHOOL WORKSHOPS at Camp McDowell

This fall, the Alabama Folk School is excited to offer three workshops with a wide arrange of classes in arts and music. To learn more about these upcoming opportunities, read the workshop descriptions below or visit our website at www.alfolkschool.com.

Acoustic Guitar & Crafts, September 12 - 14, 2014
Watercolor Workshop, October 19 - 24, 2014
Old Time Music & Crafts, Oct.30 - Nov. 2, 2014

Dear Church of the Nativity,

Thank you so much for your generous donation to Sawyerville Day Camp along with helping us provide bathing suits, a meal and transportation for the camp community. You've helped us spread God's love to so many of His children. We are so appreciative of your support.

Your friends in Christ,

Sawyerville Day Camp



Parish Life Survey Results

The results are in! We had 232 Nativity parishioners respond to our recent Parish Life survey. For all of you who took the survey....a very big Thank You! The Parish Life committee is currently reviewing the survey to gauge what actions, if any, need to be taken by the church.

Listed below are some of the more pertinent results that you may find interesting. We look forward to our continued ministry and thanks again for your participation.

What is your overall impression of Parish Life beyond Sunday Morning services?

Parish Life activities are excellent	30.77%
Parish Life activities are sufficient	35.29%
I would like to see more	17.65%
Nativity does a poor job with Parish Life	1.36%

2. Parish Life at Nativity...

Fulfills my needs	69.31%
Does not fulfill my needs	19.31%
Is not something of importance to me	11.39%

What area would you participate in if offered OFF church grounds?

Potluck dinner monthly	11.45%
Potluck dinner quarterly	41.57%
Potluck dinner annually	12.05%
Social gatherings with no specific agenda	55.42%

Theology on Tap	43.98%
Age specific events	31.33%
Foyer Groups/Supper Clubs	31.33%

4. When would you participate in church events if offered ON church grounds?

Monday evening gatherings	7.55%
Tuesday evening gatherings	15.09%
Wednesday evening gatherings	46.54%
Thursday evening gatherings	16.35%
Sunday evening gatherings	25.79%
I would attend quarterly	33.96%
I would attend monthly	38.99%
I would attend weekly	13.84%

Stewardship of Creation:

Attracting birds to your yard

Our area has a wonderful variety of bird species as either permanent residents or as visitors as they migrate through our area. With the few quick tips below, you can ensure your yard welcomes all of your feathered friends this season.



Tips on nest-building materials:

- ✦ **Twigs:** 4 inches or smaller branches or twigs are ideal to leave for birds to pick up.
- ✦ **Greenery:** Some birds line nests with soft plant matter. You can provide this by growing catkin-bearing trees and shrubs such as cottonwood, maple, mulberry, willows, poplar and beech.
- ✦ **Fluff:** Many birds, such as hummingbirds, prefer fluffy material, such as seeds with silky attachments or seed pods with a soft, hair-like covering. You can provide these items via cottonwood trees, lamb's ear ground cover, milkweed, honeysuckle, and clematis.
- ✦ **Mud:** Create mud in spots where nothing grows, since it is a favored nesting material for swallows, swifts and robins.
- ✦ **Dry Grass:** Grass is a common ingredient in songbird nests, used by species from native sparrows to robins. After trimming your yard, leave dried grass cut 2 to 4 inches long.
- ✦ **Moss:** Moss is easy to grow in shady spots. Its velvety texture is beautiful and it's a favored building material of some hummingbird species.

Tips on providing good food sources:

- ✦ **Natural feeders:** For most birds, the natural food sources of seeds, berries and more that they find in the native plants in your yard are the most important element of their diet.
- ✦ **Insects:** Summer and bugs go hand-in-hand and many birds love to eat and feed their offspring insects, but they often like only certain insects that only eat particular native plants. Visit a local nursery to learn the favorites that are native to your region.
- ✦ **Seed feeders:** Keep an eye on the seed in your feeders to ensure it doesn't remain wet or get moldy.
- ✦ **Suet feeders:** Use all-weather suet and place it in the shade for woodpeckers, chickadees, nuthatches, etc.
- ✦ **Favorite foods for hummingbirds:** Red, tubular flowers to offer nectar, and/or with hummingbird feeders filled with a mixture of ¼ cup cane sugar dissolved in 1 cup boiled water. (Note: food-coloring is not good for birds.)

NATIVITY LODGE AT BETHANY VILLAGE

To date we have \$ 253,445 from 75 pledges towards the Nativity Lodge.

If you have made a pledge, please mail your payments to Bethany at Camp McDowell. 521 N. 20th St., Birmingham, AL 35203.



Pictured is the beautiful cross that Chris Whitney recently sculptured. The cross will be on church grounds for the next few weeks. Once the Nativity Cottage is built at McDowell the cross will be on permanent display there. A huge thanks to Chris for making this wonderful and spiritual gift for our parish!

Practicing Mind-in-Heart Spiritual Leadership

Exploring Contemplative Ministry Contexts

Hosted by The Beecken Center of The School of Theology with the **Rev. Dr. Tilden Edwards** and the **Rev. Stuart Higginbotham**

Oct. 9–11, 2014

DuBose Conference Center, Monteagle, TN

Cost: \$425, includes meals and lodging at the DuBose Conference Center

For more information and to register: <http://bit.ly/VF3KcR>

Art in the Banister Room

Come enjoy the work of **Caroline Wang**. This exhibit is called "Simplicity", inspired by her love of peace and harmony in nature.



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, August 18.

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev'd Rusty McCown
Associate

The Rev'd Bonnie McCrickard
Associate

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

Mary Coe

Assistant Children's Formation

Audrey Clayton

Nursery Coordinator

John Buyse

Property Manager

Al Ford

Sexton

Sally Stockton

Kitchen Coordinator

Beverly Franklin

Bookkeeper/Business Mgr

Connie Gadomski

Worship & Ministry Assistant

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

If 200 people pledged \$15 per month for **Nativity House at Bethany Village**, payable over a 5 year period, we would be there! Just \$178 per year or a total pledge of only \$888! Think you can't swing it?

- 1 movie ticket to the Privé at the Monaco
 - 3 Vende coffees from Starbucks
 - A large cheese pizza from Sam & Greg's
 - 6 Gigi's cupcakes
 - 1 pedicure (*location revealed if you pledge!*)
 - 2 dozen Krispy Kreme donuts
 - 10 Hardees sausage & egg biscuits
 - 2 six-packs of Sam Adams Boston Lager
 - **1 Pledge to help build Nativity Lodge in Bethany Village @ Camp McDowell**
- Think again...Do you have \$15.00 a month to spare?

Nativity Huntsville supports **Bethany Village** at Camp McDowell

In support of Bethany Village at Camp McDowell, I/we intend to contribute a total of \$ _____. Payment of this gift is to extend over _____ (three to five) years, beginning in 20____. An initial payment of \$ _____ is enclosed and I/we prefer to remit the balance ☐ annually, ☐ quarterly, or ☐ monthly. I understand that this statement represents neither a binding obligation on my part nor the part of my estate, and that contributions are tax deductible to the fullest extent provided by law.

Full name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email address _____

Signature _____

I prefer to receive updates via ☐ email or ☐ regular mail; and statements via ☐ email or ☐ regular mail

Please make checks payable to Camp McDowell with Bethany Village in the memo line.
Remit to: Bethany at Camp McDowell,
Diocese of Alabama
521 N. 20th Street