

# THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

August 20, 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.*

## RALLY! RETURN! RENEW!

**This Sunday, we Rally!** The Sunday before Labor Day weekend is the time we rally together for one last blast of summer with our annual parish picnic following the 10:00 a.m. service. It's a Sunday when we can all dress comfortably...the weather report says it's going to be hot (I'll be wearing shorts!). Bring a side-dish to share; the church provides the fried chicken, desserts, and drinks. Information will be available about all of our fall Church School offerings and mid-week opportunities for all ages so we can....

**Return to the Fall Schedule on September 7** with Sunday worship schedule at 7:45, 8:45, and 11....Sunday Church School Classes for all ages at 10:00 a.m. (See the inside pages for a run-down of all the exciting classes). Our Youth start meeting regularly on Sunday evenings...for all youth 7<sup>th</sup> through 12<sup>th</sup> grades. Mid-Week Bible Studies and other Christian Formation opportunities all in session by Sept. 10:

*Three Women's classes: Wednesdays at 1 p.m. and 6 p.m.; Thursdays at 9:30 a.m.*

*Two men's classes: Wednesdays at 7:15 a.m. and 6 p.m.*

*Education for Ministry, an in depth study of faith and theology on Tuesday evenings*

*Centering Prayer Groups on Tuesdays at 5:30 p.m. and Thursdays at Noon*

*Outreach opportunities to share your time and talent just about every day, including needed help at the Greene Street Market at Nativity every Thursday*

*Our Adult and Children's Choirs are another great way to grow in faith...*

**Renew your faith journey by participating!** Help your parish renew our life together focusing on spiritual growth by taking the **RENEWALWORKS** Spiritual life survey that will be offered beginning September 6 through September 29 (watch your mailbox for information about this important effort). And mark your calendars for **FOOD TRUCK SUNDAY**, September 14! All people at worship that Sunday will enjoy this new event.

With these things in mind, I am happy to let you know that your parish clergy, staff and our vestry leaders are working collegially and faithfully to support us all on our faith journeys. With three full-time clergy, and with Basye Holland-Shuey and Van Foreman connecting to our altar as "Assisting Priests," the liturgical, pastoral care, and clergy leadership functions are in great stead. Van and Basye are not paid, but their association with us, primarily on Sundays, is invaluable. I am thrilled that the Vestry has unanimously offered this title to them. Deacon Jeanie Robison is on medical leave, and we look for her return in the late fall.

Our lay staff is the finest and most competent I have ever seen! We have an incredible office and programming staff in place...and we will soon be filling the much needed half-time Director of Communications position. The Vestry is working exceptionally well together (perhaps a sign of this is we got through Vestry meeting last night 10 minutes ahead of schedule!). But all of our ministries are thriving because of YOUR commitment.

This Sunday, we will hear the Apostle Paul's encouragement, ***I appeal to you brothers and sisters, by the mercies of God, to present your bodies as a living sacrifice, holy and acceptable to God, which is your spiritual worship. Do not be conformed to this world, but be transformed by the renewing of your minds, so that you may discern the will of God...***



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

*Andy +*

## Nativity Annual Parish Picnic/Rally Day

**Sunday, August 24th following the 10:00 service**

**Food, Fun & Fellowship**

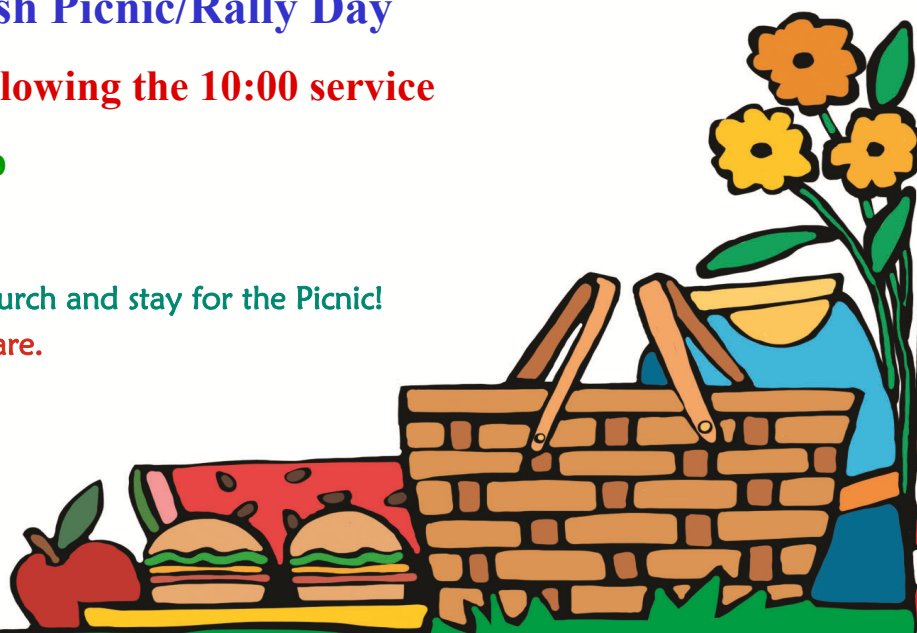
**In the courtyard**

**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



Dear Nativity Family,

It is with joy and gratitude that I share with you my good news! The Church of Nativity has officially offered me the opportunity to serve here in my home church as an Assisting Priest, beginning this summer. This means that I will be

working with our clergy and staff in a part-time, mostly volunteer position as pastor, priest, and teacher, prayerfully discerning with Father Andy how best to serve in the various ministries here.

After three major surgeries (there aren't many organs left, so lots of Spirit space inside I pray!), God has strengthened me with energy and passion to again join with all of you in the work we are graciously called to do. My medical doctors see no evidence of disease, and at the end of my appointment last month, my oncologist said "With all you've come through to this point, I recommend you stay as far away from doctors as possible!" I plan to carry out his advice!

My journey to ordination began at Nativity over 10 years ago, and Ralph and I were married (and I was confirmed) here over 26 years ago! Your prayers, support, and love have lifted and carried us both across these challenging times since 2008. I rejoice that I can return to the work I love, and that Nativity has offered me the opportunity to do so in a way that allows me to balance my life in a healthy and full way.

With gratitude and a blessed sense of Shalom,  
Basye



**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.

### Children's Corner

**Aug. 20 — Children's Choirs resume**

- Cherubs (preK-2<sup>nd</sup> grade) 4:45-5:30
- St. Cecelia's (3<sup>rd</sup> grade and up)
- Skills and Bells 4:15-5:30

**Aug. 24 — Rally Day with SS registration!**

**Sept. 7 — SS resumes**

Contact Barbara Bonner: [bbonner@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:bbonner@nativity-hsv.org).

## INTERCESSION REQUESTS

### We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Anne Conner, Sara Dodd, Danielle Rodick, Sue Campbell, Ann Garnett, RuthAnn Haymes. Julian Kobler, Tom Robinson, Lynn Jones, Barry Morton, Betty Ann Councill, Lorene Dilworth, Bill Dilworth, Gene Sullivan, Nancy Colin Swenson, Harry Beazley, Carla King, Eileen Sullivan, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl

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

We pray for the departed: David Wilson, brother of Wendy Wilson; Harriet Susan Rogers King, mother of Ben King; Virginia Snelgrove, aunt of Marilyn Lands; Michele Parker

We give thanks for the birth of a child: Liam Woodford Mackey and Tazewell Jameson Mackey, grandsons of Kim and Aubrey Tycker.

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

8/21 Caleb Arnette	8/22 Quintin Maddox	8/22 Alice Burson	8/22 David Burson
8/23 Ford Whitfield IV	8/24 Lillianne Dollarhide	8/26 Elizabeth Evans	8/26 Hannah Huskey
8/27 Nathaniel Swillie II	8/27 Alec Bonner	8/29 Lucy Ellis	8/29 Sam Hartley
8/30 Anna Abney	8/30 Rachel Joffrion	9/1 Caroline Baugher	9/2 Emma Angelichio
9/2 Jane Havron			

### Transitions:

We welcome those transferred from other parishes:

- Brandon Smith, St. Matthew's, Madison
- David Nicely, St. Stephens, Huntsville
- Jerry Whitworth, The Church of St. Luke in the Fields, New York, NY
- Jill Murray, Christ Episcopal, Albertville, AL

Farewells:

Rebecca Crosby, St. Michael's Church, Charleston, SC

### Upcoming Baptism Dates

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

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

## 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.

• **All Choirs** begin rehearsals the week of August 18. For more information, call (256-533-2455), or email Suzanne Purtee, [Suzanne.purtee@gmail.com](mailto: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



• **Twickenham Fest 2014** Celebrating its fifth year as Alabama's only chamber music festival, for this anniversary, the four concerts of Twickenham Fest will take place in Huntsville the weekend of **August 29th to 31st**. Two of the concerts will be at Nativity. Additional info at: <http://twickenhamfest.org/>

**EfM**  
EDUCATION FOR MINISTRY

EFM is a course developed by The University of the South's School of Theology to help adults gain a better understanding of the Christian faith through study of church history, theology, and reading of the entire Bible. Contact Ron Hogan at 256-679-5786 or [ronhuntsville@yahoo.com](mailto:ronhuntsville@yahoo.com) for registration details and tuition cost.

## **FINAL REMINDER: 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.



## CHILDREN'S AND ADULT SUNDAY FORMATION CLASSES FOR FALL

Children's classes begin September 7

**Godly Play** ages 3 — Kindergarten

Location: Angel Lane (downstairs in Ridley Hall)

### WoRM

Kindergartners through 4 graders will be learning about "Hearing God's Voice" this year in the WoRM.

Location: Angel Lane (downstairs in Ridley Hall)

### Club 56

All 5th and 6th graders are invited to join Club 56 - a traditional Bible class with a "tween" twist.

Leaders: Missy Walker, Shelly Whitney

### YOUTH CLASSES

• **7th & 8th Grade** - Second Floor Ridley

• **9th Grade/Confirmation**—Confirmation Room  
(2nd Floor Joffrion)

• **10th-12th Grade** - EYC LOFT

Adult Classes begin September 7

**The Book Class**—Sept. 7 to Nov. 23rd

Heroes and Heretics by Thomas Cahill

Class Leaders: Evie Spearman, Rick Wilhoite, Ted Briggs,  
Glenn Watson, and Buddy Moon

Place: Bibb Chapel

**Creating a Spiritual Community for You and Your Family**

Ridley Hall – Dr. Pat Quirk and Dr. Margaret Bibb and  
guest speakers

Sept. 7 – Nov. 23<sup>rd</sup>.

**The Breakfast Club** –Joffrion Hall 2 West – Sept. 7<sup>th</sup>

The Signature of Jesus by Brennan Manning. Order on  
Amazon.

Amy Creech, Father Rusty McCown, and Emily Rodgers

**The Zimmerman Bible Study Class** The Apostle Paul's influence in the church's growth and Development: Acts to Romans. (Fr. Anderson—Aug-Nov ) This is in keeping with his trip to Turkey. The class will continue in Dec. with the wrap up of Matthew and start on Isaiah. Class Leaders: Elise Taylor, Gaines Watts, Jim Douthit, Virginia Kobler.

Place: Joffrion Library

**The Social Justice Class**

Place: The Banister room

Leaders: Marilyn Lands, Melissa Kirkindall, Jackie Sheldon  
and Bill Starnes

**Art and Literature** –Advent Series

Ridley Hall – December 7, 14, and 21

Leaders: Lynne Berry, Jeannie Robison, Walter Thames

## *Creating a Spiritual Community for You and Your Family*

is one of the most critical factors in creating a successful family life. Beginning Sunday, September 7<sup>th</sup>, Dr. Patrick Quirk and Dr. Margaret Bibb will be teaching a new Christian Formation class based on their e-book "*Creating a Spiritual Community for You and Your Family*." Every class will include a brief reading from the e-book and an elaboration on the theme for that class, followed by breaking into small discussion groups. Each class will focus on different aspects of how to create a spiritual community for you and your family at The Church of the Nativity. Many of the classes will include getting better acquainted and guest experts to speak about their area of church involvement.

### **Morley and Me--Looking at Today's World with Jesus**

*A men's Bible Study/Discussion led by Charles Morley and Rusty McCown with Lane Tutt's permission*

During our time together we will study the life and ministry of Jesus Christ and see how it relates to our world today. The discussions will be lively, honest, and fun. So, come by the church on the way home from work for our own brand of Happy Hour.

When: 5:30-6:30 Wednesdays beginning Sept. 10 in J2E

### **Taking Nativity To Our Parishioners**

If you know of a parishioner who is having a difficult time coming to church and would like to have someone visit them please let us know. Nativity's Pastoral Visitors and Eucharistic Visitors can take our church out to those who may dearly miss being here. If you have any questions or would like to have a loved one matched up please contact Rusty McCown at 533-2455. Thank You!

**Reflections Bible Study** - Classes resume this Thursday, August 21st from 9:30 - 11:00 a.m. in J2E. Our discussion will be on our summer reading of *The Screwtape Letters* by C.S. Lewis. (Please come even if you did not read the book.) We will also view the video on our next study *Hebrews: The Nearness of King Jesus* by Lisa Harper. Questions? Contact Debbie Collette 256-527-5050.



**September 14 is FOOD  
TRUCK SUNDAY @ Nativity.**

Stay for lunch after Sunday School  
or after the 11:00 am service!

You are invited to the  
Habitat for Humanity House dedication ceremony  
September 6 at 10:30 am  
2506 Smallbrook Circle

## Wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell!



The first time I went to Camp McDowell was in the Spring of 1985 and I was 13 years old. I would ideally like to say that it was wholly my idea, brought upon by a need to feel closer to Jesus and to celebrate God's gift of nature. Unfortunately, it wasn't my idea, but rather my parents, who decided that my 13-year old self was beginning to go down the wrong paths and rather than join my friends in Destin for Spring Break, I was going to church camp. Needless to say, I was less than thrilled. Church Camp was NOT cool.

I remember packing for camp and thinking that I was NOT going to have fun and I was going to make myself and all others around me so miserable that I would never be forced into such a situation again. So that is how I showed up for my first day at Camp McDowell.

When it was time for dinner I dragged my feet, when Porch songs were sung I refused to sing, and during play-time in the Rec Hall I refused to participate. That night I went back to my cabin determined to not make a single friend. As the other girls giggled and brushed their teeth I pouted.

After everyone was done getting ready for bed I slipped into the bathroom by myself to get ready to go to bed. When I came out, there were 2 girls sitting on my bed looking straight at me. I don't really remember what transpired after that except that we ended up staying up half the night talking and laughing and we hung out together for the rest of the session.

Even though I had acted SO horribly they still accepted me and I was actually (gasp!) *having fun!* To this day, I still count these girls among my closest friends and one of them even met her future husband at McDowell!

I have no doubt in my mind that Camp McDowell has been specially blessed by God. Not only is it a place of breathtaking beauty, it is a place where His warmth can be felt in every moment. We can come into this place broken and sad and find complete acceptance and genuine love- even a surly teenage girl.

Mark Johnston said of me when I told him this story was, "I don't remember you being surly, but I do remember that whenever camp was open, you were there."

And it's true. Every time those doors opened I was there, eager to see old friends and meet new ones, but even more importantly, to let my guard down, relax and just *BE*.

You may have heard about a new expansion at Camp McDowell called Bethany Village. Camp is full and many campers are turned away simply because it has gotten too popular! This expansion will roughly double the size of camp and allow so many more people to experience the love and acceptance of Camp McDowell. Included in this expansion are 6 lodges- one of which will be known as Nativity Lodge. More than 70 Nativity parishioners have already contributed well over half of the cost of Nativity Lodge. I humbly ask you to prayerfully consider making your own pledge towards this goal because everyone deserves to chance to let their guard down and just be.

**Betty Hornsby**

Nativity House at Bethany Village—only \$100,000 more to make our goal of \$400,000. Won't you pledge?

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

Address \_\_\_\_\_ 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 Birmingham, AL 35203-2611

## Stewardship Thoughts – Walking the Way



I have been formally involved with stewardship at Nativity for the past seven years. It has been very rewarding to be involved with so many committed and generous people. However, one of the comments I have heard more than once over these past several years is “all they ever do is ask for money!” While it is true that the Stewardship Ministry asks for your financial support of our vibrant and dynamic ministries, we are not “just about money!”



The Stewardship Ministry’s goal is to give everyone the opportunity to give back some of what God has given us (which is everything). This giving back especially takes life in the forms of our time, talents, and financial resources. While the annual financial campaign is probably the most visible aspect of our stewardship efforts, time and talent are of no less importance – especially to those of us on the Stewardship Ministry.

While doing some research for our upcoming stewardship campaign, I found a wonderful set of stewardship meditations written ten years ago by Nativity parishioners. I would like to quote a few passages from that collection that I think illustrate the importance of the time and talent portion of our stewardship efforts:

### From the introduction

*“Contrary to popular belief, stewardship is not merely about the annual financial appeal of the Church. Stewardship is purely and ultimately about your relationship with God. Like the Christian life itself, stewardship is a journey. Through diligent and intentional stewardship of our time, talent, and financial resources, we grow in the saving example of Christ himself.”*

### From Bob Serio’s meditation

*“I have been a member of Nativity since 1981, but for the first several years, I attended church, paid my pledge, and did little else. I was “too busy at work” and could not commit any more time. Then I was asked to serve as a LEM. I somehow found the time to take on this task and the Eucharist took on a totally different meaning for me. I was later encouraged to get involved in EFM, a mission trip to Honduras, and to run for a seat on the Vestry. Each activity gave me additional opportunities to realize what a wonderful parish family we have here at Nativity. Stewardship is more than making a financial pledge every year. Before becoming more involved in our parish life, it was like paying the utility bill (necessary, but not very exciting). By offering my time and talents along with my financial pledge, God has put new meaning in my relationship with Him and added that extra spark to my membership at Nativity.”*

### From Holly Ellis’ meditation

*“God has truly blessed me and my family in many ways, especially by making us a part of this amazing parish. I truly feel God’s presence and love every time I place my offering in the alms basin or volunteer my time on a committee or outreach ministry. When you do whatever you can and you do it all for the love of God, you get so much more in return. We can never truly understand the magnitude of God’s sacrifice for use. We can only be grateful and show our love through our giving back of time, talent, and resources. This is what stewardship means to me.”*

Your Stewardship Ministry is supporting two upcoming events to give all parishioners the opportunity to offer up to God a portion of their time and talents. We hope you will be with us on these Sundays as members of Nativity’s various inreach and outreach ministries come together to highlight their activities:

September 14 - **Inreach Ministry Fair** (Learn about opportunities to serve through worship, parish life, education, and enhanced spirituality). Food trucks and food vendors will be available and you may purchase lunch for yourself and your family while learning about the exciting inreach activities at Nativity.

October 19 – **Outreach Ministry Fair** (Learn about opportunities to serve God’s people in the community, the Diocese, and the world). Food trucks and food vendors will be available and you may purchase lunch for yourself and your family while learning about the exciting outreach activities at Nativity.

I 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 and talents. I 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 Christ,

David Collette

Nativity Stewardship ChairLeaders



## A Farewell Note from our Seminarian



It seems like just the other day when last January I began my Field Education at Nativity. I am so fortunate to have spent these last months working with Fr. Andy and the wonderful staff here. Nativity was the ideal parish for me to train and work for my Field Education. Field Education at Sewanee is a very important part of our formation for ordained ministry. Being able to work and learn from Fr. Andy has been a true blessing.

Having grown up in Mobile and living in Gulf Shores for 28 years, the experience offered by working and learning at Nativity has been tremendous. Our parish in Gulf Shores is much smaller than Nativity. Serving in a large parish like Nativity was exactly what I needed in a Field Education experience. Every Sunday has been a learning experience for me. I had never been in a church with vergers! Prentice and his faithful group of fellow vergers do an amazing job and I have enjoyed working and learning from this wise man.

I had several learning goals when I first came to Nativity. Fr. Andy and the staff have helped me achieve these learning goals and I will be forever grateful. Fr. Andy is an exceptional Clergy Mentor who gives graciously of his time in the training of seminarians. Sewanee is very fortunate to be able to count on Fr. Andy each year to train and mentor seminarians in this very important formation process of Field Education.

I have enjoyed getting to know the staff here. Fr. Rusty is such a joy to be around. He always manages to put a smile on my face. I have benefited so much from our conversations. It has been delightful to work with Mother Bonnie this summer. I remember my first conversation with Bonnie at Sewanee. We were walking to Morning Prayer and she told me of her love for Sewanee and how she hoped I would grow to love seminary as she did. Mother Bonnie is a great addition to Nativity and I know you will all love and appreciate her ministry here. Deacon Jeannie has such a loving spirit. Deacon Mary was most patient in her training she gave me. Thank you so much Deacon Mary.

I enjoyed my time with the Seeker's Catechumenate class. It was an honor to be a part of the training for this class. I had no experience in this area. The Catechumenate class at Nativity is an exemplary Confirmation class. I learned so much from this experience and enjoyed getting to know these adults on their spiritual journey. Thanks to all the volunteers who make this class such a special time.

Everyone on the staff has been so helpful and supportive. I especially want to thank Connie who always stopped whatever she was doing to help me and answer my questions. I also want to thank Beverly for the time she spent training me on the business aspects of a large parish. Amy has also been very helpful and I thank you for your support. William, you are doing a great job with the youth and Nativity is blessed to have you on their staff.

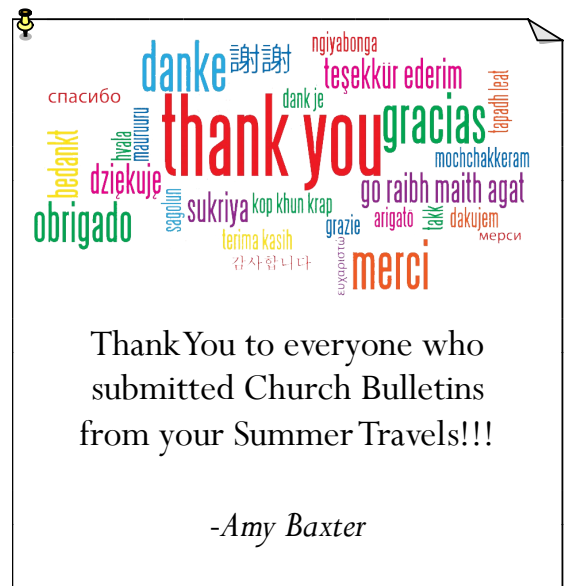
The School of Theology is so grateful for the support the Nativity parish gives to Sewanee. Your gifts of time, talent, and money are gratefully acknowledged. The people of this parish have welcomed Charlotte and me from day one. We are grateful for your friendship, your prayers, and your support. Field Education is so important to a seminarian's formation. Thank you all for your support, and thank you Fr. Andy for allowing me to serve and learn from you and your staff here at Nativity.

In Christ, **David Green**

Three righteous-looking bell aficionados!

(l to r)

Loch Neely,  
Fr. Anderson,  
Richard Hamner



**Nativity's Beth Thames** writes about Nativity Outreach Ministry, FirstStop, and working with Huntsville's homeless population in last weeks [Al.com](#). Nativity parishioners Bill Goodson and Drew Tutt visit the homeless weekly through their commitment to **FirstStop** and the homeless. A group from Nativity serves breakfast the first Tuesday of every month.



I didn't know her, but the woman washing her hands in the women's bathroom at my church chatted with me, the way women do in these places. Did I think it might rain later and cool things off? She hoped so.

As we talked, she pinned her blond hair back, wiped the counter with a paper towel, and held the door for me. We walked down the stairs to the parking lot where we said something like, "Have a good day" or "Nice talking to you," the polite phrases people use when they don't know each other.

Then I got into my car to drive home and she walked to her shopping cart to push it wherever her home was that day.

I'd been talking to a homeless woman who'd stopped by a church to use the facilities and then left to begin her day, one very different from mine.

While Huntsville grows upscale neighborhoods, we also have "neighborhoods" of homeless people, just like any other city. They live in cars or camp out in wooded areas, even in pristine Research Park.

Nobody says they want to grow up to be poor and live in a tent. It's not something people plan. But when it happens, we're here.

People have a mixed attitude about the homeless. We pity them, and we want to help, but we fear them, too, and wonder why they can't do better. We're glad not to be in their position and can't imagine that we'd ever be.

And that's where we'd be wrong. Clete Wetli is the director of First Stop, a day center near the old Stone Middle School, where clients from all backgrounds come to make a phone call, take a shower, have a hot meal, keep their few belongings in a locker, and get in out of the weather. They also work with case managers to plan their lives going forward.

Some are mentally ill, but have been out of treatment for years. Some are veterans, one a Special Forces officer. Some are recovering addicts or alcoholics and come to First Stop for AA meetings.

Some lost themselves in divorce, bad money decisions, company downsizing or illness.

Some work, but don't make enough to pay rent. One hopes her part time minimum wage job will turn into full time. Until then, she sleeps in her car.

"Nobody says they want to grow up to be poor and live in a tent," Wetli says. "It's not something people plan. But when it happens, we're here. We want to move people forward."

Two volunteers, Fenn and Samantha, serve 60 breakfast meals most mornings and pour hundreds of cups of coffee. And that's it, they say: the little things that make people feel human.

These women should know. Though one of them has a culinary degree and the other has a graduate engineering degree, both were homeless after divorce, and one admits to a history of substance abuse in the past. Her record is still out there, making it hard to find a job. She will, though. She's got a child to take care of.

Other client-volunteers sweep, clean the bathrooms and plan for the greenhouse they'll build out back. They want to grow their own food, to contribute.

To people who say the homeless need to help themselves, Wetli tries to set them straight.

"Of course they do, but people can't pull themselves up by the bootstraps if they've got no feet," he says. "Most of these people have nothing."

First Stop starts with the basics. Clients need a photo ID, which costs \$23, a social security card, a blanket and a case worker who walks them through housing and job applications. They use a triage approach to meet the most pressing needs.

And what does First Stop need?

"Everything," Wetli says. "Food, household goods, that old college furniture you've got in your garage. Shower curtains. People living outside forget that apartments need shower curtains."

First Stop operates on state and federal grants, donations, and funds from United Way. Volunteers come from churches and synagogues. Even if clients can't move into housing right now, there are two things First Stop gives them, and Wetli is proud of this.

"Hope and dignity," he says.

For more information about First Stop, call 256-533-3391 or visit [www.firststop.org](http://www.firststop.org).





# Youth Notes!

EYC Church of the Nativity  
EYC Church of the Nativity

## Fall Kickoff!

Parents of 7th-12th graders, you are extended a special invitation to come see the renovated EYC room THIS 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! Read on for the September EYC calendar!

### EYC Kickoff, Sunday, September 7th, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

All 7th through 12th graders are invited to get the youth group year started off right! Come eat supper and extend a warm welcome to the 7th graders joining the youth group before we have some messy fun outside and close out the evening with worship.

### Tennessee Valley District Day, Sunday, September 14th, 1:15 - 4:30 PM

Young Episcopalians from Florence all the way to Guntersville and everywhere in between will be convening at Good Shepherd in Decatur for an afternoon of food and fun at this event held by the Youth Department of the Diocese of Alabama. We'll meet in the circle at 1:15 for the drive to Decatur. There we'll play some games (plan to get messy!) and enjoy some snacks before the TV reps tell us about the year to come for the Diocesan EYC.

### EYC at Nativity, Sunday, September 21st and Sunday, September 28th, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

All 7th-12th graders and friends are invited to come together for supper at 5:30 followed by some big group time. After that, we'll split up into our junior high and senior high groups before we reconvene and close out the evening with worship.

## Parish Financial Report Period Ending 7/31/2014

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 91,308.01	\$ 107,868.33	\$ 683,646.16	\$ 755,078.35
Plate	\$ 5,337.00	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 56,189.50	\$ 61,250.00
Other Revenues	\$ 66,343.76	\$ 8,381.67	\$ 103,292.81	\$ 58,671.65
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 162,988.77</b>	<b>\$ 125,000.00</b>	<b>\$ 843,128.47</b>	<b>\$ 875,000.00</b>
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 25,032.36	\$ 25,250.02	\$ 152,365.79	\$ 176,749.90
Personnel	\$ 72,891.35	\$ 67,804.16	\$ 466,396.79	\$ 474,629.20
Other Expenses	\$ 29,351.97	\$ 31,945.83	\$ 211,695.05	\$ 223,620.85
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>\$ 127,275.68</b>	<b>\$ 125,000.01</b>	<b>\$ 830,457.63</b>	<b>\$ 874,999.95</b>
<b>NET</b>	<b>\$ 35,713.09</b>	<b>\$ (0.01)</b>	<b>\$ 12,670.84</b>	<b>\$ 0.05</b>

**Copies of financial records** and vestry minutes are available in the church office for members to review. Please contact Beverly Franklin or Amy Baxter to set up a time to review these documents.

**Vestry meetings** are open to the congregation. Vestry meetings are the **third Tuesday** of each month, beginning at 5:15 p.m.

## NATIVITY OUTREACH

A great outreach opportunity. We are in need of a few new volunteers to deliver meals on wheels the third Thursday morning of every month. This takes about one and a half hours, depending on the route. Anyone interested please call Jennie Coe @ 256- 883-6398, or email me @ [ronjcoe@yahoo.com](mailto:ronjcoe@yahoo.com).



### Last chance to attend a Cursillo weekend in 2014...

The final Cursillo weekend of 2014 will be held October 9-12 at wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell. Applications for this weekend are due by August 29. If you would like to attend this Cursillo weekend and become a part of the Cursillo Community, please contact David or Debbie Collette @ 256-830-2451 or via e-mail at [dtc3898@knology.net](mailto:dtc3898@knology.net).



### AN INTRODUCTION TO CENTERING PRAYER RETREAT

*Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center in Cullman, AL  
August 29-31, 2014*

*Private rooms and the ability to maintain silence are required. The cost for the weekend is \$210/person; lodging, meals, and linens are included. For registration information and other details, please contact the Benedictine Sisters Retreat Center at (256) 734-8302 or by e-mail at [retreats@shmon.org](mailto:retreats@shmon.org).*

### 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>

## Stewardship of Creation Tip

### Improve your indoor air quality for better health and well-being

Since we rarely have to remind ourselves to take a breath (although most of us could benefit from a deep inhale and exhale from time to time) it's easy to overlook the importance of air quality. And that is unfortunate, because indoor air quality has a huge impact on our health and well-being. Just think about how much time each of us spends indoors every day (for most of us we're talking around 18-20 hours per day). Sometimes families learn this the hard way when children develop asthma. There can be numerous culprits of indoor air pollutants, including traditional household products. These tips address steps you can take to make your air as fresh and clean as possible, and eliminate some of the common causes of indoor air pollution.

#### PAINT

First, always say no to VOCs in your paint. VOC stands for 'volatile organic compound' and includes a whole host of nasty chemicals like formaldehyde, benzene and acetone that off-gas particles into the air which irritate the skin and mucus membranes and cause many short- and long-term adverse health effects. Traditional paint is full of VOCs – that is the typical 'new paint smell'. Happily, excellent quality, no-VOC paint is readily available from your favorite paint store.

#### FURNITURE

Think carefully about laminated wood, as it is usually dressing up MDF (Medium-Density Fiberboard, made of ground up wood pulp bound together with adhesives). Most inexpensive and mass-produced furniture, cabinets and wood floors are made from composite board these days, but typical MDF uses urea formaldehyde in the resin, and formaldehyde is a known human carcinogen that off-gases vapors into the air and has been associated with nasal cancer and leukemia. When shopping look for 'non-toxic MDF' which is made with formaldehyde-free resin. Additionally, look for products from companies that use non-toxic finishes (such as varnishes, paints and lacquers). Mainstream brands like IKEA and West Elm are great options for inexpensive low VOC furniture, but if you want something special ....

**The greenest piece of furniture is one that already exists.**

#### DON'T FORGET THE BASICS

Don't forget the small things that can make a big difference! Simple things like removing your shoes in the house and making the most of cross-ventilation can have a huge impact. It's also important to use gentle, eco-friendly cleaning supplies. **Make friends with the ingredients list.** Environmental Working Group (EWG) has a large database of products ranging from cosmetics to cleaning materials, ranked by toxicity. Before you buy, plug the product into their database to make sure it's safe for your family. Better yet, make your own cleaning and personal care products at home! (Heloise is correct: Vinegar really is an amazing cleaner!) Show your love for your family, yourself and all of God's creation by taking time to learn about the products you are using in your home.

# WORSHIP SCHEDULE September 2014, published 8/20/14

## WEDNESDAY, September 3, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Anderson	Joan East	

## THURSDAY, September 4, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
6:00 pm	McCrickard	Don Lambert	

## SUNDAY, September 7, Thirteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	McCown	McCrickard	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
8:45 am	Anderson	McCrickard	Robert Dunn, Warren Vann, Charlie Warren	Bankston Creech	Martha Joffrion
11:00 am	Anderson	McCrickard	Rich Goodwin, Barbara Buice, Rob Cozby	Mary Johnson, Sally Ann Culver	Jim Douthit

## WEDNESDAY, September 10, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	McCown	Don Askins	

## THURSDAY, September 11, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
6:00 pm	Anderson	Virginia Kobler	

## SUNDAY, September 14, Fourteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (McCrickard – out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	McCown	Anderson	Don Lambert, Lane Mickle, Mike Ward, Joan East	Dianne Nettles	Melissa Kirkindall
11:00 am	McCown	Anderson	Don Askins, Peter Cobun, Deborah Baker, Sam Porter	Rich Goodwin, Mike Innes	Jordan Cozby

## WEDNESDAY, September 17, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	McCown	McCrickard	Cheryl Watts

## THURSDAY, September 18, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
6:00 pm	McCown	Sally Ann Culver	

## SUNDAY, September 21, Fifteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	McCown	McCown	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 am	Holland-Shuey	McCown	Bob Serio, Ralph Shuey	Amy Creech	Lane Mickle
11:00 am	Anderson	McCown	Marilyn Lands, Sally Ann Culver, Walter Thames	Chris Jackson, John Conover	Ronnie Rogers

## WEDNESDAY, September 24, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Holland-Shuey	Marilyn Lands	

## THURSDAY, September 25, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	
6:00 pm	Anderson	Don Askins	

## SUNDAY, September 28, Sixteenth Sunday after Pentecost

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (McCown – out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Anderson	Anderson	John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
8:45 am	Anderson	St. Francis	Lewie Bates, Virginia Kobler, Lee Hicklen, Warren Vann	Cassidy Bates	Aubrey Tyner
11:00 am	Foreman	Anderson	Ronnie Rogers, Pat Sampson, Rich Goodwin	Mickey Ellis, Elaine Hamner	Martha Bosworth

## USHERS

8:45	Jeffrey Dortch, Jim Douthit, Bobbie Graham, Joe Worley
11:00	Josh Kelly, Jeff Ellis, Tom Ford, Melissa Helton, Bill Joyner, Gripp Luther, Grant Thomson

## ALTAR GUILD

6	Lea Ann Barnett, Sara Little, Rose Anne Shearer, Judy Heacock, Debbie Joyner, Anne Carter
13	Nancy Colin, Alice Lanier, Caffey Litkenhous, Suzy Naumann, Judy Vann, Sophia Rowe
20	Renée Elliott, Flo Stockton, Connie Stephenson, Gail Brown, Emily Moody
27	Linda Watts, Laura Innes, Elaine Calhoun, Mary Johnson, Louise Reynolds

## CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE

September 1 – 7	September 8 – 14	September 15 – 21	September 22 – 28	September 29 – October 5
McCown	McCrickard/McCown	Anderson	McCrickard	Anderson



## 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 Tuesday noon, September 2** to be published on Thursday because of the Labor Day holiday.

### 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](http://www.nativity-hsv.org)

### Take Note:

#### Fall Worship Schedule

**returns Sunday,**

**September 7**

(\* 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**

Programs on **Social Justice** issues coming this fall for possible group participation through the Social Justice Class:

**Saturday, September 20** – Day of Service and Unity on the International Day of Peace – 7:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon – Faith Presbyterian Church

**Friday and Saturday, September 19 & 20** – Emerging Christianity in a 21<sup>st</sup> Century World – Canterbury United Methodist Church (Birmingham) – with Brian McLaren.

<http://www.spafer.org/index.php/lectures/our-next-speaker>

**Sunday and Monday, November 2 & 3** – IMS Exploring Faith Intersections: Community, Social Justice, Culture Trinity United Methodist Church (Huntsville) – with Jim Wallis: [http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2014/07/jim\\_wallis\\_huntsville.html](http://www.al.com/living/index.ssf/2014/07/jim_wallis_huntsville.html)

### 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](mailto:abaxter@nativity-hsv.org).