THE STEEPLE



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

The Church of the Nativity

November 5, 2014

Our Mission

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.

A Hopeful and Relevant Future

Annual Meetings are a time for celebration and gratitude. As a parish family this past Sunday, we looked back at the past year with gratitude and joy for our life and ministry together, and the faithfulness of so many who work to make Nativity the strong community we are. In case you missed being with us, look for the Vestry's and Outreach Ministry's multi-media presentations on the Nativity web site in the next week! We are in a strong and stable place; the future looks bright for our life and ministry together.

And so we look toward the future with hope. We elected six faithful new Vestry members who will help lead us into a hopeful future: Margaret Devenish, Robert Dunn, Chad Hinton, Lee Hicklen, Brandon Smith, and Linda Watts. Congratulations and Godspeed!

A question was asked on Sunday, "What is the biggest challenge facing Nativity as we move into that future?" This is a great question, but not so easy to get our arms around. The wider church (not just the Episcopal Church, but "the church") faces many challenges in this world. The social pressures to be a part of the church have been diminishing for over 50 years now. Even in the deep South, "the Bible Belt," people are not coming to church because it is expected of them or the thing to do to be respectable citizens. And so many people are "unchurched" never having grown up in a faith community. Life is so full and busy with our children being more programmed than ever. For many people, "church" is an option among many organizations that vie for our allegiance

So in line with what's going on in the wider culture, attendance at church nationwide is down. Yet, bucking cultural trends for mainline protestant churches, Nativity (and the Episcopal Church in Alabama) is growing. And so we are ahead of the curve even while our attendance at worship remains relatively flat. The number of people we have pledging is down a bit, but our average giving us up much more than inflation over the past 10 years. And so we are in a hopeful position to face the challenges before us.

In light of what we see in the world around us, the biggest challenge we face could be framed as the church's continuing relevance in people's lives and especially in this world that we are called to serve in Christ's name. How can we be relevant to all those people out there in the world when asked to check the box which religion check "None?" Yet, studies show that most "Nones" believe in God. The issue with the vast majority of "Nones" it seems is the church's relevance as a purposeful community.

The world does not need another charitable institution, civic minded club, or even another place where we enjoy each other's company and support. We are in danger of the world simply seeing us as that. And so our biggest challenge is to show people that we offer something far more enduring, satisfying, and purposeful that we are connected to ancient and lasting purposes that will transform the world.

The Anglican spiritual mystic Evelyn Underhill wrote to Archbishop Lang: God is the interesting thing about religion, and people are hungry for God. Divine renewal can only come through those whose roots are sunk deep in God.

This is why we are engaging RenewalWorks at Nativity this fall. A group of 20 parishioners and the clergy are meeting in workshops this fall to discern how we make God and our relationship with God (i.e. spiritual growth) the foundation of all we do.

We believe that connecting to God, building our relationship with the One who created us and the world as a place of blessings to be known and shared, both challenges and enables us to reach out in greater ways to serve a broken and hurting world. This is more than providing a salve for we will work towards justice and the respect of all people created in God's image, transforming our world and the powers that want to limit God's Kingdom breaking into life. Love of God and love of neighbor cannot be separated.

When the world sees this...when the world sees us truly loving each other, and reaching out into the world in love in transforming ways in spite of great challenges, our relevance will indeed be revealed.





For November — Small
Canned Hams, Canned
Vegetables, Canned Fruit,
and Boxed Cereal
Thanks for your generosity!

God willing

The Right Reverend John C. Bauerschmidt, D. Phil.

Will ordain

Bonnie Anne Mixon McCrickard

To the Sacred Priesthood

Saturday, December 13, 2014 10:00am

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal Huntsville, Alabama

Children's Corner

November 13 - 6 pm
Taste of Nativity
Event benefiting Children and
Youth programs within and outside
of Nativity at home of Don and
Kay Wheeler



Nov 30-No Sunday school - Advent Wreath Workshop (see below)

Dec 7 - Feast of St. Nicholas and Pajama Day Club 56 Senior visits

Dec 21 - 2 pm Pageant practice

Dec 24 - 4 pm Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist

Contact Barbara Bonner: bbonner@nativity-hsv.org



Advent Wreath Workshop
November 30 - 10am, Ridley Hall
Celebrate the start of Advent by
making a wreath together!

\$10 for the wreath base and candles, bring your own greenery (holly, boxwood etc) and clippers if you have them.

2nd Annual EYC/HAP Scavenger Hunt

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 16TH

Help us feed the needy this Thanksgiving!
Collect items on the back of this sheet and
put inside this bag.

Live in 35801 or 35802? WE WANT TO PICK THEM UP!

Just place on your porch Collection Times: 1-3pm

Please join the EYC in this fun event! Each item (listed on back) has a point value. The team with the most points (it's boys vs. girls!) will not only enjoy the coveted GOLDEN SPAM AWARD, but also earn the greatest prize of all....

the gift of giving.

All items will be delivered to a HAP by the EYC the day of the event for distribution to families for Thanksgiving.

FOR MORE INFO, CONTACT WILLIAM BLACKERBY 256.534.2455 OR WBLACKERBY@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG

The Great S.P.A.M. Hunt (Serving People A Meal)

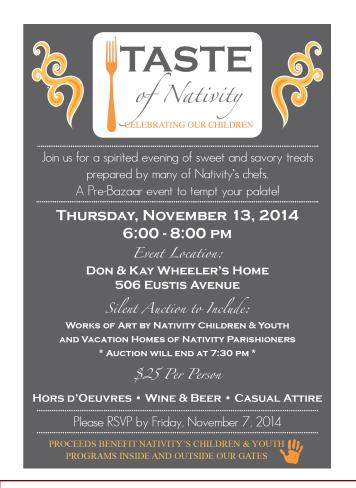
The 2nd Annual Great SPAM Hunt- November 16

And we need your help! The Great SPAM Hunt is a canned good drive/scavenger hunt/friendly boys versus girls competition to collect food for the Huntsville Assistance Program for Thanksgiving. We need your help to make it a success!

On Sunday, November 9th, you can sign up in the Ridley Hall foyer to donate groceries or money. Then on the 16th, one of the teams will come by your house (if you live in the 35801 or 35802 zip code) to pick up your grocery donations.

Find out more and pick up a grocery list at the sign-up table, or email wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org.





CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL

ANNUAL BAZAAR

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 20, 2014

Wonderful crafts, baked goods, casseroles, and the best lunch around!

CRAFTS AND BAKE SALE BEGIN AT 10:30AM
DINE-IN LUNCH - TWO SEATINGS
11:15AM AND 12:30PM

For luncheon reservations: Marilyn Grundy (256) 509-9962 mtgrundy@yahoo.com

PROCEEDS BENEFIT
THE BOYS AND GIRLS CLUBS OF NORTH ALABAMA
THE CHILDREN AND YOUTH OF NATIVITY
THE OSCAR MASON CENTER

ADDITIONAL BAZAAR INFORMATION

There will be a sign-up table in Ridley Hall for all Bazaar activities on Sunday Nov 9th and 16th

Taste of Nativity RSVP information:

Contact Kate Noble Purvis (256.270.9447) by November 7th

To make donations, both baked and frozen goods:

Contact Kim Windham (256.658.5522)

Rkimwindham @ bellsouth.net

Crafts: Contact Mary Wilson 256.859.61400

wilsonmd50@googlemail.com

If you or someone you know is interested in having a booth please contact Mary as well.

Luncheon Reservations for either the 11:15am or 12:30pm seating are \$15 each or \$100 for a table for 8.

Contact Marilyn Grundy (256.509.9962) or mtgrundy@yahoo.com

Take-out lunches must be ordered in advance

Contact Mary Beth Wilson (256.509.7262) or crazywilsons@yahoo.com.

Take-out lunches are available between 10:30 and 11:30am on November 20

Raffle tickets: \$1/ticket, 6 tickets for \$5, or 12 tickets for \$10 will be available for sale by calling

Sarah Gessler (256.534.4233) or Sarahwgessler@gmail.com

Table Decorations will be done by Kelli Markwalter and Jean Warren. They will also be for sale following the event.

For additional information, contact Beth Morring (256.520.6500) or Bmorring@knology.net

Co-chairs: Beth Morring and Madeline Mullins

Thanks for your contributions for our Bazaar!

Stewardship Thoughts

Your faithful stewardship enables many ministries through Nativity



A few years ago, Bishop Kee Sloan addressed covenantal giving by parishes in the Diocese. Kee told us that some parishes viewed this giving as a "bill" from the Diocese: something they had to do rather than something that they wanted to do. He then grabbed everyone's attention by telling us that GIVING = MINISTRY! Following that statement, we viewed an inspiring video showing the MANY ways that our contributions are used to change lives around the Diocese and the world. This was a powerful presentation and demonstrated the true meaning of stewardship.

The fact that "giving = ministry" is equally true at the parish level. At Nativity, like most parishes, the majority of expenses are fixed. This includes salaries and benefits, routine care of our buildings, utilities and insurance, and covenantal support to the Diocese and Sewanee. When pledges do not meet expectations, this results in a shortfall for our discretionary expenses, such as outreach, programming, and historic preservation.

I hope that you had the opportunity to see the excellent video presentations at the Annual Parish Meeting this past Sunday. Our Outreach Committee produced a video that highlighted the many outreach projects supported by our time, talent, and financial resources. Even those of us who are involved with the Stewardship Ministry were impressed with the scope and depth of Nativity's outreach efforts. If you were not able to view the video Sunday, look for it on the Nativity website soon!

We have a goal of receiving a pledge of financial support from every household that calls Nativity their spiritual home. Nearly 200 Nativity families have clearly taken the phrase "giving = ministry" to heart by submitting their pledge for 2015. We hope that you will join them by submitting your pledge in one of the following ways: drop your pledge card in one of the baskets during a Sunday service or mail it to the church office, or pledge on-line (nativity-hsv.org). You can be sure that whether you are already tithing or just starting to work toward that goal, whether you have been pledging for years or have just begun to pledge, or in whatever situation you may find yourself, all pledges are important in God's eyes and to the ministries of our parish.

If you have already made a pledge for 2015, THANK YOU! If you have not yet pledged, please pray about your response and submit your pledge card. Just imagine how your gift will transform lives!

Nativity Stewardship Ministry

2014 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION

મેં મેં મેં મેં મેં મોં મોં મોં મેં મેં મેં મેં મેં મેં મેં મેં મોં મોં મોં મેં મેં મેં મેં મેં મેં મેં મોં મો

| | 2014 CHRISTMAS | FLOWER DEDICATION | | |
|-------|--|--|--|--|
| 17777 | Please complete and mail this form with your check payable to "Flower Guild" | | istmas dedications are \$20 each. ASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION | |
| | to Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave Huntsville, AL 35801. | Please be specific by underlining or circling your desired dedication below: | | |
| | All dedications will read: | | | |
| | "To the glory of God and "in loving memory of" | "in thanksgiving for" | "in celebration of" | |
| 2000 | Name for this dedication: | | | |
| なななない | Your Name as it is to be listed in Christmas service leaf | let (if you do not wish your liste | ed, please indicate) | |
| | | Phone #: | | |

Sewanee Lessons & Carols - Sunday, December 7th. Bus departs Nativity at 1:55pm. \$50 per person includes: round-trip luxury coach, Episcopal happy hour enroute, reserved seating, and dinner at \$t. Mary's Conference Center following the service. Contact Connie in the church office for reservations. Payment required at the time of the reservation. For more information, contact \$am Porter (256.651.8990).

Friends of Music Presents...

Rachel Laurin

French Canadian Organist & Composer Friday, November 21st at 7:30pm

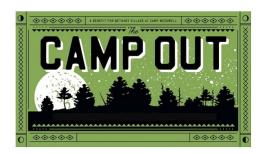
Organist, composer and improviser, Rachel Laurin was born in 1961, in St-Benoît, Province of Quebec, Canada. After her studies at the Montreal Conservatory, she became Associate Organist at St-Joseph's Oratory, Montreal (1986-2002), and from 2002 to 2006, she was Titular Organist at Notre Dame Cathedral, Ottawa.

She now devotes herself to composition, recitals, master classes and lectures.

6th Annual Nativity Women's Retreat

Friday, February 20 – Saturday, February 21, 2015 One Night Only! St. Mary's Sewanee, Tennessee

Our speaker is Courtney Cowart author of, "An American Awakening: From Ground Zero to Katrina: The People We are Free to Be." After she spoke last year at Nativity, I called and invited her to be our retreat leader the next day!! This young lady is a delightful speaker with an amazing story you will never forget! She is a theologian who witnessed the two greatest catastrophes in recent American history- the 9/11 tragedy and the devastation of Hurricane Katrina and how she actively participated in the healing of both. Mark your calendars. I can't wait to see all of you there and if there are any questions, let me know. Thank you, Lane Tutt



Back by popular demand, the Camp Out fundraiser for Bethany at Camp McDowell is back!
Join us November 22, 2014 from 6:00-9:00 at Good People Brewing Company across from Regions Field. Enjoy great food and beverages, live music, and take advantage of a unique art auction. Food will be provided by Little Donkey. Questions? Send an email to bethanycampout@gmail.com.

"Greene Street Market Store Volunteers needed"

Starting November 3rd store hours will be Monday thru Friday 10am - 5pm, and Sundays during the services. With the new store hours, we need two volunteers per day to work 3.5 hours each (10:00-1:30, and 1:30-5:00). 10 volunteers are needed; each volunteer working one shift per week.

Each volunteer receives detailed training in what they need to operate the store.

This is a very rewarding service due to our friendly local clientele, and supporting Nativity's Outreach program. For details about volunteering, please call Hanns Billmayer at (256.883.5739) or venhan@att.net

Market store needs:

Egg cartons Store bags (plastic or paper)



Interested in attending a Cursillo weekend in 2015?

Cursillo is an incredible spiritual experience that begins with a 3-day weekend retreat at Camp McDowell. Cursillo means "short course in Christianity" and covers many basic Christian concepts over the weekend. Eucharist is held each day and, while the movement is lay led, there are three clergy available during each Cursillo weekend. Nativity has been a strong participant in Cursillo since its introduction into Alabama in the late 70sThe Nativity Cursillo community will hold an informational dinner event at the home of Kay and Don Wheeler on Sunday, January 11, 2015. This no-pressure event will give attendees an overview of the Cursillo weekend and answer any questions. The Cursillo weekend schedule for 2015 is below (you only attend ONE Cursillo weekend!):

March 12-15, 2015 April 9-12, 2015 June 11-14, 2015 September 10-13, 2015 October 8-11, 2015 (Cursillo #200!)

Debbie and David Collette serve as the lay rectors for the Nativity Cursillo community. Please feel free to contact us if you have questions or would like to begin the application process. You can contact us at (256.830.2451) or drc3898@knology.net.



Stewardship of Creation - Terms to Know A handy guide to some useful terms

Here are some terms to know when considering the environmental and health impact of certain products and practices. This information can be helpful when evaluating/comparing/making decisions about the purchase or use of things such as styrofoam food containers or other products, eating GMO food items, or measuring the carbon footprint of our driving and our heating or cooling practices.

Knowledge is power and can help us be good Stewards of God's Creation.

Biodegradable - Biodegradable, as referenced by the Federal Trade Commission, refers to the fact that a product will break down and return to nature within a reasonably short time after customary disposal. To take this description further, it is important to note that most landfills are designed with one objective: to prevent the decomposition of the items they contain. Very few items that end up there will fully decompose in less than one year (including undeniably-organic grass clippings and leaves from trees).

Bio-plastic - Plastics made from corn, potato or other annually renewable, biodegradable, and compostable sources.

Carbon Footprint - A measure of the impact human activities have on the environment in terms of the amount of greenhouse gases produced, measured in units of carbon dioxide. It is meant to be useful for individuals and organizations to conceptualize their personal (or organizational) impact in contributing to global warming.

GMO - Genetically modified organism (GMO) which means an organism whose genetic material has been altered using genetic engineering techniques. These techniques, generally known as recombinant DNA technology, use DNA molecules from different sources, which are combined into one molecule to create a new set of genes. This DNA is then transferred into an organism, giving it modified genes.

Life Cycle Analysis - The key measurement tool for environmental sustainability is Life Cycle Assessment (LCA). LCA is a technique for assessing the environmental impacts associated with a product (or service), covering all stages in a product's life.

Life Cycle Inventory - A product's cycle starts when raw materials are extracted from the earth, followed by manufacturing, transport and use, and ends with waste management including recycling and final disposal. At every stage of the life cycle there are emissions and consumption of resources. The environmental impacts from the entire life cycle of products and services need to be addressed. To do this, life cycle thinking is required.

Polystyrene - Material used for many disposable or one-time-use containers. It goes by many names, Styrofoam being one. Polystyrene is a <u>petroleum-based</u>, <u>non-renewable resource material</u> that is not accepted by most recycling centers. <u>Polystyrene releases 57 chemical by-products during manufacturing and can leach chemicals into food when heated.</u> These chemicals threaten human health and reproductive systems. <u>Polystyrene is listed by the EPA as a possible human carcinogen</u>. It also is often dumped into the environment as litter. This material is notorious for breaking into pieces that choke animals and clog their digestive systems. Some cities and counties have already outlawed polystyrene foam.

Renewable Resource - A naturally-restoring source that regenerates at a percentage equal to, or faster than, the human consumption rate. Annually renewable resources are those naturally-restoring sources that can regenerate within one year. Renewable resources and energy sources offer improved efficiency, are more cost-effective, and are inexhaustible. Renewable resources differ from resources that once depleted never return, such as fossil fuels. Renewable resources can include perpetually sustainable resources that never run out, such as solar power.

Recyclable - Material that still has useful physical or chemical properties after serving its original purpose and can be reused or remanufactured to make new products. Paper, glass, steel and aluminium cans, used oil and some plastics are examples of recyclable materials.

Sustainable - A way of life in which the use of natural resources does not destroy them for future use.

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, November 11 Suggested donation \$5

6:30 am Simple Eucharist in Bibb Chapel

7:00 am Guest Speaker, Michael Shipley, speaking on his Kairos experience

INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering: Danny McWilliams, Anne Pollard, Mary Ann Akin, Julia Perry, Steve Brouse, Jeannie Robison, Diane Nettles, Sarah Dement, Bob Hale, Aubrey Tycer, Tazewell Mackey, Liam Mackey, Lea Ellison, Stephen Dufrechu, Lynn Jones, Barry Morton, Ann Garnett, Lorene Dilworth, Bill Dilworth, Gene Sullivan, Nancy Colin Swenson, Harry Beazley, Carla King, Eileen Sullivan, Elsie Olsen, Leigh Wahl

We pray for the birth of a child:

Wilson Samuel Reed, son of Camille & Gavin Reed, grandson of Lisa & Frank Caprio, born October 27 Marion Beirne Spragins V, to parents Mallory & Bo Spragins. born October 1

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

We pray for the departed: Dorothy Naus, mother of Robert Naus; Nancy Wayne Hendricks; Christopher James Shaffer, son of Maureen Baird

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

| 11/7 Holland Ray | 11/7 Anne Wilson | 11/7 Caroline Knight | 11/7 | Bailey Benton |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|----------------------|-------|-------------------|
| 11/8 Zoe Church | 11/8 Rowan Cline | 11/9 Jackson Knight | 11/10 | Maura Berman |
| 11/10 Caroline Hornsby | 11/10 Sarah Coleman Hornsby | 11/10 Morgan Watkins | 11/10 | Steuart Evans |
| 11/11 Ellie Webber | 11/15 Evans Bryant | 11/15 Peyton Mickle | 11/17 | Frederick Fortner |

Acolyte Schedule November 2014

| Nov 2 | 8:45 A/M C Sherrill | 11:00 A/M D Nutt |
|-------|----------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| | C Allie Starnes, Meredith Walker | C Emily Evans, John Sadler Evans |

T Clay Walker T Laura Kate Evans, Sims Windham T Margaret Foster T Emery Windham S Ellie Walker 5 Bankston Creech AS Palmer Ford AS John Sadler Evans

Nov 2 Evensong 5 PM **Arrive no later than 4:45 A/M D Nutt

T Sarah Whelden Hall C Kate Noble Hall Thurifer Karl Schneider

Nov 9 8:45 A/M N Putt 11:00 A/M D Nutt

C Jordan Cozby*, Savannah Watson C Jackson Anglin, Forrest Webber T Park Ellis T Alice Malone, Patrick Ahearn T Cameron Pinson T Ella Jane Duncan*

5 Alexander Young S Jordan Cozby AS Britt Webber AS Parker Sanders

8:45 A/M N Putt Nov 16

11:00 A/M M Ward C Cassidy Bates, Neill Luther C Alison Taylor, Molly Ward T Leighton Luther, Chris Laney T Mary Kate Brooks, Luke Alison T Sam Hartley, Evelyn Warren T Evan Ward, Evans Alison S John Laney 5 Dylan Chenoweth AS Van Dodgen AS Molly Ward

8:45 A/M M Ward Nov 23

11:00 A/M D Nutt C Franklin Aldag, Gillian Sharp C Powell Stockton, Jordan Cozby* T Elizabeth Evans, Ireland Braudaway T Chloe Parsons T Ella Jane Duncan*

T Joshua Huskey S David DiFranco 5 Caroline Knight AS Steuart Evans AS Jack Benton Stockton

Nov 30 8:45 A/M M Ward

11:00 A/M C Sherrill C SL Miller, Emily Ellison C Karsten Correale, Maria Caprio T Katherine Hunter, Hall Blake Bryant T Laura Kamelchuk T Paxtyn Whitney, Margaret Bryant T Cindy Kamelchuk S Windham Hunter S Robert McCown

AS Sidney Gunter AS Evan Ellison

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: gsommer@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is Monday noon, November 17.

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

Glenn Sommer

Communications

Prentice White

Verger/Wedding Coordinator

WARDENS' COUNCIL

Lou Durnya Sr Warden Frederick Lanier Jr Warden

Mishala Hambar Clark

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

| Walking the Way | Church of the Nativity, Episcopal Pledge Commitment for Year 2015 | | |
|--------------------|---|--|--|
| | Name | | |
| | Address | | |
| 10.26 E | PhoneEmail | | |
| | Accept this pledge as a symbol of my/our commitment to follow Jesus through the intentional practice of giving. I/We offer this pledge in gratitude for all the ways this community supports me/us in following the Way of Jesus. | | |
| | In faith and prayer my/our commitment is \$ annually | | |
| | to be given () weekly () monthly () quarterly () annually | | |
| | I would like pledge envelopes: () Yes () No | | |

Have you pledged?