

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

April 20, 2016

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.

Resurrection Community

During the Great Fifty Days of Easter, we pick up the Gospel writer Luke's continuing story of the Resurrection by reading from the Acts of the Apostles on Sundays. Jesus' fearful, down-trodden and selfish followers were empowered by God's presence in the Risen Christ among them through the Holy Spirit to be a community of love and transformation.

Luke-Acts captures their energy and faith in chapter 2:42-47: *They devoted themselves to the apostles' teaching and fellowship, to the breaking of bread and the prayers. Awe came upon everyone.... All who believed were together and ...would sell their possessions and goods and distribute the proceeds to all, as any who had need. Day by day, as they spent much time together in the temple, they broke bread at home and ate their food with glad and generous hearts, praising God and having the goodwill of all the people. And day by day the Lord added to their number those who were being saved.*

People long to be a part of something this purposeful. In this fractured and hurting world we deeply desire an enduring spirituality that connects with our whole life. The Church fulfills this longing as we daily commit together to be the resurrection community.

The very nature of our life together and the church's teaching point to this goal: the communion of saints, a shared life in one family, inclusion in the Trinitarian relationship of love we know from God, and indeed the very "Reign of God," what Jesus called the Kingdom of God which is now and is always coming. The community of the Church revealed in Acts is a resurrection community that nurtures and supports us on this journey.

Nativity is a vital part of Christ's resurrection community as we come together for worship and fellowship, and as we learn (together) from our Bible Studies, Church School Classes, EFM and other formation opportunities. We are a resurrection community as we gladly and generously share God's love among us and with those God calls us to serve in Huntsville and the world, giving not only our financial resources to God's mission through the church but our time and our very selves to blessing others as God blesses us. We are a resurrection community as we pray together in many ways that connect us to God's abiding presence.

At the Church of the Nativity, we follow the lead of those first Christians. Wonderful, transformative, life-giving things are happening that bring life and love, hope and healing. The Easter Day proclamation from Paul's letter to the Colossians begins, "Since you have been raised with Christ, seek the things that are above..." A friend of mine once paraphrased these lines into one of the shortest Easter homilies known: "Since you have been raised with Christ, act like it!"

Look around and you will see that many people at Nativity are acting like Christ is raised. They are seeking the things of God's Kingdom and reign. If you haven't already, won't you join us? Join a class or prayer group on Sundays or mid-week. Be a part of one of our many transformative ministries. Give generously and gladly and you will see for yourself.

And this resurrection community cannot be contained within the walls of Nativity. We have much to celebrate. Join us at our last Family Spaghetti Supper on April 27 and celebrate the many ways we know and share God's love among us and out in the wider community. We've got a story to tell because we are the resurrection community! Be thinking about and prepared to tell others about what you've discovered. **Nativity is...**

Amy +



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

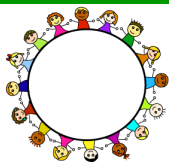
*11:00am Rite II
Holy Eucharist

WEDNESDAY

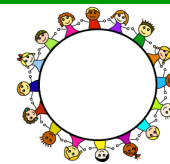
Noon
Holy Eucharist
& Healing
(Bibb Chapel)

THURSDAY

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



Children's Corner Children's Sunday Formation



Children's Formation May I Help You Diaper Drive

Remember how expensive diapers are and how many a baby needs? Let's help Foster Care Families of Madison County by collecting diapers!

Drop off in the nursery or children's Sunday school rooms during the month of May. We'll kick off our drive with a "baby shower" during Sunday school on May 1st. Questions, contact Mary Coe.

Dates in May

Sunday, May 8

Teacher recognition day at the 8:45 service
Last Sunday school meeting for this school year
Last day of 8:45 & 11:00 services until September

Sunday, May 15

Bishop's Visit and Confirmation at 10:00 am
Beginning of summer schedule, 8:00 & 10:00 services

Nativity Children's Formation

Diaper Drive



May 1-31

Drop off at the nursery or children's
Sunday school rooms during May.
Supporting Foster Care of Madison County



Questions, contact Mary Coe, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.

CAMP NATIVITY VBS

July 12, 13, 14. Plan to join us for 3 days of camp fun.
Registration opens next week.
Ready to be a VBS camp counselor? Email Mary Coe

Contact: Mary Coe mcoe@nativity-hsv.org



EYC Church of the Nativity



Contact: William Blackerby
wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org

Here's how you can help the youth summer mission trip

This summer, Nativity youth will be participating in [Mountain T.O.P.](#), a weeklong mission experience in East Tennessee, where they will be doing light home repair.

We need to borrow some tools! The full list of tools we are expected to bring can be found [here](#), but we specifically need to borrow your: cordless drill, corded drill, hacksaw, handsaw, wrecking bar. Please [email William Blackerby](#) if you are willing to loan these to the youth for one week this summer (June 5-11).

We promise to take good care of them and return them in good working order! We will also gladly accept donations of any item found on the tools list, or of cash towards the purchase of tools. Thank you for your support of this ministry!

Wednesday, April 27, 5:30pm
(Ridley Hall)

Family Spaghetti Night



\$5.00 per person, \$20.00 family maximum.

Nursery is available for little ones 4 and under

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

Contact: Church office (256.533.2455)
cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org

This month's after-dinner event

Do you...

- + Volunteer anywhere in our community?
- + Help others at work, at school, at church, in your neighborhood?
- + Consider yourself part of Outreach at Nativity?
- + Want to hear about other opportunities to serve in our community and the world?

Or, have you participated in a mission trip near or far?

If you answered **YES** to any of these, please join us for a fun evening of sharing these stories of helping others!

Cookies for Kairos April 21-24



God's Special Time

It's time for more cookies.... Mike Ward is going to Prison for the first time. Yes, Mike is serving on staff for Kairos #62.

Let's shower the men in white with some great cookies from our Nativity Bakers. All cookies should be homemade and prayed over.

One dozen cookies per one gallon zip lock bag, **THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.** Nuts are fine although no fruit or sugar toppings. Other than that, most all cookies are welcome. Cookie guidelines, and some recipe ideas, are available by clicking [here](#) or at the front desk of the church office.

All cookies will be picked up at the church office on Thursday April 21 by Noon. Thank you for helping with this very special ministry.

Contact: MichaelLShiple@aol.com

Volunteers needed for the Greene Street Market

Each Thursday from 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.

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.

The first open-air market for 2016 is Thursday, May 5th, 4:00pm

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 a part of Nativity's
Outreach Ministry



the
Greene
Street
Market
at Nativity

Be The Change Alabama Project Update

Members of the Be the Change Alabama Team continue to be involved with the Huntsville Inner City Learning Center and bring you news of upcoming opportunities for involvement with this extraordinary community.



Give it Back Track 5K
SATURDAY, APRIL
23RD, 8:00am at 2620
Clinton Ave in
Huntsville.

There is also a 1-Mile Fun Run for beginners.

For more information or register, please click the race logo.

In an effort to teach the children at the Learning Center that *it is better to give than receive*, all money raised will be donated to The Well House in Birmingham, Alabama. The Well House is a faith-based, non-profit organization offering immediate shelter and transitional housing to women that have been sexually exploited.

Contact: Marilyn Lands marilynlands@gmail.com

The Huntsville Inner City Learning Center is a part of Nativity's Outreach Ministry



Outreach in Action

May is "May I Help You?" Month

Since 2010, Nativity has designated May as "May I help you?" for Outreach, by providing opportunities for the Parish to make direct contributions. Beginning May 1, Nativity's Outreach Committee is sponsoring:



Collecting 100 Beach Towels
for the Sawyerville Day Camp



Food items for Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP):

canned fruit, any vegetables,
spaghetti sauce, spaghetti
noodles, 1 lb bagged beans,
1 lb bagged rice, canned meat
(chicken, tuna, ham), boxed
cereal, oatmeal, peanut
butter, jelly



Collecting diapers and wipes

for babies in need in our area -

(Details in the Children's Corner on page 2)



Watch for collection bins on the stage in Ridley Hall!



The 28th Annual Huntsville / Madison / Madison County Prayer Breakfast

Thursday, May 5th 2016 - 7:00 - 8:30am
Von Braun Center, North Hall

Guest Speaker

JOHN F. CROYLE

**Founder - Big Oak Ranch and member of the
1973 University of Alabama Football Team -
National Champs**

Special Music provided by the Calhoun Community
College Chorale - directed by Grandville Oldham

Tickets are available at \$20 each. For more information,
please contact Lou Durnya at (256.883.5168).
Church of the Nativity is also a sponsor for this event.



It's that time of year again...

2016/17 Calendar Planning is upon us!

PLEASE contact Amy Baxter to get your
Bible Studies, Committee Meetings and other
Events on the Calendar by May 1st!!!

Please email Amy Baxter abaxter@nativity-hsv.org
or by calling 256-533-2455 ext. 221

Would you like to be an Usher?

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!

QUICK BITS

Upcoming Events at a Glance

May 1	HAP Sunday	
May 5	Greene Street open-air Market Opens	4:00pm
May 8	Mother's Day	
	Teacher Recognition	8:45am
	2nd Serve Sunday meal packing	6:00pm
May 15	The Day of Pentecost	
	Bishop's visit & Confirmation	10:00am
	Summer worship schedule begins	

Nativity Medical Outreach Mission to Haiti



April 30 -May 7

The Nativity Medical Team will be going to Haiti again this year from April 30 thru May 7. Like last year, we will be asking for your financial assistance to purchase vitamins, toothbrushes, and condoms, among other medical items. We will have a table set up each Sunday in April where you can "buy" items of your choice that you would like to donate. You may also send checks to the church office indicating that this is to go to the Haiti Medical Mission. We thank you for your support as we go to Haiti to share God's love and medical care with the people of St. Simeone Parish in Haiti.

Be On The Lookout For 'The Story' Survey

Details on the back page

Baptisms

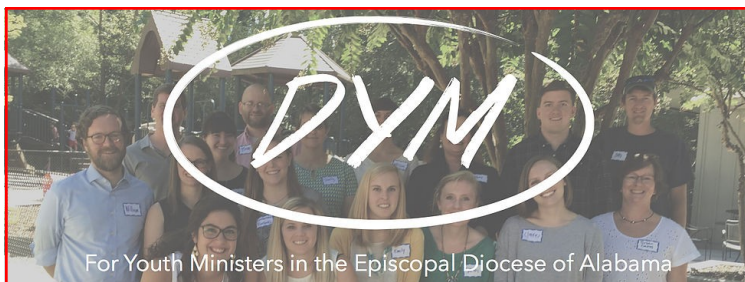
The next baptism date at Nativity will be The Day of Pentecost, Sunday May 15, 2016. Anyone wishing to have children baptized on that date should contact Mother Bonnie no later than Monday, April 25th

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

Happy 95th birthday - Lucy Mize



Lucy Mize & Father Andy Anderson enjoy a moment together while recently celebrating Lucy's 95th birthday with all her Nativity friends.



Click the image for some Summer volunteer opportunities.

Contact William Blackerby wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org if you would like more information.



Nativity Parish Weekend 2016



We are looking forward
to you being there!



OUR VESTRY IS FINALIZING THE 2016 BUDGET.

PLEASE GET YOUR PLEDGE IN
IF YOU HAVE NOT DONE SO.

You may click or tap the logo to go to Nativity's online pledge page

MANY THANKS TO THE 400 FAMILIES WHO HAVE PLEDGED

**THUS FAR, ONLY HALF OF OUR PARISH HOUSEHOLDS
ENABLE MINISTRY FOR ALL 800+ HOUSEHOLDS**

Nativity's Stewardship Ministry

NATIVITY WELCOMES THE REV'D GREGORY GIBSON SUNDAY MAY 1



CELEBRATING OUR NEW COMPANION DIOCESE RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE VIRGIN ISLANDS

The Rev'd Gregory Gibson, Priest-in-Charge at St. John's Episcopal Church on St Croix will be our guest preacher Sunday, May 1. Father Gibson is originally from Barbados and was in seminary with Bishop Marray! He joins seven other priests and the Bishop of the Virgin Islands who will be visiting other parishes in our diocese.

Our new Companion Relationship with our Diocese of Alabama and the Virgin Islands (and also Alaska) is based on a mutual covenant of shared ministry, shared worship, shared mission, a relationship of give and take, of mutuality, where we hope to learn from each other and deepen our bonds of friendship to grow God's kingdom. The general areas of relationship for 2016 are Clergy/Lay Leadership Development/Exchange, Youth Engagement (their youth are coming to Summer Camp and will be counselors at

Sawyer'sville and we hope Foothills Day Camp), Spiritual Formation and Deepening with a focus on Cursillo (they will send pilgrims and staff to our fall Cursillos). As we deepen our relationship, there are opportunities for parish-to-parish relationships and involvement of other diocesan groups such as the Episcopal Church Women (ECW) and the Daughters of the King (DOK).

For further information you may go to the Diocese of Alabama's latest [Alabama Episcopalian](#).

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Tara Dorsey, Claire Johnston, Marty Askins, Paige Fague, Ted Bledsoe, Ralph Shuey, James Lydon, Leigh Wahl, Becky Sodikoff, Warren Vann, Dell Crawford, Marion Schroeder, Gloria Hyatt, Bill Rogers, Bob Ward, Bob Hale, Katherine White, Carla King, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the birth of a child:

William Rhett McClung, son of Will & Tess McClung, grandson of Nancy & Skip Colin, born April 19th in Nashville.

We pray for the departed:

Anne Speake, aunt of Jane Wacaster

Virginia McCrickard, mother of Matthew McCrickard

Sue Hutchens Henson, sister of Eleanor Hutchens and Margaret Henson

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:

4/22 Emme Roderick	4/22 Lily Cantey	4/22 Sellers Rawson	4/23 Clara Williams
4/26 Isabella Panico	4/27 Jackson Anglin	4/28 Arianna Gunnar	4/29 Brooks Whitehead
4/30 Thomas Aldag	5/1 Sydney Suggs		

Parish Financial Report - Period Ending 3/31/2016				
	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	86,952.04	107,500.00	330,365.66	322,500.00
Plate	2,593.91	7,083.33	17,510.06	21,250.03
Other Revenues	15,754.39	9,790.01	21,521.85	29,369.91
TOTAL	105,300.34	124,373.34	369,397.57	373,119.94
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	14,029.39	25,906.24	59,125.52	77,718.84
Personnel	69,308.91	71,250.00	221,425.79	213,750.00
Other Expenses	25,263.45	27,170.83	75,023.81	81,512.53
TOTAL	108,601.75	124,327.07	355,575.12	372,981.37
NET \$	(3,301.41)	\$ 46.27	\$ 13,822.45	\$ 138.57

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 in Joffrion Hall, 2nd Floor, East (J2E).

WORSHIP SCHEDULE May 2016, published 4/20/16

SUNDAY, May 1st, 6th Sunday of Easter

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Anderson	*VIP	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 am	Anderson	VIP	<i>Matt Farr, Basye Holland-Shuey</i>	Jennifer Dill	Clay Sherrill
11:00 am	Anderson	VIP	<i>Matt Farr, Deborah Baker</i>		

* Virgin Islands Priest

WEDNESDAY, May 4, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Anderson	Farr	Lea Ann Barnett

THURSDAY, May 5, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
6:00 pm	McCown		Sally Ann Culver

SUNDAY, May 8th; 7th Sunday of Easter: Ascension

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (Anderson – out)	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	McCown		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Holland-Shuey	McCown	<i>Matt Farr, Ralph Shuey, Pat Sampson</i>	Elaine Hamner	Melissa Kirkindall
11:00 am	McCrickard	McCown	<i>Matt Farr, Lea Ellison, Virginia Kobler, Sally Ann Culver</i>	Walter Thames, Robbie Shafer	Marilyn Lands

WEDNESDAY, May 11, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Holland-Shuey		Marilyn Lands

THURSDAY, May 12, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
6:00 pm	McCrickard		N/A

SUNDAY, May 15th, Pentecost; Confirmation; Bishop's Visit

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
8:00 am	Anderson	McCrickard	Don Lambert, John Hendricks	Don Lambert	John Hendricks
10:00 am	Bishop	Bishop	<i>Matt Farr, Bob Serio, Rob Cozby, Jordan Cozby, Marilyn Lands</i>	Rhonwyn Watson, Mike Innes	Ronnie Rogers

WEDNESDAY, May 18, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	McCrickard		Joan East

THURSDAY, May 19, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
6:00 pm	Anderson		Shari Williams

SUNDAY, May 22nd, 1st Sunday after Pentecost – Trinity Sunday

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (McCown – out)	Lector	Intercessor
8:00 am	Anderson		Lane Mickle, Allen Daniels	Allen Daniels	Lane Mickle
10:00 am	McCrickard	Anderson	Mike Ward, Margaret Bibb, Pat Quirk, Rich Spera	Debbie Collette, David Collette	Deborah Baker

WEDNESDAY, May 25, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Anderson		Mary Hendricks

THURSDAY, May 26, HE

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
6:00 pm	Anderson		Don Lambert

SUNDAY, May 29th, 2nd Sunday after Pentecost

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM (McCrickard – out)	Lector	Intercessor
8:00 am	Anderson		Robert Dunn, Joan East	Martha Joffrion	Joan East
10:00 am	Anderson	Anderson	Peter Cobun, Walter Thames, Hanns Billmayer, Rich Goodwin	Marcia Cobun, Ronnie Rogers	Jim Douthit

USHERS

8:45/8:00	Bill Starnes, Allen Daniels, Randy Dill, Andy Kelly, Pat Sampson, Clay Sherrill
11:00/10:00	Hanns Billmayer, Veneta Billmayer, John Lewis, Ernie Thomas, Susan Thomas

ALTAR GUILD

7	Judy Vann, Emily Moody, Beth Pugh, Debbie Joyner, Lea Ann Barnett
14	Sara Little, Anne Carter, Connie Stephenson, Linda Watts
21	Judy Heacock, Lea Ann Barnett, Rebecca Brothers, Gail Brown
28	Wanda Cobb, Jewell Reynolds, Rose Anne Shearer, Mary Johnson

CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE

April 25 – May 1	May 2 – 8	May 9 – 15	May 16 – 22	May 23 - 29	May 30 – June 5
Anderson	McCrickard	McCown	Anderson	McCrickard/Anderson	McCown



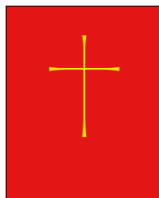
22 New BCP Prayer Books are needed for Nativity Lodge in Bethany Village at Camp McDowell

▶ \$25 per book

▶ Return this card along with your check to:

Prayer Books
c/o Church of the Nativity
208 Eustis Avenue SE
Huntsville, AL 35801

▶ Checks made payable to:
Church of the Nativity



Each Book of Common Prayer will have a bookplate placed on the inside cover with your personalized request:

Your Name: _____

In _____ honor, loving memory, thanksgiving, celebration (circle one)

of _____

given by _____

Available Dedication Dates

May 8

July 10

September 25

December 4, 11, 18

June 12

August 28

November 27

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? _____

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...

Name for this altar flower dedication: _____

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, May 2nd

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

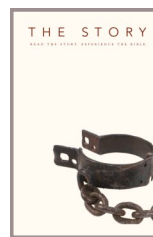
nativity-hsv.org



April 24 & 25

Early Church

Chapter 29



May 1 & 2

Early Church

Chapter 30

THE STORY at Nativity

Tap for Nativity's 'THE STORY' page

Be On The Lookout For The Story Survey

If you participated in one of the adult classes of 'The Story', we need your help.

As we begin to turn our attention to Adult Christian Education for the fall we would like your feedback on a follow-up to The Story. Please take five minutes to answer a few questions about your experience. The survey will be sent to you via email on Thursday, April 21. There will also be paper copies available in the church office lobby.

Thank you for your help and your involvement in Nativity's Christian Education!

Finding your Story in God's Story

April 20, 2016