

# THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

February 4, 2015

## 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.*

## Vestry Moves Nativity Forward with RenewalWorks Spiritual Growth Initiatives

Nativity is blessed with strong leadership on the vestry. Our vestry members realize that the important thing about Church, as the great mystic Evelyn Underhill told Archbishop of Canterbury Lang, is God! At our Vestry retreat in 2014, the Vestry endorsed Nativity's engaging the RenewalWorks process for discerning how Nativity inspires and supports us in our spiritual journeys by fostering spiritual growth and our lives in God.

This past fall we entered that process with several hundred Nativity members taking the RenewalWorks Spiritual Life Survey. A RenewalWorks team of 20 lay leaders and the clergy met in four 3-hour workshops studying and reflecting upon the survey results and on what the best practices for spiritual growth would look like for us at Nativity. This capable team of parishioners was led by facilitator Christine Starnes whose skills in guiding the group are nothing short of extraordinary! Christine, along with RenewalWorks team members Virginia Caruso and Ches Chesney compiled a report on the process and the action items for spiritual growth recommended that they presented to the Vestry on our recent retreat.

The vestry unanimously received this excellent report and endorses the action items coming forth from our RenewalWorks team process. The report will soon be available on the Nativity web site. We will also be hosting several meetings to share the results with the parish.

Three major "action item" initiatives from RenewalWorks will move Nativity forward by challenging us to grow spiritually through parish-wide engagement with Bible reading and study, offering spiritual growth short courses called Discipleship 101, and by entering Holy Conversations in a one on one or small group format to keep the questions about spiritual growth before us.

The vestry also endorses a RenewalWorks Forward Team to help with implementation and accountability, and to continue the conversation. The Vestry Liaison for Adult Christian Formation and Spiritual Development will be the Vestry's ongoing connection to this work. This is exciting news for Nativity's future. The Body of Christ at Nativity will only be as strong as our individual members of the body are being rooted, strengthened and grounded in Christ; growing in love and service and in our relationship with God.

Brian Taylor writing about Spiritual Growth asks the question, *What is spirituality? Our spirituality is how we are in relationship with God, other people, creation and ourselves. With grace, with faithfulness, these relationships bear fruit. Our tradition tells us that over time, extending into eternity, all these relationships will be redeemed, that they will fulfill God's intentions: love, forgiveness and reconciliation; compassion, justice and peace; environmental harmony; and for you and me, that we will be filled with the light of God. All of this redemption is the fruit of our spirituality; it is the result of faithful relationships.*

*Amy +*



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

## Children's Corner

### Wednesdays:

4:30 St. Cecilia's Choir (2nd grade and older)  
4:45 Cherub Choir (Pre-K - 1st Grade)

### Sundays:

during 8:45 service: Children's Chapel  
10:00am  
Age 3 thru Kindergarten - Godly Play  
1st-3rd grade - Workshop Rotation: The Good Samaritan  
4th grade: Telling God's Story  
5th & 6th grade: Club 56

### Feb 22

10:00am  
1st grade Eucharist Instruction begins (see insert)

### Feb 17

6:00pm  
Shrove Tuesday, Supper and children's Mardi Gras Parade

### Feb 18

6:00pm  
Ash Wednesday Children's service for ages 5 and up

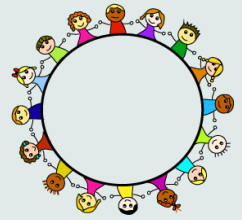
## Save the dates:

**Apr 17-19** - Family Parish Weekend  
Visit the registration table in Ridley Hall between services on Sundays to sign up and get more info!

**July 14-16** — VBS!!

Camp McDowell Summer registration now open

<http://campmcdowell.dioala.org>



Beginning Feb 22 at 10:00am - All 1<sup>st</sup> graders are invited to bring a parent and participate in a Sunday morning Eucharist Instruction Class led by Madeline Mullins

The class will culminate with a celebration On March 15 and special recognition of participants at the 8:45 Palm Sunday service .

This class is offered to our first graders each year as a way to introduce them to our liturgy and tradition in a fun, kid-friendly environment.

Jesus said, "Let the little children come to me".

~Matthew 19:14

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



EYC Church of the Nativity

## Youth Notes!

### What's Happening?

Nativity has the great privilege of hosting Happening #66, a spiritual renewal weekend for 10th-12th grade youth from all over our diocese (and beyond!). The staff for this event, about 40 youth and adults, will be having meetings and meals and sleeping here at the church overnight from Saturday, February 14th to Sunday, February 15th. If you see any sleepy looking teenagers at the 8:45 service on the 15th, be sure to give them a warm welcome to our church!

Happening weekend itself is Friday, February 27th through Sunday, March 1st, and there will be about 100 teenagers and adults spending the weekend learning about Jesus, sleeping on the floor here at the church, showering in your homes, and eating meals and snacks provided by you! With all of this going on, things will be a little hectic at church on Sunday, March 1st. For example Happening will be using Ridley Hall all day. I will update you with the specifics of what's going on and where some of the church's normal Sunday morning activities will be taking place in February 18th Steeple.

Thank you for everything you are doing to support this wonderful ministry and welcoming these young people seeking a deeper faith into our church home!

William Blackerby, 256-533-2455 ext. 205

**Nativity Parish Family Weekend**  
"Come Shine with Us"  
April 17-19



On-line [information](#) and [registration](#) is available! Or, visit our website ([nativity-hsv.org](http://nativity-hsv.org)) and go to the [Parish Weekend at Camp McDowell](#) dropdown menu under Parish Life.

Contact Barbara Bonner (256.533.2455)  
[bbonner@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:bbonner@nativity-hsv.org)

If you are interested in volunteering to help with any part of the Nativity Parish Family Weekend, please email Tanya Miller at [Tanya.Miller.Hsv@gmail.com](mailto:Tanya.Miller.Hsv@gmail.com).

### Youth Confirmation Class Soup Sale

There is a little Santa Fe soup (\$15/quart, 2 quarts for \$25) and some White Chocolate Macadamia Nut cookies (\$5/half dozen) left!

Contact [William Blackerby](#) in the church office if you'd like to buy some of either (or both!).



**HAP for February**  
Items needed — Soup, spaghetti sauce, rice, dried beans, meat, cereal, canned vegetables  
Thanks for your generosity!

### Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, February 10, *Suggested donation \$5*

6:30 am Simple Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

7:00 am Guest Speaker: Brian Davis, CEO  
Wellstone Behavioral Health Center  
(formerly The Mental Health Center)



## Please Support the Nativity and St. Thomas Medical Mission to Haiti

February 28, 2015



This year the medical mission ministry is relying on a vendor set-up that provides supplies to international medical missions at the lowest costs. Instead of



collecting bottles of vitamins and tubes of ointments, we are asking for checks and cash to go towards ordering these supplies. All amounts are greatly appreciated.

On Sundays, from January 18 through February 22, a mission representative will be in Ridley Hall, accepting donations and then creating a 'mission voucher' for the March 1<sup>st</sup> offertory. These mission vouchers will be a symbol of our love and hope for our sister diocese in Haiti.

Each voucher will have a message with something like:

- Your \$30 donation provides one month of multi-vitamins for 45 undernourished children. These vitamins are important for proper growth and development.
- Your \$10 donation treats 20 people for diarrhea. Lack of proper sanitation creates life-threatening situations for people at risk.

Donations may also be dropped off anytime at the church office. Please make checks payable to Nativity with 'Haiti mission' as the note.

### Family Spaghetti Night

Wednesday, February 25, 5:30pm - 7:00pm (Ridley Hall)  
\$5.00 per person, \$20.00 family maximum. Dinner followed by all ages activity. Nursery is available for little ones 4 and under if they'd prefer a different activity. (parent's discretion)

As always, dinner reservations appreciated but not required. Nursery reservations are required.

Contact: [Connie Gadowski \(256.533.2455\)](#)  
[cgadowski@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:cgadowski@nativity-hsv.org)



## LENTEN NOONDAY SERVICES

TUESDAYS 12:05 – 12:35 pm

STIMULATING GUEST PREACHERS - LET THIS TUESDAY EXPERIENCE BE A MEANINGFUL PART OF YOUR LENTEN JOURNEY

February 24 – The Rev. King Oehmig –  
Priest in Charge at Church of the Nativity –  
Fort Oglethorpe, GA (founder and editor of Synthesis)

March 3 – The Rev. Seth Olson –  
Associate at St. John's Episcopal Church –  
Decatur, AL

March 10 – The Rev. Bill Blackerby –  
Interim Rector at Grace Episcopal Church –  
Cullman, AL (former Episcopal Campus Chaplain in Birmingham 1993-2014 and father of our own Youth Minister William Blackerby)

March 17 – The Rev. Mary Anne Akin –  
Chaplain at St. Martin's-in-the-Pines –  
Birmingham, AL

March 24 – Chaplain James Williams –  
Chaplain at Limestone Correctional Facility –  
Harvest, AL

Sponsored by the Spiritual Development Committee

For more information contact Virginia Caruso 533-6969

## CALLING ALL LENTEN NOONDAY SERVICE YARD SIGNS!

If you have a Yard Sign from last year advertising the Noonday Services, Please Put It Out! These were great publicity items to remind our parishioners and also to invite other people from the area. New signs are available at the Church office if you no longer have yours.



**LENTEN  
NOONDAY SERVICES**  
**Guest Preacher each week**  
**EACH TUESDAY  
IN LENT**  
**12:05 - 12:35**

**CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY,  
EPISCOPAL**  
**208 EUSTIS AVENUE**

Live Music

Children's Parade!

# Annual Cajun Dinner & Mardi Gras Celebration



Shrove Tuesday  
February 17th

6:00 pm  
in Ridley Hall

Cajun Meal: \$7.00  
Children's Pizza Meal: \$5.00

Reservations: 533-2455

Food & Fun  
for the whole  
Family!

Church of the Nativity - 208 Eustis Avenue - Huntsville

## Wednesday Evening Lenten Series "The Spiritual Journey in World Religions: Self-Examination, Penitence & Confession"

February 25

Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar  
Temple B'nai Sholom  
Huntsville

March 25

Panel Exploration  
"How Interfaith Dialogue  
Enlivens Our Christian  
Spiritual Journey"

March 4

Dr. Ossama Bahloul, Imam  
The Islamic Center  
Murfreesboro, TN

Prof. Bob Hughes  
School of Theology, Sewanee

March 11

Dr. Daniel Crosby  
The Church of Jesus Christ of  
Latter-Day Saints,  
Monte Sano Branch

Kay Campbell  
Huntsville Times

Wimberley Watts,  
Author

Father Andy  
Mother Basye

March 18

Dr. Rajinder Singh Mehta,  
NASA Scientist  
Devout Sikh

Dinner 5:30 p.m. Programs for all ages: 6:00 p.m.  
Nursery is available.

**Reservations are required for both nursery & dinner.**

Contact: Connie Gadomski (256.533.2455)

[cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org)

## 1st EVER Nativity Men's Retreat

Saturday & Sunday, February 21- 22, 2015  
10:00am - 10:00am at Camp McDowell.

Cost includes lodging and all meals

Single, \$105 per person

Double, \$70 per person

Fellowship, a work project, the out-of-doors

**Men doing Men stuff!**

Sponsored by the Nativity Men's Ministry



Click [here](#) to register on-line

Contact [Father Rusty McCown](#) for more information

## 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**. She is a delightful speaker with an amazing story you will never forget!

The retreat this year is "*Becoming Hope*"

What if:

- this Lent we each listened carefully for the voice that names us, and shows us the unique form of Hope we are called to be?
- we each arose, and driven by the Spirit carried that Hope into some wilderness that tested the depth of our commitments, revealing who we really are?
- we rededicated ourselves to what it means to practice the presence of Hope in ways that change us, change our relationships, and even reshape our environments?

The cost is \$145. Click [here](#) to register on-line.

Thank you, Lane Tutt

## Nativity Music Events

**Sunday, February 8**

**Nativity Choir Valentine's Fundraiser**

The choir bakers are working up their fudge and praline & cookie delights for you! Sale proceeds benefit the Choir's upcoming Trip to England in June.

Pralines are 3 for \$4 and 6 for \$8. Cookies & fudge start at \$3.

**Sunday, February 15, 5:00pm**

**Friends of Music at Nativity presents**

Daniel Pesca, Piano

Sarah Frisof, Flute

**Friday, February 20, 7:30pm**

Dr. Robert Delcamp, Organ

Bernadette Lo, Piano

**Friday, March 6, 7:30pm**

**Friends of Music at Nativity presents**

Guidonian Hand Trombone Quartet

Nativity's Music Line: (256.533.2455 x216)

## Nativity Women's Retreat

St. Mary's, Sewanee, Tennessee

February 20-21, 2015

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Roommate request\*: \_\_\_\_\_

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

**Cost: \$145.00 per person**

**LIMITED SPACE AVAILABLE**

**Return your registration form & FULL payment 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**

## STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

### 10 Climate Change Effects – Are they anthropogenic or effects of a naturally-occurring cycle?

In anticipation of Harvey Cotten's Church School class, here are some things to think about...



1. Bats Drop from the Sky: In 2014, a scorching summer heat wave caused more than 100,000 bats to literally drop dead and fall from the sky in Queensland, Australia
2. Lyme Disease Spreads: Warmer temperatures are contributing to the range expansion and severity of tick-borne Lyme-disease.
3. National Security Threatened: The impacts of climate change are expected to act as a "threat multiplier" in many of the world's most unstable regions, exacerbating droughts and other natural disasters as well as leading to food, water and other resource shortages that may spur mass migrations.
4. Sea Levels Rising: Warmer temperatures are causing glaciers and polar ice sheets to melt, increasing the amount of water in the world's seas and oceans.
5. Allergies Worsen: Allergy sufferers beware; climate change could cause pollen counts to double in the next 30 years. The warming temperatures cause advancing weed growth, a bane for allergy sufferers.
6. Beetles Destroy Iconic Western Forests: Climate change has sent tree-killing beetles called "mountain pine beetles" into overdrive. Under normal conditions, these beetles reproduce just once annually, but the warming climate has allowed them to churn out an extra generation of new bugs each year.
7. Canada: The New America: "Lusher" vegetation growth typically associated with the United States is now becoming more common in Canada, scientists reported in a 2012 Nature Climate Change study.
8. Economic Consequences: The costs associated with climate change rise along with the temperatures. Severe storms and floods combined with agricultural losses cause billions of dollars in damages, and money is needed to treat and control the spread of disease.
9. Infectious Diseases Thrive: The World Health Organization reports that outbreaks of new or resurgent diseases are on the rise and in more disparate countries than ever before, including tropical illnesses in once cold climates.
10. Shrinking glaciers: In 2013, an iceberg larger than the city of Chicago broke off the Pine Island Glacier, the most important glacier of the West Antarctic Ice Sheet. And at Montana's Glacier National Park, glaciers have gone from 150 to just 35 over the past century.

Many scientists and concerned lay people believe we are at a critical juncture, resulting from the influence of human beings on nature. Others believe that the changes happening now are part of a natural, cyclical pattern.

Come join us as we explore, 'How Christians are Cultivating a Middle Ground on Climate Change'. Each week we will try to separate fact from fiction and quiet the intense noise surrounding this issue. Over the six week course we will look at the causes and effects, the doubts and choices, while studying "What is Going on Today and Where We Can Go from here"

**Stewardship of Creation, Feb 15 - Mar 22, 10:00am, Bibb Chapel**

### 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 (256.533.2455) [rmccown@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:rmccown@nativity-hsv.org). Thank You!



the  
**Greene  
Street  
Market**  
at Nativity

### BE A 2015 GREENE STREET MARKET SPONSOR

The Greene Street Market is looking for businesses or individuals who would like to "sponsor" a weekly market this season. The cost of sponsorship is \$500.

As a sponsor, you will receive the following:

- 25 \$10 Greene Street Market vouchers for use at the market you sponsor.
- Acknowledgment on our Facebook page, in our email blast, and during the market.

For more information call Pattie Cline (256.651.6497) or Marilyn Evans (256.682 4429)

The Greene Street Market is a Nativity outreach ministry



## Nativity 101: New Class for ANYONE New to Nativity

February 8, 2015, 10:00am, Ridley Hall

Nativity 101 is a new 5-week offering on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. in the Parish Hall for anyone new to Nativity, including Episcopalians who have transferred in or in the process of transferring their letter. It is the foundation for our Seekers / Catechumenate Class process that continues February 15 for anyone seeking to be Confirmed or Received into our Episcopal Church Communion or for existing Episcopalians who desire to renew their Baptismal Covenants.

February 8

Nativity 101: How can YOU get involved?

## The Catechumenate: Episcopal Faith Seekers' Class

The class begins with a 5 week series, Nativity 101. Nativity 101 leads into The Catechumenate, the Seekers' Class on February 15. **Sundays, 10:00am, Ridley Hall**

*A class is for Adults seeking to be Confirmed and Baptized Episcopalians from most other traditions (or no tradition) or Received into the Episcopal Church from the Roman Catholic, Orthodox and Lutheran (ELCA) traditions. This class is also for Confirmed Episcopalians seeking to deepen and renew their faith and Baptismal Vows*

The church's catechumenal process, an ancient pattern for initiating Christians into the full life of the community of the faithful is at the heart of our Seekers' Class for people new to the Episcopal Church and for other Episcopalians who want to renew and deepen their faith. This process enables participants to reflect upon the traditions and practices of Christianity as the Episcopal Church has received them. Each Seeker or *Catechumenate* (the historical name for people seeking church membership) will be assigned a sponsor to walk the journey with them. Sponsors are already members of Nativity who will encourage you and be available for questions and discussions about the faith we share as Episcopalians. The ancient development of the Catechumenate was for converts to the faith in Baptism. Most of our Catechumens at Nativity will not be preparing for Baptism, but will be people who are already baptized. This class is specifically geared toward:

- People who have not been baptized
- People baptized as infants who want to make a mature public affirmation of their faith
- People seeking out this church community for marriage or for baptism of a child
- People baptized in other traditions but have not shared in the Episcopal Church's understanding of Confirmation by a Bishop in the historic, apostolic tradition
- Newcomers to the Episcopal Church from other traditions
- Former Roman Catholic or Orthodox Christians who will be received into this Communion
- Evangelical Lutheran Church in America members who have not been confirmed
- Returnees (for a variety of reasons)
- Active members seeking to deepen and renew their commitment
- Nominal members seeking basic formation
- Lapsed members willing to reconsider Christian Commitment
- Christians seeking deeper faith understanding in a time of crisis

The class goes through Sunday, May 10. On May 17 the Bishop of Alabama will be present with us to celebrate these commitments made in Confirmation, Reception, and Renewal of Baptismal Vows. Adults seeking Baptism will be baptized at the Great Vigil of Easter on Easter Eve at 7:30pm on April 4, 2015.

The class convenes in the Parish Hall with a presentation by one of the clergy or by a lay leader in the congregation. This presentation is followed by small group table discussions, and then the whole group reconvenes. The class will be dismissed around 11:30 a.m. Child care is available. Participants are asked to attend the 8:45 a.m. worship service. Those who desire may go to lunch afterwards.

For more information, please speak with Lane Tutt or Amy Baxter at 256-533-2455 or [abaxter@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:abaxter@nativity-hsv.org).

## Diocesan Convention to be Webcast Live in High Definition

### Get Updates and Join the Conversation on Twitter

Major portions of this year's diocesan convention including the bishop's address and all three business sessions will be webcast live in high definition via the diocesan website at <http://dioala.org/tv.html>.

You can also get updates and join the conversation on Twitter. Use the hashtag [#dioalacn](#).

For a complete schedule and additional details, please visit the diocesan website <http://dioala.org>

### Mother Bonnie's Ordination



#### Available on Nativity's YouTube Channel

In case you missed Mother Bonnie's Ordination or were there and want to see it again, the service is uploaded on our YouTube channel.

<https://www.youtube.com/user/nativityhsvyt>

### 2015 Vestry Liaison Assignments

Senior Warden	Bill Stearns
Junior Warden	Allen Daniels
Clerk	Michele Hunter
Finance Committee Chair	Brenda Chynoweth
Treasurer	Brandon Smith
Adult Education & Spirituality	Michelle Hunter
Youth Education	Amy Creech
Children's Education	Chad Hinton
Ministries of Worship & Music	Robert Dunn
Stewardship Response	Beverly Farrington
Trust & Endowments	Lou Durnya
Building & Grounds	Lewie Bates
Communications & Technology	Stacy Moon
Parish Entities	Lee Hicklen
Outreach	Mike Innes
Pastoral Care	Margaret Devenish
Parish Life Events	Linda Watts
Parish Life Groups	Margaret Day Baker
Hospitality & Welcome	Kelly Hudson

### Easter Baptisms

The next date for baptisms will be at the Easter Vigil on April 4, 2015.

Anyone wishing to have children baptized at Nativity on that date should contact Mother Bonnie no later than March 16.

Contact: Mother Bonnie [bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org) (256.533.2455 x207)

### SECURITY ALERT!!

The key code to the Church office from Ridley Hall has been changed. When visiting the office, please use the front entrance.

Also, keep your car locked anytime you come to the Church. Parking lots (especially church lots) are common targets for thieves- do not leave your valuables in the car.

### Parish Financial Report - Period Ending 12/31/2014

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	193,667.71	107,868.33	1,314,366.06	1,294,420.00
Plate	16,713.51	8,750.00	113,495.71	105,000.00
Other Revenues	16,518.01	8,381.67	140,958.02	100,580.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>226,899.23</b>	<b>125,000.00</b>	<b>1,568,819.79</b>	<b>1,500,000.00</b>
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	59,810.34	25,250.02	306,828.88	303,000.00
Personnel	65,384.72	67,804.16	803,042.23	813,650.00
Other Expenses	75,417.69	31,945.83	397,866.78	383,350.00
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>200,612.75</b>	<b>125,000.01</b>	<b>1,507,737.89</b>	<b>1,500,000.00</b>
<b>NET \$</b>	<b>26,286.48</b>	<b>\$ (0.01)</b>	<b>\$ 61,081.90</b>	<b>\$ -</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 5:15pm



## Parents are top influence in teens remaining active in religion as young adults

Mothers and fathers who practice what they preach and preach what they practice are far and away the biggest influence related to adolescents keeping the faith into their twenties, according to new findings from a landmark study of youth and religion.

Just 1 percent of teens age 15 to 17 raised by parents who attached little importance to religion were highly religious in their mid to late twenties.

In contrast, 82 percent of children raised by parents who talked about faith at home, attached great importance to their beliefs, and were active in their congregations were religiously active as young adults, according to data from the latest wave of the National Study of Youth and Religion.

The connection is “nearly deterministic,” said Christian Smith, lead researcher for the study and a sociologist at the University of Notre Dame in Indiana.

Other factors such as youth ministry, clergy or service projects, or religious schools pale in comparison.

Nothing else “comes remotely close to matching the influence of parents on the religious faith and practices of youth,” Smith said in a recent talk about the findings at Yale Divinity School. “Parents just dominate.”

Several studies have shown that the religious behaviors and attitudes of parents are related to those of their children.

In research using data from the National Longitudinal Study of Adolescent Health, sociologists Christopher Bader and Scott Desmond found that children of parents who believe that religion is very important and display their commitment by attending services are most likely to transmit religiosity to their children.

This is the fourth wave of the NSYR, a comprehensive national study first conducted in 2002–2003 among teens age 13 to 17 and their parents. These early findings add powerful evidence of the importance of mothers and fathers as the study traces the path of young respondents, who are now age 24 to 29.

One of the strongest factors associated with older teens keeping their faith as young adults was having parents who talked about religion and spirituality at home, Smith said.

Other key factors included having parents for whom personal faith is important and who demonstrate that faith through attending services. Teens whose parents attended worship with them were especially likely to be religiously active as young adults.

Among related findings, parents from religious traditions that in general promote greater commitment and encourage discussing faith outside the sanctuary also were more likely to have children who remained active in their faith as young adults.

For example, two-thirds of teens raised by black Protestant parents and half of adolescents with conservative Protestant parents had high or moderate levels of religiousness as young adults. On the other end, 70 percent of teens raised by mainline Protestant parents had minimal or lower levels of religiousness as young adults.

In interviews, many mainline Protestant parents said they “feel guilty if they think they are doing anything to direct their children toward their religion as opposed to any other possibility,” Smith said. They question if they should tell their child “what I believe is right.”

Yet if parents and faith communities are not able to communicate their beliefs, Smith said later, “the game’s over, already.”

The role of parents is even more critical today as trust in institutions declines and many children with more demanding schedules are spending less time in congregations, Smith noted.

Yet, he said, there are some powerful “cultural scripts” that discourage parents from taking an active role in the spiritual lives of their teens.

Cultural messages encourage parents to turn their children over to “experts,” and many parents consider faith formation to be the responsibility of clergy, Sunday schools, and youth groups, Smith said.

“Parents, for better or worse, are actually the most influential pastors . . . of their children,” Smith said. “Parents set a kind of glass ceiling of religious commitment, above which their children rarely rise.” —[theARDA.com](http://theARDA.com)

*Reprinted with permission of the Association of Religion Data Archives*

### Avoiding *the* DEPRESSION TRAP

*A depression and emotional wellness support group*  
By Mark Beaird of **THE VINE**

*There is more understanding and more that can be done to address depression than ever before.*

*Join us ....*

**Free to any adult/spouse/loved one coping with depression**

**Thursdays, 6:00-7:00 PM**  
**February 5 - May 28**  
**First Baptist Church, Madison**

Call The Vine Office for more information, 256-270-7399

## ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

February 2015

*If you find yourself unable to serve as scheduled, please arrange for a substitute, then let us know who will be filling in for you. We are always thankful for those who stop by the back hallway prior to services to serve as last minute subs! Our thanks to all acolytes and their families that deliver them to us!*

### Sunday, Feb 1

#### 8:45 A/M D Nutt

C Alexander Young, Cassidy Bates  
T Ella Jane Duncan, Sam Hartley  
T Joshua Huskey, Parker Sanders  
S Franklin Aldag  
AS Caroline Knight

#### 11:00 A/M M Ward

C Jordan Cozby, Powell Stockton  
T Steuart Evans, Mary Kate Brooks  
T Elizabeth Evans, Evan Ward  
S David DiFranco  
AS Jack Benton Stockton

### Sunday, Feb 8

#### 8:45 A/M N Putt

C Tindall Moring, Palmer Ford  
T Britt Webber, Sarah Whelden Hall  
T Huston Moring, Sidney Gunter  
S Kate Noble Hall  
AS Forrest Webber

#### 11:00 A/M C Sherrill

C Emily Evans, Scott Louis Miller  
T Laura Kate Evans, Alice Malone  
T Riley Kamelchuk, Laura Kamelchuk  
S Bankston Creech  
AS John Sadler Evans

### Sunday, Feb 15

#### 8:45 A/M N Putt

C Maria Caprio, Neill Luther  
T Clay Walker, Cameron Pinson  
T Leighton Luther, Van Dodgen  
S Ellie Walker  
AS Meredith Walker

#### 11:00 A/M C Sherrill

C Emily Ellison, John Laney  
T Emery Windham, Savannah Watson  
T Robert McCown, Dylan Chenowith  
S Sims Windham

AS Evan Ellison

### Wednesday, Feb 18 ASH WEDNESDAY 6:00 P.M.

C Gillianne Sharp  
S Robert McCown

T Hall Blake Bryant, Margaret Bryant  
AS Margaret Foster

### Sunday, Feb 22

#### 8:45 A/M M Ward

C Jackson Anglin, Allie Starnes  
T Paxtyn Whitney, Evelyn Warren  
T Patrick Ahearn, Ireland Braudaway  
S Mollie Ward  
AS Park Ellis

#### 11:00 A/M D Nutt

C Allison Taylor, Windham Hunter  
T Katherine Hunter  
T Luke Alison  
S Evans Alison  
AS Chloe Parsons

## INTERCESSION REQUESTS

**We pray for those who are ill or recovering:** Julia Perry, Helen Lewis, John & Claire Hallibuton, Raye Newton, Gary Comfort, Lynda Hon, Sally Elliot, Berta Hargett, Anna Post, Stephanie Sherman, Cecelia Duncan, Bob Hale, Aubrey Tycker, Ann Garnett, Lorene Dilworth, Bill Dilworth, Lynn Jones, Barry Morton, Carla King, Nancy Colin Swenson, Eileen Sullivan, Leigh Wahl, Elsie Olsen,

**We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:**

US Navy, Jesse Teal  
Afghanistan, Denver Colin

**For the birth of a child:**

Audrey Jean Farr, granddaughter of Linda & Bill Martin, born on January 27<sup>th</sup> to parents Andrea & Scott Farr.

**We pray for the departed:**

Diane Sheldon, step-mother of John Sheldon  
Don Ullery, brother of Dan Lester  
Lois Phillips, mother of David Phillips

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

2/4	Alice Malone	2/6	Cameron Pinson	2/8	Clara Keener	2/11	Cooper Gunter
2/11	Andrew Rawson	2/13	Alex McCarty	2/14	Robert McCown	2/16	Harris Whitfield
2/16	Mem Mullins						

## **HABITAT HOUSE 2015**

### **Construction starts February 24**

Spring is not quite here but the foundations are popping up out of the ground. We will start our house the last week in Feb. It will be a 5 bedroom biggie for a single parent and her five children; ages 1 -14. This year's home (on Cornerstone Circle) is in the same subdivision as last year's home.

If you want to help, come on by. Volunteers just need to show up. Although having some skill is helpful, it is not necessary; we train as we go. Working hours are 8:00am to 2:00pm Tuesdays, Thursdays, and Saturdays with a lunch break usually around 11:30am. Lunches are furnished on Saturdays by one of the participating churches.

For more information, contact Bill Giardini (256.698.5307).

DATES	TASKS
Feb. 24, 26, 28	(warehouse) Cut lumber for walls, assemble wall frames
Mar. 3, 5, 7	Deliver walls. Sheath, straighten walls and brace, layout trusses
Mar. 10, 12, 14	Erect trusses, install hurricane clips, start roof decking
Mar. 17, 19, 21	Finish roof decking, Install house wrap, windows and ext. doors, Install fascia & roof bracing
Mar. 24, 26, 28	Start vinyl siding (roofing, plumbing & elect. Rough-in by others)
Mar. 31, Apr. 2 4	Caulk interior openings, install wall insulation, continue vinyl siding
Apr. 7, 9, 11	(Sheetrock by others) continue vinyl siding
Apr. 14, 16, 18	Paint interior walls, clean floors, paint baseboard, doors and trim
Apr. 21, 23, 25	Install vinyl floor tile, sheet vinyl,
Apr. 28, 30 May 2	Install interior doors, baseboard, window trim, cabinets & vanities
May 5, 7, 9	Plumbing and electrical fixtures by others) Install door hardware & stops, closet shelving, blinds
May 12, 14, 16	Landscape, touch up paint, clean and wax floors, work punch list
May 19, 21, 23	Catch-up



## STEEPLE SCHEDULE

*The Steeple* is published each 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays.

To submit events or articles, you may bring them to the church office or email:

[gsommer@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:gsommer@nativity-hsv.org)

The deadline for the next issue is **Monday Noon, February 16<sup>th</sup>.**

## 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

**Anne Elizabeth Cowan**

Youth Ministry Assistant

**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

**Bill Starnes** Sr Warden

**Allen Daniels** Jr Warden

**Michele Hunter** Clerk

**Brandon Smith** Treasurer

**Brenda Chynoweth** 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

[nativity-hsv.org](http://nativity-hsv.org)

## 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: \_\_\_\_\_