THE STEEPLE

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY,

Est. 1843

EPISCOPAL

Worship Schedule (* Nursery available) The Summer schedule

begins May 15

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)

The Church of the Nativity

May 4, 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.

The Rogation Days: A Time to Hope and Anticipate God's Blessings

The Greene Street Market at Nativity opens Thursday! Our market connects our life and ministry to God's good creation, especially our dependence upon the fruits of the Earth which result from our labor and efforts at planting and harvesting. Our market also reminds us that God desires good, healthy food for all people, and so we embrace ministries of food justice and conservation. The Market is a hopeful ministry that we share with all Huntsville.

With our market, it's time we reclaim the Church's ancient observance of **Rogation Days**. Traditionally, these are the Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday before Ascension Day, the day the Greene Street Market opens and is blessed. These days of Christian observance originated in the fifth century as days of fasting and prayer to ward off natural disasters. In England they became associated with the blessing of the fields at planting time. The vicar "beat the bounds" of the parish, processing around the fields reciting psalms and the litany.

In the United States in the Episcopal Church's early days through the mid-nineteenth century (when farming became such a corporate industrial effort instead of people driven) Rogation Days have been associated with rural life, especially with agriculture and fishing.

"Rogation" comes from the Latin "rogare," which means "to ask." During the Rogation Days we ask God's mercy and blessings, particularly with regard to farming, gardening, and other agricultural pursuits. They are set aside to remind us how radically dependent we are upon the care of the Earth. It is easy for us modern urbanized and suburbanized people to forget that God is counting on us to be fellow stewards of creation for all.

A lovely symmetry of both nature and theology occurs on the Rogation Days. Seeking God's blessings upon the efforts of planting the fields in anticipation of a good growing season and a fruitful harvest is hopeful. Falling on the three days before Ascension Day, we claim a deeper hope of our Christian faith. When the God Incarnate ascended, we claim that in returning to the Godhead, Jesus, the Risen Lord of Life, takes our humanity into the fullness of God's Trinitarian life, and fills all creation through the power of the Holy Spirit.

Ten days from now, on the Feast of Pentecost on May 15 (when Bishop Sloan will visit Nativity to celebrate the Spirit's gifts with our 35 Youth and Adult Confirmands/Seekers) we celebrate the Spirit's renewing not only our lives but the face of the earth and all creation.

We won't be singing the Great Litany in Procession when we bless the Market on Thursday, but we will use our Episcopal Book of Common Prayer collects for the Rogation Days to shape our blessing upon the market, the growers and artisans, and all who share in the fruits of their labor. I will "beat the bounds" of the market, blessing all our vendors and guests!

Father Gregory Gibson, our guest preacher this past weekend celebrating the Diocese of Alabama's companion relationship with the Virgin Islands, told us they bless soil, seeds, plants, and growers on the Sunday before the Rogation Days. What a great way for us to embrace this aspect of our life and Christian hope as we continue to grow the Greene Street Market ministry in the years ahead (pun intended).

Almighty God, Lord of heaven and earth: We humbly pray that your gracious providence may give and preserve to our use the harvests of the land and of the seas, and may prosper all who labor to gather them, that we, who are constantly receiving good things from your hand may always give you thanks; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever. Amen.

(For Rogation Days 1. For fruitful Seasons, BCP page 258)

Andy +



Children's Corner Children's Sunday Formation



CAMP NATIVITY VBS Registration open!



REGISTER HERE

CAMP NATIVITY VBS is just a few short months away and registration is open! We have a terrific program of camp songs, crafts, campfire stories and games. Your children will not want to miss this time of fellowship and fun.

Grown-ups and teens are invited, too. Come be a cabin counselor or activity helper. Grown-ups can volunteer during registration.

Teens - register to volunteer here.

VBS kicks-off Monday evening with a cook out/cabin check in. Join us for a hot dog supper from 5:30 to 6:30pm.

CAMP NATIVITY is free to every camper age 3 through rising 6th grade, including your camp t-shirt and the Monday night cook out.

Can't wait to see you at CAMP NATIVITY in July!

Sunday School Teacher Recognition May 8

Please join us at the 8:45am service as we recognize our teachers this year. This Sunday will be the last meeting of children's Sunday school for this school year.

Contact: Mary Coe mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

Camp McDowell scholarships

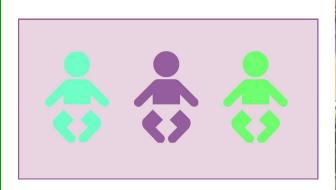
for Children and Youth are available as part of the Ann Daly Reynolds Memorial Fund Please contact <u>Father Andy Anderson</u> for additional scholarship information

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!

We kicked off our drive with a "baby shower" during the May 1st Sunday school.

Drop off in the nursery or children's Sunday school rooms during the month of May.















Upcoming events and more!

EYC Church of the Nativity

Sunday School teacher and Girls' Bible Study leader Rebecca Epps has put together a list of Bible verses to provide you with some encouragement as you encounter EOCs, APs, finals, and the rest of the end of the year's alphabet soup. Click here to download.

Laser Tag: Redux Sunday, May 15th -- last EYC of the 2015-2016 school year!

Meet at Nativity, 5:15pm - Return to Nativity, 8:00pm

Laser tag is back by popular demand! Come celebrate the end of school and the end of a great year of EYC with some laser tag! No cost to attend, dinner included. To sign up, email William

Rafting Trip 2016 Depart 1:00pm Friday, July 29th - Return 1:00pm Sunday, July 31st

Sign up today for the EYC's summer 2016 rafting trip! This year, we are headed to Asheville, NC for a two-night trip. We will be staying at the YMCA Blue Ridge Assembly, enjoying Friday night out in Asheville, rafting on the French Broad River Saturday morning, hiking in the Blue Ridge Mountains Saturday afternoon, cooking out Saturday evening, and heading home Sunday morning. **Sign up here!**

Contact: William Blackerby wblackerby@nativity-hsv.org

Summer worship schedule begins May 15th

Please note the following schedule changes:

May 15 is the Bishop's visit.

The 8:00am service (Rite I with Holy Eucharist) will be in the Church instead of Bibb Chapel.

Youth and adult confirmands are to meet in Bibb Chapel at 9:00am

After the 10:00am service, there will be a reception with the Bishop to welcome the new members and confirmands in Ridley Hall.

Starting May 22, the Sunday worship schedule is as follows:

8:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite I, (Bibb Chapel) 10:00am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Children's Chapel (Church)

After the service on May 22, there will be a Senior recognition reception in Ridley Hall.

Beginning May 29th

Following the 10:00am service, 'Lemonade in the Shade' begins (Church yard). This program is hosted by Nativity's Blue Apron Ministry.

Greene Street Market 2016 opening & blessing Thursday, May 5th, 4:00pm

Volunteers needed

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.

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





Nativity Parish Weekend 2016 April 22-24 Camp McDowell

























QUICK BITS

Nativity Music

Informational Chorister Meeting, May 22nd following the 10:00am service in the Library. Current and prospective choir parents are invited to come ask questions and learn about our chorister program that will be starting back up in the fall.

Children ages 4-18 are invited to sing and participate in our chorister program.

Save the date - Sunday, June 5th, 5:00pm (Church) - Nativity Choir Spring Concert

Contact: Christian Crocker

ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org (256.533.2455 x216)

Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, May 10, Suggested donation \$5
6:30am Simple Eucharist, Bibb Chapel
7:00am Breakfast with guest speaker:
Sherman Dailey. former director of the
Launch program, a program for

providing at-risk youth with mentoring

in preparation for the job market.

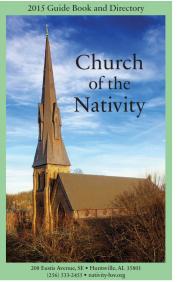


Have you taken 'The Story' survey?

Details on the back page



Your
"The Story"
Experience



2016 Green Book Updates

We are beginning our annual update of Nativity's Green Book. This is our member directory and guide to the ministries and yearly events.

Has your address, phone number, or email address changed in the last year? Have you dropped your landline?

If so, please let us know so we can update our records.

We have extra copies available to check your information.

Directory update information:

Connie Gadomski (256.533.2455) cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org

Extra Green Books and advertising information:

Glenn Sommer (256.533.2455) gsommer@nativity-hsv.org

Nativity Young Adults

Dinner & fellowship

Tuesday, May 10, 5:30pm Location to be announced.

Contact Mother Bonnie McCrickard to RSVP: bmcrickard@nativity-hsv.org (256.533.2455 x207)

Find us on facebook for more information! Nativity Young Adults/Twentysomethings

Mission Guild Monday, May 16th. 10:00am, (Ridley Hall)

Please join us for The Mission Guild's Annual White Elephant Auction and Salad Luncheon. Our speaker is Chad Tillman, Huntsville/Madison County Rescue Squad.

Hostesses are, Berta Hargett and Lois Dreher. Jimmy Lou Horton returns as Auctioneer. Nativity Outreach Annual
"MAY I Help You?"
Ingathering



Huntsville Assistance
Program
Food Items

Collecting

100 Beach Towels

for Sawyerville



Collecting
Diapers & Wipes

Collection bins in Ridley Hall (Towels & Food)

Diapers & Wipes in the Nursery or Sunday School rooms

Collection bins for beach towels and HAP will be available through Sunday June 5th

May I help you?



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.

Thanks for all your support!

Amy-Jill Levine presentations are online

If you were unable to attend Dr. Levine's presentations at Nativity or would like to hear them again, they are available for listening from the **Sermons** page of our website.

Saturday, April 16

9:30am "Jesus in his Jewish Context: Piety, Practice, Prayer and Politics"

11:00am "The Bible and Sexuality"

1:30pm "How Jews and Christians Speak about the Middle East Differently"

Sunday, April 17

10:00am "How to Hear a Parable: The Laborers in the Vineyard."

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

Now that the year's growing season is in full swing, it is time to think about the fruits and vegetables we feed our families and ourselves. Here is the recently released 2016 list of produce in the U.S. which has the highest levels of pesticides. Use this guide to decide which produce is healthier to buy and eat organically grown and when you can safely buy conventionally grown. Foods on this list are especially important for children or those with compromised immune systems.

For the first time, strawberries top the Dirty Dozen list; beating out apples which headed the list for several years.

Here is some information about strawberries from The Environmental Working Group, by Bill Walker, Investigations Editor, and Sonya Lunder, Senior Analyst:

Americans eat nearly eight pounds of fresh strawberries a year – and with them, dozens of pesticides, including chemicals that are banned in Europe, linked to cancer, or reproductive damage.

Strawberries tested by scientists at the U.S. Department of Agriculture in 2009 and 2014 bore an average of 5.75 different pesticides per sample, compared to 1.74 pesticides per sample for all other produce, according to a new EWG analysis.

USDA tests found that strawberries are the fresh produce items most likely to be contaminated with pesticide residues, even after they are picked, rinsed in the field and washed before eating.

If you want to avoid pesticides, EWG advises that you always buy organically grown berries. The same goes for the other Dirty Dozen™ foods.

Note: When possible, talk directly with farmers/growers, to find out the details on how their produce is grown. For example, locally grown hydroponically raised tomatoes available at the Greene Street Market - while not technically "organically grown" - are raised without the use of pesticides.

Remember this list to help make better choices when doing your grocery shopping – suggestion: take a picture of the list with your Smartphone and bring it up whenever needed

The 2016 Dirty Dozen (plus 2) list:



+ Hot Peppers + + Kale / Collard greens + For more information about food along with other products and topics of importance to our health and well-being, see the Environmental Working Group (EWG) website. http://www.ewg.org

CREATION - Let's Take Care of It

The Lord God took the man and put

him in the Garden of Eden

to work it and take care of it.



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

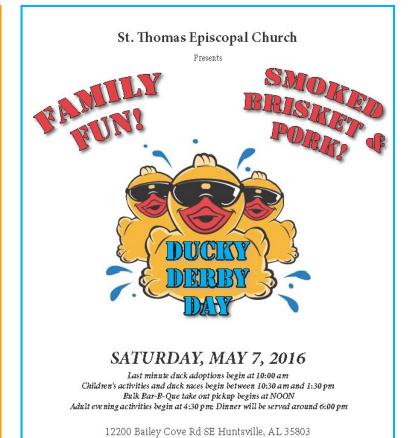
Thursday, May 5th 2016 - 7:00 - 8:30am Von Braun Center, North Hall

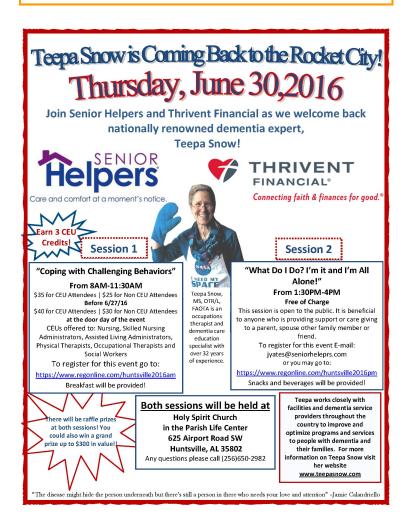
Guest Speaker
JOHN F. CROYLE

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







Looking for a great way to enjoy Camp McDowell this summer??

Proceeds from Ducky Derby Day support St. Thomas' Community Outreach Programs For more information contact: Lorri Fields is eibert/@gmail.com Cooper Green coopergreen3@gmail.com

(256) 880-0248

Diocesan Homecoming (June 10-12, 2016) is just about the best summer vacation opportunity around! Formerly known as "Camp Day", Diocesan Homecoming is the evolution of Family Camp - where old friends gather and new friends meet in God's Backyard to rest, play, worship, and ENJOY GOD's CREATION with others. It is open to all ages and we encourage you to bring your family and friends. Children under 18 must be accompanied by an adult.

There will be lots of Camp Activities and lodging will be in the new Bethany Village for all to Enjoy! Activities will include the Ropes Course, swimming, boating, arts & crafts, a visit to Camp McDowell's farm and many more!

Register at

http://secure-q.net/EventQ/Event/Info? OrgID=dioala&EventID=2556 Or http://www.campmcdowell.com

Contact Georganne Perrine (205.358.9230) gperrine@dioala.org with questions

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Mari Zimmerman, Claude Boykin, Anna Post, Martha Joffrion, Avery Tincher, Millie Byram, Jacob Brown, Claire Johnston, Paige Fague, Ralph Shuey, James Lydon, Leigh Wahl, Becky Sodikoff, Warren Vann, Dell Crawford, Ted Bledsoe, Marion Schroeder, Gloria Hyatt, Bill Rogers, Bob Ward, Bob Hale, Katherine White, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the departed:

Carla King

Fresnino Ramos, uncle of Fredric Gunnar

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:

5/6Violet Gullion5/7Christopher Laney5/10Eleanor DeFiore5/10Evan Ellison5/11Julia Cote5/12Anna-Claire Stevens5/13Dylan Clardy5/14Zoe Maddox5/14Murphy Bohan5/14Madison Bohan5/15Liam Stafford5/15Lucy Baggette

5/15 Evans Alison

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 have many upcoming opportunities for involvement with this extraordinary community.

The Learning Center is gearing up for summer camp which begins on June 5 and has volunteer opportunities for tutors, drivers and for individuals and organizations to provide lunch and snacks (primarily fruit and other healthy treats).

Other ways you can support the Center are:

- through our monthly toiletry and school supply drive coordinated by Cheryl Watts. The Center needs toiletry items including toothbrushes, toothpaste, mouthwash, shampoo, soap, combs, brushes, lotion and feminine hygiene products as well as laundry detergent and towels.
- School supplies needed include pencils, erasers, paper, glue sticks, construction paper, Kleenex, hand wipes and backpacks.
- Additional needs include bibles (NIV Jr) and children's books. These items can be dropped off at the Church office.

Huntsville Inner City Learning Center Current Needs:

- People who enjoy manual labor and can help between mid-May and Summer Camp start date (June 5) to make repairs and spruce up the facility
- Tutors for afterschool program and summer camp
- Drivers for the summer camp program
- Women's Center: Need help with programs especially mentoring around healthy eating, cooking, shopping for fresh food and parenting. Also need sponsors for social programs like Mother's Day Dinner and Summer Picnic
- Chaperones for Field Trips
- Gift cards for gas to help with transportation costs
- Gardening. The kids want to learn more about plants and food and possibly begin selling their produce, at Greene Street Market or create their own market

Please join us in this ground breaking volunteer effort to bring lasting, positive change to those who need it most in our community.

Be the Change Alabama is a partnership with the Diocese of Alabama, Sewanee, The Episcopal Church, and the Leadership Development Initiative of the Diocese of Massachusetts.

For more information please contact Marilyn Lands <u>marilynlands@gmail.com</u> or Mother Bonnie McCrickard <u>bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org</u>.

Acolyte Schedule - May 2016

We have a big service coming up this month on the 15th, when we celebrate Pentecost AND host the Bishop and all the confirmands! It's one of our "all hands on deck" services, so do let us know if you're scheduled but cannot attend—we will need to fill in right away. Thank you to those who step in to volunteer on Sundays, and we hope all will continue to do so!

Sunday, May 1

8:45 A/M Sherrill 11:00 A/M Ward

C Windham Hunter, Meredith Walker C Jordan Cozby, Alexander Young

T Ellie Walker, Clay Walker T Mary Kate Brooks, Laura Kate Evans

T Parker Sanders, Katherine Hunter T Ella Jane Duncan, Luke Alison

5 Cameron Pinson S John Sadler Evans

AS Sam Hartley AS Evans Alison

Sunday, May 8

8:45 A/M Putt 11:00 A/M Nutt

C Franklin Aldag, Leighton Luther C Steuart Evans, Bankston Creech

T Thomas Aldag, Tess Lambert T Elizabeth Evans, Laura Kamelchuk

T Evelyn Warren, Allie Starnes T Mary Maddox Creech, Evan Ellison

S Sidney Gunter S Evan Ellison

AS Joshua Huskey AS Riley Kamelchuk

Sunday May 15 CONFIRMATION/PENTECOST *** NOTE SERVICE TIME!!

8:00 10:00 A/M Nutt, Nina Putt

C Karsten Correale C Robert McCown, Gillianne Sharp Thurifer: John Laney

T Margaret Bryant, Paxton Whitney Banners: Evans Bryant,

T Alice Malone, Aboudonia, Dylan Chenoweth, Jack Benton Stockton

S Powell Stockton
AS David DiFranco

Sunday May 22 Continues Summer service schedule times

8:00 10:00 A/M M Ward

C Ireland Braudaway C Sims Windham

T Emery Windham, Sarah Whelden Hall, Bailey Morrison

S Margaret Foster

AS Fvan Ward

Sunday May 29

8:00 Jackson Anglin 10:00 A/M Putt

C Forrest Webber, Park Ellis

T Patrick Ahearn, Madelyn Alison

T Lucy Ellis, Mary Ellis Alison

S Chloe Parsons

AS Britt Webber



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:

You	r Name:
ln _	honor, loving memory, thanksgiving, celebration (circle one)
of _	
givei	n by

Available Dedication Dates						
June 12	August 28	November 27				
July 10	September 25	December 4, 11, 18				

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	cel	leb	rati	ion	of.	
						-

Name for this altar flower dedication:

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 16th

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 here for Nativity's 'THE STORY' survey



May 8 & 9

A New Beginning

Chapter 31

Have you taken '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. Click or tap above to take the survey. Paper copies are also 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