

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

September 17, 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.

RenewalWorks™

Have you taken the
RenewalWorks Survey?



The Survey will be open till

Monday, September 29th

Click below to take the survey:

[http://www.insightexpress.com/s/Epis223811?
resetposition=true&UID=6989](http://www.insightexpress.com/s/Epis223811?resetposition=true&UID=6989)



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

Worship Schedule

(* Nursery available)

SUNDAY

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

A Special Visit from St. Francis

Sunday, September 28th

8:45 a.m. service

Bring your Pets to church!
*(all pets must be on a leash
or in a cage)*



The choir will be selling dog and cat treats.

Saint Francis of Assisi Sunday—Blessing of the Animals



Haiti Mission Trip February 28-Mar 7

We are scheduled for our Medical Mission trip to Haiti for the week of Feb. 28-March 7, 2015 (Saturday to Saturday). We will have an information session on Sunday, September 21 at 10 in the back of the Nave. If you are interested in participating in the mission trip and are unable to attend the meeting, please e-mail Bob Serio [rserio001@gmail.com] for more information.

Children's Corner

Wednesdays—Children's choir 4:15

Cherubs 4:45

Sept 17 @ 11:30 Kid's Council

Sept 28 @8:45 Pet Blessing

Sept 28 4:30-6:30 Club 56 gathering at Creech's

Oct 1 5:30 Supper and programs for k-6th grade

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

The Daughters of the King invite
all the Women of the Church to hear
The Rev. Bill Winters speak on "Gospel Hospitality"
Tuesday, October 21

Lunch (prepared by Sally Stockton) will be served at
11:30am, with Fr. Winters' talk to follow.

The Rev. Winters grew up on the south side of Chicago and has led a very interesting life. He has worked for the Salvation Army, attended seminary at Sewanee, and had churches in Mobile, AL; Aberdeen, SD; Sioux Falls, SD (dean of the cathedral there), and retired rector of The Church of the Epiphany Guntersville. He has a lively sense of humor. His talk will be based on his book *Hospitality Changes Everything*. You do not want to miss him!

Cost of lunch is \$7.00. Please call the church (256-533-2455) to make your reservation by noon on Monday, Oct 20, 2014.

If you have questions E-mail or call Caffey Litkenhous - cslitk2@me.com or 256-883-2668.

IMS DAY OF SERVICE AND UNITY On the International Day of Peace



On Saturday, September 20, the Interfaith Mission Services (IMS) will sponsor the annual Day of Service and Unity in Madison County. This year it will be held in conjunction with the International World Day of Peace.

Twelve years ago IMS began coordinating the efforts of the faith community encouraging all different faiths, cultures, and backgrounds to come together on behalf of the deserving agencies in our community. Won't you come out and join us! Projects will vary in terms of skills and exertion; however there will be something for everyone to do regardless of age.



You're in the Store

Buy ONE more!

Nursery Families are beginning a new ministry.

Simply pick up an extra pack of diapers and wipes, drop off at the Nursery on Sunday. Collected items will be delivered to children in the Madison County Foster Care Program.

Of the almost 450 children in protective services in Madison County, approximately 1/3 are babies and toddlers. The foster parents only receive \$300 per month per child and are frequently middle or low income themselves. Diapers are a large expense, and these donations will help enormously. All sizes are needed.



The Spiritual Development Committee presents

WEDNESDAYS IN OCTOBER

"Challenges of Big Churches—How do we stay
in

Community?

5:15 pm Dinner (*by reservation*, 256-533-2455)

6:00 pm Guest Speaker

Oct. 1 — The Very Rev. Andrew Pearson, Dean of Cathedral of the Advent, Birmingham

Oct. 8 — The Rev. Glenn Conner, Sr. Pastor, First United Methodist Church, Huntsville

Oct. 15 — The Rev. Dr. Glenda Curry, Rector of All Saints Episcopal Church, Homewood, AL

Oct. 22 — The Rev. Hal Oakley, Pastor, Covenant Presbyterian Church -- Huntsville

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering:

Tazewell Mackey, Liam Mackey, Sue Campbell, Ann Garnett, Lynn Jones, Barry Morton, Betty Ann Council, Lorene Dilworth, Bill Dilworth, Gene Sullivan, Nancy Colin Swenson, Harry Beazley, Carla King, Eileen Sullivan, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl, Isabelle Towry

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

We pray for the departed: RuthAnn Haymes; Tom Robinson; Linda Drzycimski, daughter of Bill and Betty Giardini

We give thanks for the birth of a child Alaina Grace, born July 22 to Sarah and Brad Arnette

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

9/6 Patrick Ahearn, Jr.	9/8 Tate Dollman	9/9 Mary Ceil McClung	9/9 Samantha Rowe
9/9 Emma Baggette	9/12 Micah Watts	9/13 Parker Ellis	9/14 Sara Hutchens
9/15 Lillian Retzke			

Transitions

We welcome those transferred from other parishes

Sean, Belle, John and Katherine Kelly, St. George's, Nashville, Tn
Brian, Iana, Luke, Abigail and Jackson Ham, Stephen's, Huntsville

Newly Baptized:

Thomas Bradley
Genevieve Bradley
Julia Cote and Sarah Cote

Confirmed

Margaret Gleason

Flu & Pneumonia Shots for adults - On Tues-

day, September 23, 9:30 - 11 in the Banister Room.
Debbie Collette will be administering the shots. All are invited to stay for refreshments, with lunch at 11:30.

Cost: \$28 for regular Flu; \$60 for High Dose Flu (65 & over); \$90 for pneumonia shot (*Cost is covered by Medicare and some insurance*); \$8.00 for lunch. *Reservations are required for shots and lunch. Call the Church office by noon Monday, September 22. Sponsored by the Top of the Hill Gang.*



**Thursdays
Through October
4:00 pm—7:00 pm**

Upcoming Baptism Date

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

SAVE THE DATE

**October 24-26, 2014
for**

CAMP DAY at Camp McDowell

Come enjoy the day, or come for the entire week-end. There will be many opportunities to explore Camp McDowell and the wonderful programs and resources "God's Backyard" has to offer. Stay tuned for more information and how to sign up. It will be fun for the everyone!

Parish Financial Report

Period Ending 8/31/2014

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 105,542.82	\$ 107,868.33	\$ 789,188.98	\$ 862,946.68
Plate	\$ 8,785.00	\$ 8,750.00	\$ 64,974.50	\$ 70,000.00
Other Revenues	\$ 6,900.72	\$ 8,381.67	\$ 110,193.53	\$ 67,053.32
TOTAL	\$ 121,228.54	\$ 125,000.00	\$ 964,357.01	\$ 1,000,000.00
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 21,679.00	\$ 25,250.02	\$ 174,044.79	\$ 201,999.92
Personnel	\$ 65,779.06	\$ 67,804.16	\$ 532,175.85	\$ 542,433.36
Other Expenses	\$ 30,813.24	\$ 31,945.83	\$ 242,508.29	\$ 255,566.68
TOTAL	\$ 118,271.30	\$ 125,000.01	\$ 948,728.93	\$ 999,999.96
NET	\$ 2,957.24	\$ (0.01)	\$ 15,628.08	\$ 0.04

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

In Memory of Joe Franklin

Within the Nativity parish office, there is a wonderful lady who makes all things financial run a little bit smoother for all of us. Beverly Franklin is our parish Business Manager. She juggles contributions, payroll, insurance, memorials, reimbursements and our precious Outreach disbursements to those in need around us. A little more than a year ago, Beverly lost her beloved husband, Joe. At that time, Joe was a client of the Huntsville Dialysis Center. In memory of Joe, and in honor of our sweet Beverly, the Outreach Committee and YOU, our parish, will be sending assistance to help with the cost of Handi Ride transportation for one indigent patient to and from their life saving treatments.

The average dialysis patient requires 3 treatments a week, at Handi Ride cost of \$2 each way, the cost of transportation quickly rises to near \$50 per month, or \$600 a year. For the client who is struggling financially and who lacks other transportation support, this can become daunting quickly.



Thank YOU, for making a difference! Thanks to YOU, we can memorialize Joe, and make things a little more smooth for a local dialysis patient this year.

Sunday, Sept. 21, 4:00-6:00 pm

Restoring Broken Trust

Do you have a relationship of broken trust through infidelity, a rebellious youth, an unethical coworker? Come to "Restoring Broken Trust" by author Mark Beaird of The Vine to find hope. No charge for Nativity members. Register at our website, www.vinepcc.com or call 256-270-7399.

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



EYC Church of the Nativity

Youth Notes!

Upcoming EYC Events and a Nativity Youth Athlete of the Week!

EYC at Nativity, Sunday, September 21st 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.

7th & 8th Grade Lake Day at the Stocktons! Sunday, September 28th

All 7th & 8th graders are invited to the Stockton's lake house in Scottsboro for an afternoon of fun! Transportation for 14 will be provided from the church at 12:30 pm and we'll be back at the church for pickup by 7:30 pm (same time Sr. EYC gets out). Go to the 11:00 service? Bring your bathing suit and towel to church! Need to come late or leave early? Let William know. Snacks, meat, drinks, and watermelon will be provided. Please bring snacks, a side dish or dessert to share! Parents, free to drive? Let William know.

Sr. EYC at Nativity, Sunday, September 28th, 5:30 - 7:30 PM

This time, it's just for the high schoolers. 9th-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 small groups before we reconvene and close out the evening with worship.

In case you missed it: Randolph Junior Running Back and Nativity member Evans Alison was WAAY-TV Athlete of the week for the week of September 8th! Congratulations Evans! [Click here to read the full article.](#)

"Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell!"

Those words are forever stamped on my heart. It is a place of wonder, a gift from God to children and adults alike. It is a place where children can grow in God's love and a place for adults to live like children of God again. A visit to Camp McDowell brings us closer to God's creation in nature and makes us aware of His awesomeness and precious love.

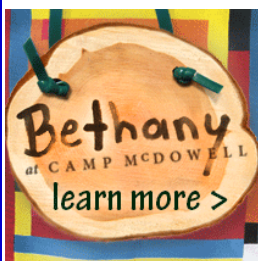
My brothers and I were young campers at Camp McDowell, and all have fond memories of being there. But something about it kept tugging on me and so I found myself on staff at Special Session one year, and many to follow.

Many of you know about Special Session- a specific time during the summer when special needs adult campers come to camp. They are indeed "special." That's where I lost my heart to Christ. That's when I experienced the joy and wonder of where I was through the eyes of others. That's where God gave me the greatest gift of all- He put me in a place He knew would get my attention, and gave me a glimpse of His unconditional love for all. I have not experienced anything like it, ever. There is no joy greater than that of witnessing the joy that the love of Christ brings to others. This is how I have come to believe in the way that Christ wants us in relationship with him and with others.

Camp McDowell allows us the opportunity to leave all busyness behind and really reconnect with God-you know, replace "our" with "His" time. And once we return to our everyday lives, hopefully we take with us some part of that relationship that sustains us until we are once again drawn back to the wonders of Camp McDowell.

The good news is that we are outgrowing Camp McDowell! Bethany Village is growing too in order to meet the needs of so many who long to visit. The response has been awesome, and we are so close to our goal to build a "Nativity" lodge. If you have not yet participated, you don't want to miss out.

Please consider a donation towards our building efforts. Any amount would be considered generous.



Thank you so much,

Wills Brocato

Stewardship of Creation tip

We all want to eat the foods that will give us the best chance for good health and well being, and we want to feed our families and friends the healthiest foods. Here is information to help us do this:

2014 Dirty Dozen Plus

Nonorganic apples topped The Environmental Working Group's *Shopper's Guide to Pesticides in Produce*. Kale, collard greens, and hot peppers were frequently contaminated with insecticides that are particularly toxic to human health.

1. Apples
2. Strawberries
3. Grapes
4. Celery
5. Peaches
6. Spinach
7. Sweet Bell Peppers
8. Nectarines (*Imported*)
9. Cucumbers
10. Cherry Tomatoes
11. Snap Peas (*Imported*)
12. Potatoes
- + Hot Peppers
- + Kale/Collard Greens



2014 Clean 15

It's not all bad news! These produce picks contained the lowest pesticide levels.

1. Avocados
2. Sweet Corn
3. Pineapples
4. Cabbage
5. Sweet Peas (Frozen)
6. Onions
7. Asparagus
8. Mangoes
9. Papayas
10. Kiwi
11. Eggplant
12. Grapefruit
13. Cantaloupe
14. Cauliflower
15. Sweet Potatoes

PESTICIDES IN OUR FOODS...

The Environmental Working Group each year provides a list of the most pesticide-laden produce. This doesn't mean you should stop eating produce in exchange for processed foods, but it does suggest that eating organic as often as possible is a very good way to keep pesticides out of your body and the bodies of your children and others you feed!

This list will also help you find conventional fruits and vegetables with low concentrations of pesticide residues. If a particular item is likely to be high in pesticides, you will have the information to know when to go for organic.

Other Important Findings:

Every sample of imported nectarine samples tested and 99 percent of apple samples tested positive for at least one pesticide residue.

The average potato had more pesticides by weight than any other food.

A single grape tested positive for 15 pesticides.

Single samples of celery, cherry tomatoes, imported snap peas, and strawberries tested positive for 13 different pesticides apiece.

Good News:

Only 1 percent of avocado samples showed any detectable pesticides.

89 percent of pineapples, 82 percent of kiwi, 80 percent of papayas, 88 percent of mango, and 61 percent of cantaloupe had no residues.





Stewardship Thoughts – *What exactly does OUTREACH do?*

We just completed a great Inreach Ministry Fair and now we turn our attention to OUTREACH. All ministries that help build God's kingdom are important, but it is through outreach that we live out many of Jesus' commands as well as the promises we made (or were made for us) at our Baptism.

In Matthew 25:35-36, Jesus lays it on the line regarding how we must treat our neighbors: "For I was hungry and you gave me food, I was thirsty and you gave me something to drink, I was a stranger and you welcomed me, I was naked and you gave me clothing, I was sick and you took care of me, I was in prison and you visited me." Jesus wraps us this lesson by telling those gathered that "...just as you did it to the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me."

In our Baptismal Covenant, we make a series of promises: to proclaim by word and example the Good News of God in Christ, to seek and serve Christ in all persons, to love our neighbors as ourselves, to strive for justice and peace, and to respect the dignity of every human being. To each of these questions, we answer a hearty "*I will!*"

Nativity's strong outreach program gives us many opportunities to carry out Jesus' commands to serve as well as to live out our Baptismal Covenant. Here's a quick look at some of the wonderful works accomplished through our outreach ministries:

Haiti mission trip – hundreds of people receive medical evaluation, medical treatment and medications (including vitamins and supplements), toothbrushes, and medical education

Habitat for Humanity - builds houses for low-income families with monetary and labor support from our parish

KAIROS – this prison ministry receives monetary support from our parish as well as numerous members serving on KAIROS staff; toiletries are donated to indigent prisoners who would otherwise have none of these items

Meals of Wheels – Nativity provides monetary support to this program as well as numerous volunteers who deliver meals

Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) –Nativity parishioners provide food monthly; several parishioners donate their time each month, helping with food, rent, utility bills, and prescription assistance

Hands of Francis and Oscar Mason programs - provides after-school snacks every day for kids who come to the library for homework assistance, and during summer reading programs; additionally 15 families receive food assistance every last Thursday of the month during the school year

Sawyerville Day Camp – Nativity provides a monetary donation as well as cleaning supplies to this program; additionally, Nativity parishioners often provides towels, bathing suites, and other needed supplies for campers

Russell Erskine – residents of Russel Erskine Hotel receive fruit and vegetables from the Greene Street Market during the summer; additionally, they receive holiday treats throughout the year.

These are just a few of the ways that Nativity cares for the hurting and broken world around us. We hope that you will find an outreach ministry that is right for you and get involved! It is what Jesus asks to do and what we promised to do at our Baptism!

Nativity Stewardship Ministry

God's Work of Redemption

Presented by Recovery Ministries
network

September 26-28 at Camp
McDowell

Featuring Stuart Hoke
Call the church office for
registration information.

Join the WEDDING GUILD

The Wedding Guild is looking for new members! Members of the guild work with brides before the rehearsal, assist the clergy with the rehearsal, and coordinate preparations prior to the wedding service. The guild is the welcoming committee, not only for the couple being married at Nativity, but also for their families and guests, many of whom are first-time visitors to our sacred space. Our hope is that everyone associated with each wedding will leave saying what a beautiful experience they had. To learn more about our ministry, call the Wedding Guild chair, Prentice White at 256-665-0561.

Vestry Nominations Slate for 2015 to be presented at Annual Parish Meeting,

November 2, 10:00 am



MARGARET DEVENISH

Margaret became a member of Nativity in 1986 when she and her husband, Tom returned to Huntsville, his childhood home. She and Tom have two grown sons and their last two Newfoundland dogs. She participates in the Stephen Ministry, Eucharistic visitor program, Cursillo and has traveled to Haiti with the medical mission team. Margaret has recently retired and is enjoying sewing and tutoring math at the Adult Learning Center.



ROBERT DUNN

Robert Dunn grew up as an active member of St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Mobile, AL. He attended the U.S. Military Academy graduating in 1975 and served for almost 25 years in the U.S. Army. He was active in many military and civilian Episcopal communities while on active duty. In addition to his BS from West Point, he has a Masters of Engineering and an Engineer degree from the University of Florida. Robert and his wife, Kaaren, moved to Huntsville from Atlanta in 2000 when he retired from the Army and began attending Church of the Nativity. At Nativity, Robert is in his second year of EfM, serves as a Lay Eucharistic Minister, Table Leader for Seeker's Class for past two years, Cursillo, and Blue Apron Greeter during the summer. In 2004, Robert was one of the founders of KAYA Associates, Inc. Robert and Kaaren have three children Sarah (25), Elizabeth (24), and Andrew (20).



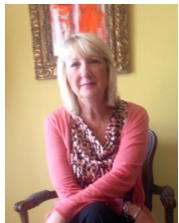
LEE HICKLEN

Lee has been attending Nativity since 2004 and was confirmed in 2010. He is currently serving as Chair of the Outreach Committee, and also as a LEM, Lector, LEV and Intercessor. He represents Nativity on the Huntsville Assistance Program where he is also Treasurer. Lee chose to attend Nativity and become an Episcopalian after serving as Board Member, Interim Pastoral Leader and Deacon at several Metropolitan Community Churches for over 30 years. He holds a Bachelor's and Master's Degree in Music Education and Percussion Performance from Louisiana State University, and is a member of several local musical ensembles.



CHAD HINTON

Chad has attended Nativity since 2007. He and his wife Vicky Rush Hinton were married at Nativity in 2000 and have 2 daughters Vivian and Alice Mae. Chad joined the Episcopal Church in 2004, and prior to that spent a great deal of time volunteering with youth ministry in the Diocese of Alabama while his wife Vicky served as a Youth Ministry and Christian Formation Director for both St. John's Decatur and St. Thomas Huntsville. Chad has served as a volunteer in the WoRM, Men's Breakfast group and Vacation Bible School. He has also served as a member of the program staff for multiple summer sessions at Camp McDowell. Chad has worked for Lockheed Martin for 14 years as an IT Project Manager and is a small business owner of the popular mobile food cart Rocket Dogs. Chad is an active member of the community and has served as a volunteer and in leadership positions with organizations like Leadership Huntsville, Sci-Quest Hands on Science Center, The Arts Council, Salvation Army and Mt. Springs Pool.



LINDA WATTS

Linda and her husband, Steve, have 4 children and 5 grandchildren. She has been a member of Nativity for 7 years. At Nativity, Linda is a member of the Altar Guild and the Wedding Guild. She coordinated volunteers the past 2 years for Wednesday Night Suppers in October and during Lent. She is also starting her second year of EFM. Linda attended Auburn University and received her BA degree from the University of Alabama in Huntsville. She has been employed at Raymond James Financial for the past 13 years where she works in several support staff positions.



BRANDON SMITH

Brandon Smith is a lifelong Episcopalian having grown up at Nativity and St. Matthews in Madison, AL. He is a graduate of the University of Alabama which is where he met his wife, Megan. Brandon and Megan have lived in Huntsville and been members of Nativity since marrying eleven years ago. They have two daughters, Matilda (6) and Piper (2). Brandon holds a Masters of Accountancy from the University of Alabama in Huntsville and is a Certified Public Accountant. He has served Nativity on the Stewardship Committee, as a sponsor for the Seekers class and as an usher. He has volunteered on several non-profit boards in the community.

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, September 29.

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.

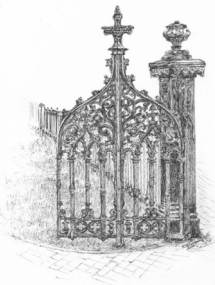
The number to call *In Case of an Emergency Only* is 256-533-7007. All other calls should be directed to church phone 256-533-2455 and follow the prompts to leave a message for a priest to respond.

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

208 Eustis Ave. SE Huntsville, AL 35801

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

www.nativity-hsv.org



ALL SAINTS' MEMORIAL DEDICATIONS

All Saints' Sunday, November 2, 2014 is a splendid time to honor your loved ones by making a memorial gift in their memory. Your gift supports the purchase of annual and perennial plantings, shrubbery, and trees that help make the garden and our church grounds one of Huntsville's most beloved spots for respite and contemplation. Please make your donation by Sunday, October

ber 26 to be included in the special All Saints' Sunday Memorial Service insert. Checks should be payable to Church of the Nativity with annotation, Memorial Garden Fund.