

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

December 3, 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.

An Invitation from Bishop Sloan to St. Timothy's Athens

Tuesday, December 9, 6:30 p.m.

Hello friends: There are two equal and opposite errors I would like to avoid here, either of which could bite us if I'm not careful, both of which have to do with the work of the Bishops' Commission on Generous Pastoral Response. This is a group your bishops have gathered to help us consider how we as a diocese can allow for and bless lifelong committed relationships between all people, while at the same time allowing those who find blessing same sex unions immoral or unethical the freedom to not participate. One error would be to keep the work of the Commission so quiet that it seems secretive and sneaky, as if things are happening in an underhanded or devious way. The other would be to talk about it too much, so that the people who are not in favor of this development feel their anxieties rise, as if it's being jammed down their throats. This is an important moment in the life of our church, so I want to be as transparent as I can be, and give you all a progress report.

The members of the Bishops' Commission on Generous Pastoral Response and their parishes are listed on page 5 of the Steeple. I want to thank these folks for all of their good work so far; I'm sure any of them would be glad to talk to you – I've warned them that I'm going to put their names in print. They all know that this is a difficult and sensitive issue for many of us, for a variety of reasons; they know that some of us are impatient that we make more progress more quickly, and that others of us wish this could just go away. Indeed, the people on the Commission represent the spectrum of opinion about this, and agree that the unity of the Church in the face of issues that can be divisive is a primary value.

The 2012 General Convention approved the blessings of unions between people of the same sex – not marriage, but the blessing of lifelong committed relationships – as authorized by diocesan bishops. So ultimately it's each bishop's decision. I believe this is the right thing for us to do, and I believe it's very important that we do it properly, in such a way that we bring as many of us along as we can. I think it's very important to be inclusive: including those who are more conservative than I am and those who are more liberal. The purpose of the Bishops' Commission on Generous Pastoral Response is to help us design a policy for authorizing parishes to bless same-sex unions, paying careful attention to the health of the diocese and the unity of the church.

The Commission has worked well and faithfully to develop that policy. The next step will be for us to present the policy in a series of hearings at convocation meetings in December and January. I hope you will come (**St. Timothy's Athens, Tuesday, Dec. 9 at 6:30 p.m.**) and that you'll tell us what you think. I hope you'll come because you love our Lord and His Church, and I hope that we will resist the temptation to draw party lines that divide us, and that we'll listen to each other in love and respect, as the children of God should. As I said in my convention address, "We're not interested in gathering people from way over there to toss words at people who are way over there. We've tried that for years – it doesn't work, it's not the Church. We want to gather people who understand that the unity of the Church is an obligation of ours, and who want to find a way forward."

The Bishops' Commission on Generous Pastoral Response is well on our way to fashioning a policy for us to use as a diocese to allow some to bless the unions between people of the same sex, while at the same time respecting the convictions of those who do not wish to do this. We'll all have a chance to discuss the policy before it is put to use. This is an issue that has been the eye of a storm throughout the Church, and has the potential to be divisive and ugly. It also has the potential for us to come together and show the rest of the Church how Christians should behave, that in the Diocese of Alabama we love our Lord Jesus more than we need to win a fight, and that we value the unity of the Church more than our need to be correct.

I believe this is a good way forward for us, and I ask for your help and support.

Continued on Page 5



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

+
KEE



GOD WILLING

THE RIGHT REVEREND JOHN C. BAUERSCHMIDT,
D. PHIL.

WILL ORDAIN

THE REV. BONNIE ANNE MIXON MCCRICKARD

TO THE SACRED ORDER OF PRIESTS

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2014

AT TEN O'CLOCK IN THE MORNING AT

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

208 EUSTIS AVENUE, SE

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

RECEPTION TO FOLLOW CLERGY RED STOLES

YOUR PRAYERS AND PRESENCE ARE REQUESTED

Children's Corner

Dec 7 - 8:45am

Feast of St. Nicholas

Pajama Day

Kids can wear pajamas to the service and bring a book with a pair of pajamas for a child at the Oscar Mason party.

St. Nicholas will make a special visit to children's chapel during the 8:45 service.

11:00am Club 56 Senior visits

Dec 11 - 3:00pm

Christmas Party at the Oscar Mason Library

Online signup here: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/10c094ca8a62ca2fc1-pajama2>

Volunteers needed. Contact Barbara

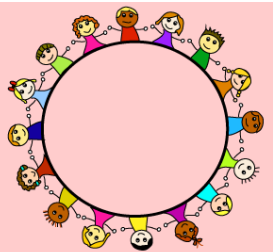
Dec 14 - 2:00pm All Ages Caroling at HarborChase

HarborChase Assisted Living (4801 Whitesport Circle Huntsville).

Dec 21 - 2 pm Pageant practice

Dec 24 - 4 pm Christmas Pageant and Holy Eucharist

Contact Barbara Bonner: bbonner@nativity-hsv.org



EYC Church of the Nativity

Youth Notes!

Advent Activities

There is LOTS going on this December for youth to be involved in! Mark your calendars for the upcoming events:

- **Sunday, December 7th, 5:30-7:30 PM: EYC at Nativity!** Come for supper, games, program, fellowship and fun. All 7th-12th graders (and friends!) are invited.
- **Sunday, December 14th, check weekly email blast for time: Santa's Village:** Here's a great way to give back to the community during the month of December. We'll meet at the church and walk over to Santa's Village to volunteer for the evening. Come ready to put on costumes and be silly to put a smile on our neighbors' faces! All 7th-12th graders and friends are invited!
- **Friday, December 19th, 4:00 PM: Chrismons and Caroling!** Come to church after school gets out to continue the Nativity tradition of decorating the tree in the nave with Chrismons. After that, we'll have a little party with plenty of Christmas cheer before we visit several homes for caroling. Keep an eye on the weekly email blast for more details.
- **Holiday Break:** There will be no EYC on Sunday, December 21 or Sunday, December 28, but I'm looking forward to hanging out with several Nativity youth at **Camp McDowell for Christmas Conference!** 9th-12th graders, it is not too late to sign up! [Click here for information and registration.](#) EYC will resume after the holidays on January 4 at 5:30 in the LOFT.

ADVENT CALENDAR

A Clarinet Christmas

Thursday, December 4, 7:30pm

Start the holiday season with A Clarinet Christmas in the Church. The Clarion Winds clarinet choir will perform traditional holiday favorites and classical interpretations of lesser known carols.

The Clarion Winds will host refreshments starting at 6:45pm in Ridley Hall prior to the concert. How better to enjoy an evening with delightful homemade cakes and cookies along with a lovely, cheerful holiday concert.

Advent Quiet Day

Saturday, December 6, 9:00am - St. Thomas Episcopal Church of the Nativity and St. Thomas will host a day of silence and spiritual consciousness. There will be several reflective activities along with a Eucharist. The program ends at 2:00pm although you may leave at any time. An optional lunch is \$10. Please call St. Thomas (256.880.0247) to reserve a spot.

WoRM Pajama Day

Sunday, December 7, 8:45am

Sewanee Lessons & Carols - SOLD OUT!

Sunday, December 7

Bus departs Nativity at 1:55pm.

Caroling

Sunday, December 14, 2:00pm
HarborChase Assisted Living center

Nativity Lessons and Carols

A Service of nine Lessons and Carols for Advent
in the style of Kings College, Cambridge

Saturday, December 20, 5:00pm
Nativity Choir (church)

Christmas Eve Services

4:00pm

Children's Christmas Pageant

7:30pm

Festal Eucharist

10:30pm

Choral Holy Eucharist

Christmas Day Service

10:00am
Bibb Chapel

ADVENT HAPPENINGS

Advent Coffee Sale

Starting November 30



The Outreach committee will be selling ½ pound bags of KaffeeKlatsch Nativity Blend after the 8:45 and 11:00 services. The cost is \$10 per bag, and proceeds help the Haiti Medical Mission Team purchase medical equipment for the clinics. Anyone wishing to purchase a large order should email Lee Hicklen: athonyhclen@knology.net

Art and Literature Class - Advent Series

December 7th, 14th and 21st, 10:00am (Ridley Hall)

This class will be using the book, **The Glory of Angels** by Edward Lucie-Smith. It is \$25.84 from Amazon. Participants are encouraged to purchase their copy and bring it to the first class. This class is led by Lynne Berry, Jeannie Robison, and Walter Thames.

FOCAL Gifts

December 7th, Gift Blessing during the 8:45 service
All gifts should be wrapped and returned to the Church by 8:15am. For more information, contact Gail or Ronnie Rogers (256.539.8044).

FIRST STOP Coat and Blanket Drive

Through the Advent Season

Nativity is accepting donations for FIRST STOP, a non-profit organization promoting the overall rehabilitation of homeless citizens in Huntsville and Madison County. Items needed are: new or gently used blankets, winter coats (mens especially needed), gloves, and athletic socks. Look for the donation boxes in Ridley Hall and the church office.



HAP Sunday is December 14

Items needed — Canned Meat, Canned Vegetables, Canned Fruit, Little Debbie Holiday Pastries, Peanut Butter, Jelly, Dried Beans, Rice
Thanks for your generosity!

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, December 9 *Suggested donation \$5*

6:30 am Simple Eucharist in Bibb Chapel

7:00 am Guest Speaker, Mark Russell, Huntsville City Council President

Stewardship Thoughts

Advent gives us the perfect opportunity to talk about stewardship



Here we are in Advent, sandwiched between the frenzy of Black Friday and the drive to put on the perfect Christmas. Most people have their mind on anything but Christian stewardship at this time, but it is actually very appropriate that we talk about this topic now.

We celebrated Thanksgiving just a few days ago. Thanksgiving gave us all a chance to reflect back on the many things for which we are thankful. Maybe you are thankful for your family, your job, your church, your relationship with God, and many other things – all made possible through the grace of God.

We will celebrate Christmas in just a few short weeks. Christmas gives us a chance to look forward to what can be with the Light of Christ coming into the world. It is a time of anticipation, hope, and joy as we celebrate God's presence among us.

As you ponder these thoughts about Thanksgiving and Christmas, it is only appropriate to re-write the first sentence above as "Here we are in Advent, between the gratitude of Thanksgiving and the hope of Christmas." Advent places right in the middle of reflecting on the gifts God has given us and the promise he has for us in Jesus Christ. There is no better time to think about how we should respond to His grace than right now.

If you have already submitted your pledge for the building of God's kingdom through the mission and ministry of the Church of the Nativity in 2015, THANK YOU!

If you have not yet pledged, please take a moment now to thank God for all he has given you and for all he promises you in the New Year through his son, Jesus Christ. Then, take a moment today to respond as God is calling you. You can make your pledge in several ways:

- + Place your completed pledge card in the alms basin during the offertory
- + Mail your completed pledge card to the church office (208 Eustis Ave Huntsville AL 35801)
- + Call (256-533-2455) or email Beverly Franklin bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org with your pledge
- + Pledge [online](http://nativity-hsv.org) from the Nativity website [nativity-hsv.org]

We hope that you had a Happy Thanksgiving and are looking forward to a Merry Christmas. But for now, have a wonderful Advent season as we give thanks for all He has given us and look forward to what He has in store for us in the New Year!

Nativity Stewardship Ministry

FOCAL Gifts blessed on Sunday, December 7 ***Foster Children Alliance of Madison County***

FOCAL is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for children in foster care in Madison County. They assist foster children and their foster families with resources to meet their many needs that cannot be obtained thru the foster care system.

On the 1st Sunday in December (December 7th this year) we take the gifts to the altar to be blessed. Nativity's children get to experience offering the gifts to be blessed by helping to carry the gifts into the church. Many parents also let their children choose which gift request they fulfill and to shop for the gift.

The FOCAL board with the gift requests is in Ridley Hall. Instructions are with the boards. A list of "generic" gifts is there also if you would like to help in that way.

- Ronnie and Gail Rogers

Adult Christian Formation Classes

Libba Walker Bible Study for 2015.

Begins Wednesday, January 7th through February 11th, 2015 - 6:00p.m. Joffrion Hall Library.

The book that will be used is ***24 Hours That Changed the World*** by Adam Hamilton.

You can order at Amazon.

Contact: Lane Tutt- 256-653-7200.

****New Sunday School Class****

begins January 11 through February 8, 2015 – Bibb Chapel.

Short Stories By Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi by Amy – Jill Levine. (Illuminates the parables often in surprising ways) Leaders: Mari Zimmerman, Evie Spearman, Marilyn Evans, and Mary Coral Murphree. The book can be ordered on Amazon.

MEMBERS OF BISHOP'S COMMISSION ON GENEROUS PASTORAL RESPONSE TO SAME-GENDER BLESSINGS IN THE DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

Zac Abramson, Trinity Florence;
Robin Anderson, Advent Cathedral, Birmingham;
Peggy Canterbury, Canterbury Chapel Tuscaloosa;
Jonathan Chesney, Holy Trinity Auburn;
Ron delBene, Epiphany Leeds;
Michael Goldsmith, Resurrection Rainbow City;
Kelley Hudlow, the Abbey Birmingham;
Thomas Joyner, Birmingham Campus Ministries;
Andrea Peacock, St. James' Alexander City;
Bertram Perry, St. Andrew's Birmingham;
Paul Pradat, St. Thomas Huntsville;
Lee Shafer, Grace Anniston;
Robert Wisnewski, St. John's Montgomery.

Bishop Sloan's message can be accessed by clicking:
http://www.dioala.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3168467

A document about *The Witnessing and Blessing of a Lifelong Covenant* is available on Nativity's website:
<http://nativity-hsv.org/lifelongcovenant.html>

Art in the Bannister Room This month's art is provided by, 'The Committee,' a group of ten women artists who share similar visions in their desire to create. Each artist offers a unique and individual view through mediums and styles.

Their work is on display throughout the Bannister Room (located between the Church and Ridley Hall).

Stop by and take a look.



2015 Cursillo Informational Dinner

Sunday, January 11, 2015. Mark your Calendars and Save the Date! The Nativity Cursillo Community will hold an informational dinner for those who are interested in finding out more about Cursillo and possibly attending a Cursillo weekend in 2015.

This event will be held at the home of Don and Kay Wheeler. If you would like to attend this event, please RSVP to David Collette at drc3898@knology.net

Upcoming Events at St. Mary's Sewanee

JANUARY 3, 2015

One-Day Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop
Centering Prayer is a method of prayer that prepares us to receive the gift of contemplative prayer.

JANUARY 4, 2015 - JANUARY 11, 2015

Eight Day Intensive and Post-intensive Centering Prayer Retreat

This retreat is an opportunity for practitioners of Centering Prayer to deepen their contemplative journey in the contemporary world.

To make reservations or get more information:

<http://www.stmaryssewanee.org>

Nativity Women's Retreat St. Mary's, Sewanee, Tennessee February 20-21, 2015 Registration

Name: _____

Email: _____

Phone: _____

Roommate request*: _____

*double occupancy allows for the greatest
number of women to participate

Cost: \$145.00 per person

LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE

*** Deadline ***

Return your registration form & FULL payment no later than
January 30, 2015 to:

Church of the Nativity
ATTN: Lane Tutt
208 Eustis Avenue SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

Questions? Contact Lane Tutt

ltutt@nativity-hsv.org

256-533-2455 / 256-653-7200

PICTURE PAGE

Club 56 members proudly display the socks they collected, along with their handmade Christmas cards, for the First Stop clothing drive.



EYC Youth prepare college freshman care packages at their Nov 30th bonfire



December 2014 ~ Acolyte Schedule

This is a big month for Acolytes at Nativity! There are many extra services commensurate with the season, as well as Rev'd Bonnie McCrickard's Ordination on Sat Dec 13 at 10 am. It's an important service, as at least two Bishops will be in attendance! If you are unable to serve as scheduled, ESPECIALLY for the Ordination or Christmas Eve services, PLEASE let us know right away. It's highly likely you're scheduled more than once this month, so look over the whole schedule carefully—also note some services require early arrival. Thank you all so much for your efforts in our wonderful Acolyte ministry here at Nativity!

Dec 7	8:45A/M Nina Putt C Tindall Moring, Palmer Ford T Evelyn Warren, Paxtyn Whitney T Huston Moring, S Cassidy Bates AS Sidney Gunter	11:00 A/M Clay Sherrill C Emily Evans, Allie Starnes T Mary Kate Brooks, John Sadler Evans T Laura Kamelchuk, Laura Kate Evans S Bankston Creech AS Riley Kamelchuk
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Dec 13 SATURDAY Ordination 10:00 A.M. *Please arrive by 9:30 for instruction

A/M Dorrie Nutt, Mike Ward C Emily Ellison, Jordan Cozby T Sidney Gunter, Dylan Chenoweth	T Margaret Foster, Patrick Ahearn Banners: Palmer Ford, Parker Sanders
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Dec 14	8:45A/M Mike Ward C Maria Caprio, Kate Noble Hall T Evan Ward, Karsten Correale T Parker Sanders, Joshua Huskey S Molly Ward AS Sarah Whelden Hall	11:00 A/M Clay Sherrill C Emily Ellison, Scott Louis Miller T Ella Jane Duncan, Alice Malone T Elizabeth Bryant S Evan Ellison AS Hall Blake Bryant
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Dec 20 SATURDAY Lessons and Carols 5:00 P.M.

A/M Dorrie Nutt C Kate Noble Hall T Sarah Whelden Hall	Thurifer Karl Schneider T Jackson Anglin
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Dec 21	8:45A/M Nina Putt C Gillianne Sharp, Franklin Aldag T Patrick Ahearn, Caroline Knight T Van Dodgen S Alexander Young AS Cameron Pinson	11:00 A/M Dorrie Nutt C Jordan Cozby, Savannah Watson T Evans Alison, Elizabeth Evans T Luke Alison, Steuart Evans S Robert McCown AS Allison Taylor
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Dec 24 CHRISTMAS EVE *Please arrive no later than 20 min prior to all services for instruction!

4:00 A/M Nina Putt, Dorrie Nutt C Meredith Walker, Sims Windham T Caroline Knight, Emery Windham AS Margaret Foster	T Britt Webber, Ireland Braudaway S Ellie Walker Banners: Park Ellis, Forrest Webber, Clay Walker
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7:30 A/M Mike Ward, Clay Sherrill C Windham Hunter, Gillianne Sharp T Cameron Pinson, Molly Ward AS Katherine Hunter	T Sam Hartley, Evan Ward S Robert McCown Banners: Joshua Huskey, Patrick Ahearn
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10:30 A/M Dorrie Nutt C Allie Starnes, Jordan Cozby T Dylan Chenoweth, Chris Laney S Alexander Young Banners: Powell Stockton, Savannah Watson, Scott Louis Miller	Thurifer John Laney T Jack Benton Stockton, Allison Taylor AS David DiFranco
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Dec 28 SUNDAY **One service only: 10:00 A.M.

A/M Dorrie Nutt C guest crucifer, Neill Luther T Leighton Luther AS Parker Sanders	T Chloe Parsons S Cassidy Bates
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INTERCESSION REQUESTS

We pray for those who are ill or recovering: Cecelia Duncan, Stephanie Sherman, Janet Lyle, Ann Garnett, Bob Hale, Aubrey Tycer, Richard Kramer, Claudette Batten, Jeannie Robison, Stephen Dufrechu, Lynn Jones, Barry Morton, 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

For the birth of a child:

Twin boys, Charles Miner and Mason McKechnie Swain, born November 26th to parents Laura Beth & Warner Swain; grandparents Freya & Loch Neely.

We pray for the departed:

Jessie Mae East, mother of Joe East
Jack Little

For an ordination:

Sarah Amelia Dunn to the Deaconate at Christ Church Cathedral, Springfield, Massachusetts on December 6th.

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

12/4 Alec Huskey	12/6 Betsy Stevens	12/7 Sloan Dill	12/8 Margaret Foster
12/9 Jacks McClung	12/10 Patrick Reid	12/10 Vivian Brouse	12/12 Will Knight
12/14 Hope Howell	12/14 Ireland Braudaway		

2015 ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION FORM

To dedicate Altar flowers for 2015, please complete this form and mail with your check (\$40 or \$20 for shared dedications) made payable to *Nativity Flower Guild* to: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801. If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 539-2673.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, THANK YOU.

Date desired _____

Your Name _____

Phone # _____

Would you share a dedication? ____

Do you wish to have your name listed in the bulletin? ____

Please be specific - underline or circle your desired dedication below:

All dedications read

“To the glory of God and...

in loving memory of...

in thanksgiving for...

in celebration of...

Name for this altar flower dedication: _____

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, December 15th.**

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

Michele Hunter Clerk

Brenda Chynoweth Treasurer

Robert Mullins Finance Chair

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

A member of the clergy is *on call* each week. If you need assistance from a priest outside office hours, the priest on call will respond to your message.

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

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

208 Eustis Ave. SE Huntsville, AL 35801

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

www.nativity-hsv.org

2014 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION

Please complete and mail this form with your check payable to "Flower Guild" to Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave Huntsville, AL 35801.

Please be specific by underlining or circling your desired dedication below:

Christmas dedications are \$20 each.

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION

All dedications will read:

"To the glory of God and...
"in thanksgiving for"

"in loving memory of"
"in celebration of"

Name for this dedication:

Your Name as it is to be listed in Christmas service leaflet (if you do not wish your listed, please indicate)

Phone #: _____