

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

February 17, 2016



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

Worship Schedule (* Nursery available)

SUNDAY

7:45am Rite I
Holy Eucharist
(Bibb Chapel)

*8:45am Rite II
Holy Eucharist
Children's Chapel

*11:00am Rite II
Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

Noon
Holy Eucharist
& Healing
(Bibb Chapel)

THURSDAY

6:00pm Rite II
Holy Eucharist
(Bibb Chapel)

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.

Lent and Sabbaticals: Intentional Times of Growth and Renewal

Lent is a season for growth and renewal as we clear away those things in our life that get in the way of serving God and living into our beloved 'ness' as God's children. Lent moves beyond penitence to mission and embracing the life God calls each one of us to live.

Beginning Lent on Ash Wednesday reminds me of my days growing up in South Georgia and the things my farming family did to clear the land for growth and renewal. The Ashes smudged on our foreheads are rich in meaning, but they always remind me of burning off the fields and pastures of our family farm that had become overgrown with briars, sweet gum trees and other invasive species. Much of the good grass species would have also grown too high. They, too, needed to be cut back and so we had a planned and controlled burn.

In burning off the fields, we were getting rid of invasive species, but we were also preparing the soil for the growth of new things. Pastures need clearing. Woods need their undergrowth burned away from time to time. Afterwards, the ash is messy, but the ground is cleared, nourished and fertilized by that ash.

I hope you will all utilize Lent as a time for a "controlled burn" of those things that need clearing away so that your life will become rich with God's life. All the things we do and don't do in Lent enable our growth and renewal by God's Spirit of life and love deep within us. It's a time for the soil of our lives to produce new growth and life. As you can tell, this "farm boy" from Georgia loves agrarian metaphors for our spiritual journeys! The Bible is rich in these images found throughout the Hebrew Scriptures to Jesus' parables to Paul's writings.

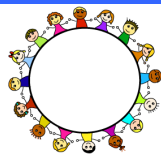
Our annual season of Lent as an intentional time to grow in our God-life has roots in our weekly observance of the Sabbath. Regularly honoring the Sabbath is both a command (the 4th Commandment) and a gift from God as an intentional time to rest in God and to renew our life in God. This commandment led to the Levitical order that God's people grant their cropland—their source of sustenance—a full rest every seven years.

These strong biblical traditions have led the Church to embrace sabbaticals for clergy. In the Diocese of Alabama clergy are offered a twelve week sabbatical after five years of service to their parish. You may recall that I took my first sabbatical five years ago, in 2011, after 8 years of service to Nativity. This past fall, I began talking with the Wardens' and our Bishop about this scheduled Sabbatical time cropping up this coming summer. I shared these plans with the Vestry in January and so we are now in the process of preparing for my sabbatical this summer.

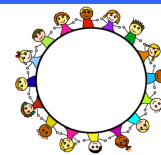
I am extremely grateful and excited about this time for spiritual renewal and re-invigoration as new approaches to ministry are contemplated. I know I need this time for rest, renewal, and family focus from the heavy demands of ordained ministry. The Wardens and I are already working on details for parish administration, pastoral care and worship while I am away.

Some have perhaps heard that about half of my sabbatical time will be spent walking the Camino de Santiago, the Pilgrim Way of St. James, in Spain. My son Case will join me on this 500 mile walk. I look forward to sharing the plans with you as they are fine-tuned. I also look forward to more years of sharing God's ministry and mission with you, the dear people of the Church of the Nativity, after this time of clearing things away, of intentional growth and renewal. God is always bringing forth new life for us! Thanks and blessings to all.

Andy +



Children's Corner Children's Sunday Formation



Save the Date

CAMP NATIVITY VBS July 12-14, 2016.

Registration opening soon. Email me if you are ready to volunteer!

*Psalms for kids: Everyday people talking to God Wednesdays in Lent Children's Program.

First Wednesday is tonight! 5:30pm supper in Ridley Hall, program in downstairs Ridley following supper.

The children will investigate Psalms through music, art, movement and more to discover what the Psalms are and how Psalms can be meaningful to them. Program for children 5 and older; Reservations required for dinner and nursery.

First Grade Eucharist Class

1st graders and their parents meet in the children's chapel, Angel Lane (downstairs Ridley). Last class this week: church tour with Father Rusty. Next Sunday, February 28th, the Eucharist Class will receive special recognition during the 8.45 service and their bread will be used for the Eucharist.



Everyone is having a great time at the Mardi Gras Celebration!

Contact: Mary Coe
mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

Parish Family Weekend - April 22-24
The Bethany Express - This Train is Bound for Glory!
Signup online at:
<http://tinyurl.com/parishweekend2016>



EYC Church of the Nativity

Many Thanks...

to all who supported the SOUPer Bowl of Caring -- the Confirmation class raised almost \$1,000 to support the Blossomwood weekend meal pack ministry!

as well to all who bought cookies on Valentine's Day supporting this summer's youth mission trip! We raised \$500, which covers the cost of one youth participant and some of the supplies we will need to take with us. Remember the deadline to sign up for the mission trip is February 29th --[click here to sign up](#). Find out more about what we're doing this summer by visiting www.mountain-top.org

Sunday, February 28th is the date for our annual soccer tournament with St. John's and St. Thomas! The event is from 1:30 to 4:15pm at St. Thomas on Bailey Cove Road. Email William if you can play!

Contact: William Blackerby wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org

LENTEN NOONDAY SERVICES

TUESDAYS 12:05 – 12:35 pm

“LENT – a season of Spiritual Growth”

Each Tuesday speaker's message will be available on our website's Sermons page

February 23 The Rev. Virginia Monroe

Interim Rector, St. Stephen's Episcopal Church – Birmingham, AL

March 1 Chaplain (Lt. Col) Paige Heard

U S Army Contracting Command/Redstone Arsenal – Huntsville, AL

March 8 The Rev. Jonathan Chesney

Associate Priest, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church – Auburn, AL

March 15 The Rev. Danielle Thompson

Associate Priest, St. Mary's-on-the-Highlands Episcopal Church – Birmingham, AL

Lunch in Ridley Hall following the Service –

For Box Lunch Reservations (\$7), call the Church Office.
256-533-2455

Contact: Virginia Caruso (256.533.6969)

*Wednesday Evening Lenten Series

“PSALMS”

Dinner 5:30pm

Programs for all ages: 6:00pm

February 17 Rev. Dr. William Brosend

“An Introduction”

Professor of New Testament and Preaching School of Theology, Sewanee

February 24 Rev. Br. Aelred Bernard Dean, BSG & Sr. Madeleine Mary, OSM

“The Psalms in Monastic Tradition and Daily Prayer”

March 2 Christian Crocker

Organist & Choirmaster, Church of the Nativity

March 9 Dr. Mark Gignilliat

“Penitential Psalms”

Assistant Professor of Divinity, Old Testament, Beeson Divinity School, Samford University

March 16 Rabbi Elizabeth Bahar

Temple B'nai Sholom, Huntsville

*Nursery is available.

Reservations are required for both nursery & dinner.

Contact: Church Office (256.533.2455)

2nd *ever* Men's Retreat

Fellowship, a work project, the out-of-doors,
Men doing Men stuff!

Saturday & Sunday

March 5-6, 2016

10:00 am - 10:00 am

at Camp McDowell



Cost Includes lodging and all meals

Single, \$115 per person

Double, \$75 per person

C'mon! What ya waitin' fer Sign up!

Sponsored by the Nativity Men's Ministry.
Contact Rusty McCown for more information.

Wednesday, February 24 - 5:30pm

Family Spaghetti Night

at Nativity



\$5 per person - \$20 family maximum

This month's family spaghetti night is partnered with the
Wednesday's in Lent series

Separate kids and youth activities are planned.

As always, dinner reservations are appreciated but not required. Nursery is available (age 4 and under) but reservations are required.

Reservations: call the Church Office (256.533.2455) or
abaxter@nativity-hsv.org

Sunday volunteers needed

Have you been looking for a way to serve the church, but don't have a lot of extra time, then Ushering is for you!

We are in need of ushers for both the 8:45 & 11:00 Sunday service. Each usher is assigned to a team; each team serves for two months during the year.

Please contact the church office if you are interested, and we will get you plugged in!

Easter Baptisms

The next date for baptisms will be at the Easter Vigil on March 26, 2016.

Anyone wishing to have children baptized at Nativity on that date should contact Mother Bonnie no later than March 1.

bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org
(256.533.2455 x207)

QUICK BITS



HAP for March

Items needed: Spaghetti sauce, noodles, fruit (canned), mixed vegetables, tuna, small canned hams.

Thanks for all your support!

HAP Sunday is March 6

BRING OUT YOUR SIGN!!

If you have a Yard Sign from last year advertising the Noonday Services, Please Put It Out!

These are great publicity items to remind our parishioners and to invite other people from the area.

New signs are available by contacting the Church office if you no longer have one.

LENTEN NOONDAY SERVICES

Guest Preacher each week

EACH TUESDAY
IN LENT

12:05 - 12:35

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL
208 EUSTIS AVENUE



UAH Faculty Recital

Dorrie Nutt, horn
Eric Wilson, keyboard

&

Carolyn Sanders, trumpet
Ann Knipschild, keyboard

Friday, February 26th - 7:30pm

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal
208 Eustis Avenue SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

The recital features Dr Carolyn Sanders, trumpet professor at UAH and myself, a member of the adjunct music faculty there on horn. We'll be playing music together and separately by Charpentier, Mozart, Gershwin and more!

Our keyboard collaborators are Dr Eric Wilson and Dr Ann Knipschild (who has been an occasional substitute organist at Nativity over the past few years.)

- Dorrie Nutt

The concert is free and open to the public.

Upcoming Events at a Glance

Mar 5 - 6 2nd ever Men's Retreat (Camp McDowell)

Mar 6 HAP Sunday

Mar 8 Men's Breakfast w/Simple Eucharist 6:30am

Mar 11 FOM Concert - Isaac Bustos 7:30pm

Mar 13 Daylight Saving Time Begins

Choral Evensong, Nativity Choir 5:00pm

Save the Dates!

Apr 15-17 Amy Jill Levine in Huntsville (see page x for events)

Apr 22-24 Parish Family Weekend at Camp McDowell

Jul 12-14 Camp Nativity VBS

Outreach in Acton

Why do we have an Outreach Ministry at Nativity?

Did you know...

One of the best ways we live out our gratitude for God's abundant love is to share our time, talent, and treasure with the people who are hungry, sick, in prison, poor, homeless, and anyone "left out" by society. These are the people Jesus befriended and encouraged, and if we are to follow the example of Jesus, then these are the ones to whom we should reach out, too.

Nativity's Outreach Committee is always seeking suggestions of new opportunities to help others in our community and beyond, including working as advocates of expanding Jesus' attitude of welcoming love in the community.

Want to find out more?

Contact: Mother Bonnie bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org

- 10% of our parish operating budget is dedicated to Nativity's Outreach Ministry
- More than 40 organizations here and around the globe receive funding from our Outreach Committee, serving those in need of food, shelter, clothing, medical care, and all kinds of support
- Each of these organizations is formally connected to our Outreach Committee by parishioners who volunteer in the community and are passionate about helping meet those specific needs
- Groups of any age can participate in volunteer activities organized through our Outreach Committee. Examples include building Habitat for Humanity houses, tutoring children or adults, and collecting food for local ministries.

HABITAT HOUSE 2016

Time to start building again. We will be building in the same area as the last couple years, 2409 Garden Park. This year's schedule is a little different: We will work from 8:00am - 1:00pm without a lunch break.

Beginning Tuesday February 23rd, We will start in the warehouse building walls. Our current Spring schedule is available by clicking the Habitat logo.



Habitat For Humanity is also providing a unique opportunity for individuals and organizations to make contributions to help finance the eight houses planned for this year. To learn more, go to <http://www.habitatmadisonco.org/1080-partners/> and then click the 'how' button at the bottom of the page.

Additional details on this year's Habitat House are available by contacting Bill Giardini (256) 698-5307

The Greene Street Market is **Expanding** for 2016

In addition to the regular market, Eustis Avenue between Greene Street and Franklin Street will be full of vendors each Thursday from 4:00 - 8:00pm this May through August.

We are thrilled with this opportunity, but with it comes an increased demand for volunteers.

Between 2:00 - 4:00pm, volunteers help vendors unload their treasures and get everything in place. It is a fun group to work with and you get to know all the vendors.

Come join us.

If you can help, please email greenestreetmarket@gmail.com or call 256 682 4429 (Marilyn Evans) 256 536 6494 (Mickey Ellis)

The Greene Street Market and Store are part of Nativity's Outreach Ministry



the
**Greene
Street
Market**
at Nativity

Contemplative Outreach Birmingham

23rd annual conference

March 5, 2016 9:00-3:30pm Church of the Nativity



Featured conference speaker: Phileena Heuertz

Join Phileena Heuertz for this one day annual conference. Participants will be guided by Phileena to deepen their appreciation for the value of contemplative practice. Phileena will share how wisdom is gained through silence, solitude, simplicity and service.

Cost: \$60 (includes lunch)

Conference registration at: centeringprayeralabama.org

Registration deadline: February 28, 2016



"Beloved" Was the Theme for 185th Diocesan Convention



All of the highlights of the Diocesan Convention are available on the Diocesan website:

http://www.dioala.org/dfc/newsdetail_2/3176982

You can access our keynote addresses by:

- The Rev. Tom Brackett
- Bishop Sloan
- Bishop Marray

as well as the many videos focusing on the missions and ministries throughout the diocese.

There are many pictures and articles about our time together at Camp McDowell!

Noted Vanderbilt New Testament Scholar Coming to Huntsville - April 15-17, 2016 -

Amy-Jill Levine, a self-described "Yankee Jewish feminist who teaches in a predominately Christian divinity school [Vanderbilt] in the buckle of the Bible Belt" will be in Huntsville the weekend of April 15-17, 2016, on invitation from our Church, First Presbyterian Church, and Temple B'nai Shalom. 'AJL' as she is referred to by those who have become familiar with her work and scholarship, is a world-known widely published New Testament Scholar. She is particularly interested in understanding Jesus from the Jewish perspective and how Christians and Jews read scripture.

In preparation for her several talks over that weekend, there are opportunities to become acquainted with what Dr. Levine has to say:

Watch the Steeple and Website for a 3 week introductory course beginning after Easter.

Read her book (companion story to the right)

You may also check her out on YouTube.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=wbE87SHRQ3A>



Find out more...

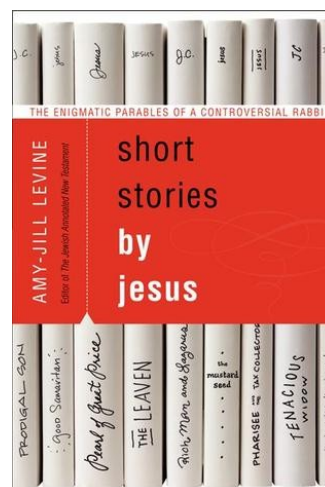
<http://www.lentmadness.org/about/>

An offering from



Forward Movement
inspire disciples. empower evangelists.

Book Corner



On April 17th, Amy Jill Levine will speak at Nativity during our Church School on her book:

Short Stories by Jesus: The Enigmatic Parables of a Controversial Rabbi.

Click the image for online ordering options.

We are thrilled to have her! Get her book and make plans to attend!

**Our sincere thanks to the 383 Nativity families who pledged
to support our mission and ministry this year.**



Pledge Commitment for Year 2016

Name _____

Address _____

Phone _____ Email _____

In realization that everything in our lives is a gift from God and in thanksgiving for all that He has so graciously provided, I/we prayerfully make this pledge for the mission and ministry of the Church of the Nativity in 2016:

Total annual pledge \$ _____

I would like pledge envelopes ☐ YES ☐ NO

My/our pledge will be paid: ☐ weekly ☐ monthly ☐ quarterly ☐ semi-annually ☐ annually

☐ This pledge is a tithe - 10% or more of my income ☐ I/we have a plan and are working toward the tithe

I have included ☐ the Nativity Trust and/or ☐ the Nativity Historic Preservation Foundation in my will

The earth is the Lord's and all that is therein... Psalm 24:1 † For God so loved the world that He gave His only son...John 3:16

You may click or tap the pledge card to go to Nativity's online pledge page
If you have not yet pledged, we hope to hear from you soon!

Nativity's Stewardship Ministry

**Making plans to attend a Cursillo weekend
is a great way to celebrate the New Year!**



Cursillo is an incredible spiritual community that has touched the lives of nearly 8,000 Episcopalians in our Diocese and hundreds of parishioners from Nativity. The Cursillo experience begins with a three-day weekend at Camp McDowell and continues once you return

home with small group meetings with fellow Cursillistas.

Remaining Cursillo dates for 2016 include:

April 7-10 (application deadline February 28)

June 9-12 (application deadline April 30)

September 8-11 (application deadline July 30)

October 6-9 (application deadline August 30)

If you would be interested in attending one of these Cursillo weekends, please contact David or Debbie Collette (drc3898@knology.net) or 256-527-2560.

Give yourself the gift of spiritual renewal by attending a Cursillo weekend in 2016!

**The Heart of St. Francis of Assisi with
Renaissance Florence and classical Rome**



There is still time to register!

Join Nativity's pilgrimage to Italy: May 26-June 6, 2016

Father Andy Anderson and Academy International Travel lead this 12 day trip praying in the steps of St. Francis and St. Clare in Assisi other holy places significant to Francis.

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

Click or tap the image for Nativity's website page or contact Amy Baxter (256.533.2455)

abaxter@nativity-hsv.org for an information packet

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those who prayers have been requested:

Roy Claytor, Becky Sodikoff, Gloria Hyatt, Hap Welch, Sarah Welch, Isabelle Towry, Warren Towry, Paige Fague, Nancy Chase, Ana Prucha Loden, Bill Rogers, Judith Cather, Warren Vann, Dell Crawford, Kathy Jacob-House, Bob Ward, Bob Hale, Katherine White, Kingslea de Roode Merkel, Anna Chilton, Lorene Dilworth, Anna Post, Nancy Colin Swenson, Carla King, Leigh Wahl, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the departed:

Charlotte Thorington, sister-in-law of Marion Conover
Sue Chase Coons McDaniel, mother of Laura Innes
Fred (Chip) Cheplen

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

US Army, Guice Moore
US Navy, Kenneth Vandervoort
US Navy, Jesse Teal

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

2/18	Franklin Aldag	2/20	John Hutchens	2/21	Margo Doss	2/23	Olivia O'Halloran
2/23	Betsy Bryant	2/24	Jordan Copeland	2/25	Clayton Donovan	3/1	Grant Howell
3/1	Bailey Morrison	3/1	Hampton Shrout				

Parish Financial Report - Period Ending 12/31/2015				
	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	204,322.30	107,144.79	1,274,441.15	1,285,737.50
Plate	13,751.15	8,333.33	98,660.47	100,000.00
Other Revenues	16,656.00	10,141.68	191,282.14	121,700.00
TOTAL	234,729.45	125,619.80	1,564,383.76	1,507,437.50
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	62,629.21	25,089.58	298,229.15	301,075.00
Personnel	69,796.16	71,083.33	856,235.44	853,000.00
Other Expenses	40,285.72	29,447.52	343,477.24	353,370.00
TOTAL	172,711.09	125,620.43	1,497,941.83	1,507,445.00
NET \$	62,018.36	\$ (0.63)	\$ 66,441.93	\$ (7.50)

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 5:30pm

The March 2016 Worship Schedule will be sent
as a separate mailing when it is available. Thank you.

2016 EASTER FLOWER DEDICATION

Easter dedications are \$20 each

Please complete this form with your check made payable to: *Nativity Flower Guild*

Mailing address: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville AL 35801

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



Phone #: _____

Name for this dedication: _____

**Please check the box next to
the dedication you desire.**

All dedications read:

- ☐ To the glory of God and...
- ☐ In loving memory of...
- ☐ In thanksgiving for...
- ☐ In celebration of...

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 256.539.2673 **THANK YOU**

Parish Family Weekend - April 22-24

The Bethany Express - This Train is Bound for Glory!

Signup online at:

<http://tinyurl.com/parishweekend2016>

Available dedication dates Through June 2016

March	6, 20	April	24
May	1, 8,	June	12, 26

2016 ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION FORM

Please complete this form with your check (\$40 or \$20 for shared dedications) made payable to: *Nativity Flower Guild*

Mailing address: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville AL 35801

Date Desired _____

Your Name _____

Phone # _____

Would you share a dedication? _____

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

Name for this altar flower dedication: _____

**Please check the box next to
the dedication you desire.**

All dedications read

- ☐ To the glory of God and...
- ☐ in loving memory of...
- ☐ in thanksgiving for...
- ☐ in celebration of...

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 256.539.2673 **THANK YOU**

STEEPLE SCHEDULE

The Steeple is published the 1st and 3rd Wednesday of each month.

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

gsommer@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is Monday Noon, February 29th

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev'd Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev'd Rusty McCown
Associate

The Rev'd Bonnie McCrickard
Associate

Christian Crocker
Choirmaster and Organist

Lane Tutt
Adult Christian Formation

William Blackerby
Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Anna Quirk
Youth Ministry Assistant

Mary Coe
Children's Formation

Amanda Goeke
Children's Formation Assistant

Audrey Clayton
Nursery Coordinator

John Buyse
Property Manager

Marlin Wilder
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 - Senior Warden

Allen Daniels - Junior Warden

Robert Dunn - Finance Chair

Brandon Smith - Treasurer

Margaret Devenish - Clerk

Brenda Chynoweth - Adult Formation

Beverly Farrington -

Long-Range Planning

AFTER HOURS EMERGENCY

A member of the clergy is *always* on call. 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 the main 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

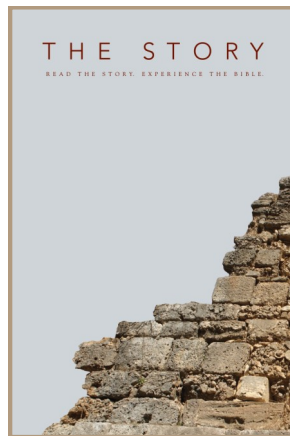
256.533.2455 Fax: 256.533.2374

nativity-hsv.org



THE STORY at Nativity

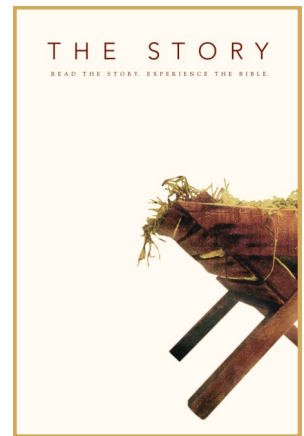
Tap for Nativity's 'THE STORY' page



February 21 & 22

Nehemiah

Chapter 21



February 28 & 29

Jesus

Chapter 22

Finding your Story in God's Story

February 17, 2016