

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

May 18, 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.

May Transitions

The month of May brings a season of transition as the school year ends, graduation exercises take place, and the Church moves through Easter to Pentecost, and into the quieter period of "ordinary time." In the ensuing months of June and July we have time to change our pace, reflect, and rest. The wind and fire of Pentecost brought a new understanding of service and mission for the early disciples. It was a season of transition for Jesus' followers as new gifts were discovered and shared. The Spirit is still at work transforming us and the world through God's mission in Christ's name at Nativity as we embrace our mission and gifts.

This past Sunday we witnessed the Holy Spirit's transformative power at our Pentecost celebration when Bishop Kee Sloan made the annual Episcopal Visit to Nativity and prayed for the Spirit's work to increase through the lives of 20 youth who were confirmed and 17 adults who renewed their Baptismal Covenant commitments through Confirmation, being received into our Episcopal Church, or Reaffirmation.

It is obvious that Nativity is on fire with God's love that is growing and spreading from our life together and into the world. What a glorious Sunday with all the commitments made and celebrated, the church decked out in Pentecost red with flowers and banners, Kee's preaching and presence, beautiful music, and a grand reception following the service. Thanks to all who made this day an amazing day in our life together at Nativity. Pictures are on Facebook and the website.

The commitments celebrated bring a time of renewed mission, not only in the lives of the 37 people celebrated, but in all our lives as we renewed our own Baptismal Covenant. I am excited about what will happen because we have not only committed to Christ anew, but we especially committed to being a supportive community of Christ's love to those confirmed and received when we said, "We will!" Even if you weren't present, you aren't off the hook. This powerful commitment was made by those present on behalf of ALL of Nativity's parishioners. We are all called to share our gifts in many mission opportunities available.

Here's just one way: You will read further on page 2 that our Youth Ministries will experience a season of transition as we say goodbye to William Blackerby the end of July and seek our new Youth Minister. In this period of transition, all adults, not only parents are called upon to pray for and support our ministry among the youth (not the future of the church, but a vital part of the church today!). We will claim new gifts to be shared as well as strength for the existing ones that have been offered faithfully.

William has served so well for over three and a half years and we are grateful for his leadership and gifts. He and his wife Kristen are moving to Birmingham where William will teach at the Indian Springs School (again, see page 2). Our Youth ministry is strong thanks to William and the Youth Ministry Architect Team and Youth Council. Bonnie McCrickard is ably providing pastoral and administrative leadership for this ministry and has called together an excellent Search Team.

In this summer season of transition and renewal, we have the opportunity to allow God to transform us and the world. Summer schedules create space in our lives. Where is the Holy Spirit leading you in mission and ministry in sharing Christ's love? Allowing God's presence in Christ through the transforming power of the Spirit to enter this space, we can trust God's fire and love will take us where we need to go. Blessed, holy, and life giving transitions to all!

Andy +



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

Worship Schedule (* Nursery available)

SUNDAY

8:00 Rite I

Holy Eucharist
(Bibb Chapel)

*10:00am Rite II

Holy Eucharist
Children's Chapel

WEDNESDAY

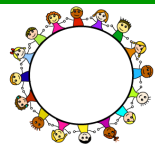
Noon

Holy Eucharist
& Healing
(Bibb Chapel)

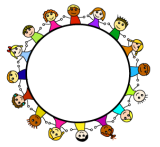
THURSDAY

6:00pm Rite II

Holy Eucharist
(Bibb Chapel)



Children's Corner Children's Sunday Formation

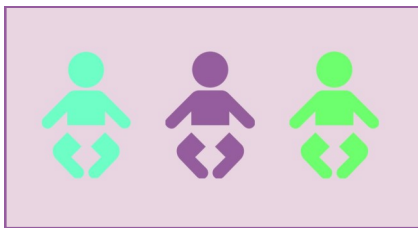


Summer Children's Chapel

Come join us on the playground Sunday mornings! With the summer schedule, children's chapel moves outside. Our regular leaders will need some extra helpers this summer. No preparation is necessary and you will always have a partner. [Sign up here](#) or email Mary Coe.

Diaper Drive continues

Children's Formation Diaper Drive supporting Foster Care Families of Madison County continues through May. Drop diapers off at the Nursery or the stage in Ridley Hall.



Contact: Mary Coe mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

CAMP NATIVITY VBS Registration open!



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 want to be a part of 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 is July 12-14, 9:00am to Noon. VBS kicks off Monday night 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 4 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!
[REGISTER HERE](#)

Dear Nativity Parish Family,

I write you to share some bittersweet news. In August I will begin serving as the Latin teacher at Indian Springs School, my alma mater, just outside Birmingham. When this opportunity presented itself, I could not pass it up, and while I am excited about what the future holds, now I must begin the difficult process of saying goodbye to this wonderful church.

It has been a privilege to serve with the youth of this parish, and their families, for the past three years. The young people who come to this church are intelligent, funny, curious, and compassionate. They frustrate you, they charm you, and they surprise you. They do all of these things because they are people, with all the complexity that entails. I will miss them.

I will also miss the team of adults who have given so much time from their busy lives to youth ministry at Nativity. Volunteering to serve the church's youth community is a serious commitment of time and resources. In the more than three years I have been here, a lot of people have given a lot of both, not only in direct relationships with kids, but especially behind the scenes at Renovation Team and youth council meetings, by preparing dinners for EYC, driving long distances for trips, and more. There are too many people for me to name, but please know that I sincerely thank you for your ministry to and with the youth of this parish.

As my time here draws to close at the end of July, I will be busy with a youth mission trip, serving on program staff at Camp McDowell, and doing my best to organize the church's various youth spaces and make my successor's transition as smooth as possible, but I encourage you to stop by my office to say hello. If you're interested in volunteering with the youth ministry this fall, let me know!

Faithfully,
William Blackerby



QUICK BITS

Baptisms

The next baptism date at Nativity will be Sunday July 10, 2016. Anyone wishing to have children baptized on that date should contact Mother Bonnie no later than Monday, June 20th

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

Sunday on Thursday 6:00pm, Bibb Chapel

Remember Sunday on Thursday if you find yourself unable to make it to church on Sunday morning. It's a service of Holy Eucharist every Thursday evening at 6:00pm in Bibb Chapel.

Come as you are!

Camp McDowell scholarships

for Children and Youth are available as part of the Ann Daly Reynolds Memorial Fund
Please contact [Father Andy Anderson](#) for additional scholarship information

The June worship schedule will be published in the June 1st edition of the Steeple.



the
**Greene
Street
Market**
at Nativity

Open-air Market and Artisan Alley

Thursdays: 4:00 - 8:00pm

The Greene Street Market Store

Monday, - Wednesday, Friday: 10:00am - 2:00pm
Thursday: 2:00 - 8:00pm



**Nativity hosts
Dining with Friends dinner
Friday, June 10th in Ridley Hall**

**For more information,
purchase tickets,
or sponsor a table,
contact Margaret Bibb-Quirk
margaretbibb@gmail.com**

Upcoming Events at a Glance

- May 22 Senior Recognition Reception
(following the 10:00am service)
- May 29 'Lemonade in the Shade' begins
(following the 10:00am service)
- May 30 Memorial Day, Office Closed
- Jun 5 HAP Sunday
'Just Stuff It' meal packing for First Stop
(following the 10:00am service)
Nativity Choir Spring Concert 5:00pm
- Jun 5-11 Youth Mission Trip ~ Tennessee
- Jun 9-12 Cursillo #203 ~ Camp McDowell
- Jun 10 Nativity's 'Dining with Friends'
- Jun 19 Father's Day

Nativity Choir Spring Concert

Sunday, June 5th, 5:00pm (Church)

Our final Friends of Music concert is coming up soon! The choir will be singing music of Tye, Tallis, Duruflé, Brahms, Tsai, and Thomas.

We will be joined by organist Nicholas Bergin to sing the "Messe Solennelle" of Louis Vierne. Nick will also play two movements from Mendelssohn's Sonata IV in B flat major.

Come out and support the choir to end the season and kick off the summer!

Contact: Christian Crocker
ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org (256.533.2455 x216)

Informational Chorister Meeting, May 22nd following the 10:00am service in the Library.

What Are You Reading?

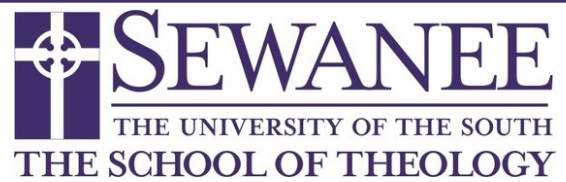
I'm sure we have all thought at some time that our prayers might be on a one-way street to Nowhere. And even if God did answer or speak to us, how would he do it? One way I have directly experienced God's interaction has been through books.

Once was through someone insisting on reading a book I didn't want to read; once when choosing a book at a church book sale that the message became relevant when it unexpectedly popped up years later, just when I needed it; once when I idly picked up a book to read while waiting for customers in the Greene Street Market Store and what I read beautifully illuminated a puzzling story we were discussing at a short story study group that night.

And there have been other times. But those are some different ways God has communicated directly through books. It wasn't necessarily in answer to prayer, but it has happened in response to my belated desire to discern and to try to do God's will.

Nativity's Spiritual Development Committee is doing an occasional book review for the Steeple. We would like to know what you might be reading of a spiritual or a meaningful nature. It may appear to be interesting only to you - but who knows? It may turn out to be God's way of speaking to someone else at a time he or she needs it.

Please let us know what you are reading by contacting: maryjohnson2@knology.net or lpmalonepi@gmail.com.



"Taste and See" event

Sat., June 18, 2016, 10:30am - 1:30pm

You are invited to bring the entire family to the Sewanee campus.

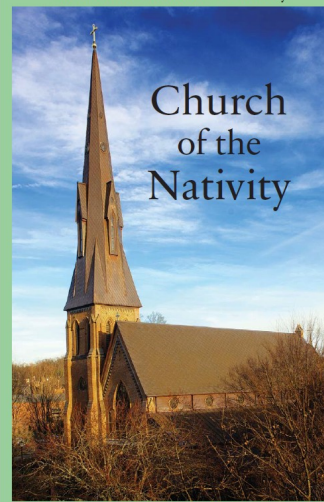
Tours, a nature hike, and a family picnic are part of the day's offering.



We seek to build bridges between seminary students and the world in which they will serve in order to better facilitate the empowerment of parishes and their communities.

[Click or tap here for the online registration](#)

2015 Guide Book and Directory



208 Eustis Avenue, SE • Huntsville, AL 35801
(256) 533-2455 • nativity-hsv.org

2016 Green Book Updates

We are continuing our annual update of Nativity's Green Book. The Green Book 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 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

Additional collection site for Diapers & Wipes in the Nursery

We are just over 30 towels collected!
Donations accepted through Sunday, June 5

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!



Join Us for our
Prayer Walk and Ribbon Cutting
on Davidson Farms
a local refuge for orphaned girls

Hear the VISION.
Be a part of the MISSION.

Saturday, May 21, 2016
1 - 3 pm
4533 Elkwood Section Road
Ardmore, Alabama 35739

For more information
Meredith Payne, Development Director, 256-880-3455
or email: meredith@kidstolove.org

Mission Funding Adjustments for 2016

Dear Fellow Parishioners:

At the Vestry meeting in April, we voted on a revised 2016 mission funding budget for the parish. Funding God's mission is enabled through your financial pledges by supporting our pastoral care ministries, diocesan covenant, outreach efforts, Christian Formation for all ages, youth and children's ministries, worship and music, care of our hallowed building and grounds, and general parish operations that support all aspects of our life together as God's people. The approved funding is a reduction of 3.5% from last year's funding and 2.5% from the tentative 2016 mission funding budget approved in January. The reason for this decrease is lower pledges for 2016 compared to 2015.

The Vestry felt it important that as a parish we maintain our commitment to Outreach and therefore decided to maintain 10% of our pledge and plate dedicated to Outreach. The chart below identifies ministries impacted by the revised budget. Additionally, while our goal as a large parish is to increase our diocesan covenant to 15%, this year's reduction was initiated in January, with the hope later pledge commitments might close that gap. The effect of reductions by ourselves and several other parishes upon the Diocesan Budget was discussed in the latest [*Alabama Episcopalian*](#).

Nativity has been, and remains, a bountiful parish; with many consistent, generous members. While it is our hope, and prayer, that God's bounty – and the number of members participating in stewardship – will continue to grow, the task for the Vestry is making the best use of the resources available. None of the reductions outlined above will result in the loss of ministry – merely adjustments in how some ministries are supported. Further, while we look forward to growing our covenant with the diocese, the amount of our current pledge and the amount of Nativity gifts toward Bethany Village speak to our commitment to the diocese and its outstanding leadership.

Again, we are very grateful for all those supporting Nativity's mission and ministry in so many ways. It is a wonderful place full of wonderful people doing wonderful things. Hopefully, we have answered any questions that may arise from the budget adjustments. If you have other questions or thoughts, please feel free to speak to one or more of your Vestry.

Program/Ministry/Activity	Amount Reduced	Specific Area Affected
Diocesan Covenant	\$21,200	Reduced from 13.5% to 12.5%
Outreach	\$5,000	To be determined by the Outreach Committee
Parish Operations	\$6,000	Reduced printing and computer supplies, not providing coffee to meetings, convention costs
Christian Formation – Children	\$1,100	Supplies, Club 56, WoRM/4 th Grade Sunday School, Special Events/Programs, and Children's Worship
Christian Formation – Adult	\$1,000	Lenten expenses and spiritual development
Christian Formation – Youth	\$2,000	Continuing education, trip scholarships, curriculum, and confirmation
Worship	\$1,000	Sundays on Thursdays, candles, altar supplies
Parish Life/Pastoral Care	\$2,750	Stephen Ministries training, Senior Adult Ministry
Stewardship	\$2,200	TENS Conference, Thanks for Giving celebration
Building and Grounds	\$1,000	General grounds maintenance

Cursillo: A special gift to yourself!

We've all heard that *'it's better to give than to receive.'* However, wouldn't it be great to give AND receive at the same time? Giving yourself the gift of a Cursillo weekend and joining the Cursillo community allows you to do just that!

Cursillo is a lay-led movement with the support of our clergy, including Bishops Sloan and Marray. All of Nativity's clergy have attended a Cursillo weekend and help the community thrive at our parish. Bishop Stough brought the Cursillo movement to Alabama in the late 70s and Nativity's Emile Joffrion was one of the architects of the movement in our Diocese. Over 37 years later, the Cursillo movement in Alabama is still going strong, celebrating its 200th weekend this past October.

Each Cursillo weekend consists of a series of talks by the lay and clergy staff as well as various fun activities at wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell. Following the weekend, members of the Cursillo community gather in small groups in their parish for weekly reunion groups, discussing various aspects of their spiritual life during the past week. Members of the community gather several times a year with other Cursillistas from Madison County and the Diocese for fellowship in a larger group setting.



Each Cursillo weekend consists of 30-40 pilgrims guided by a staff of about 25 laypersons and clergy from across the Diocese. Nativity is blessed to have a vibrant Cursillo community and will have several parishioners on staff during the remaining two Cursillo weekends this year. There are five Cursillo weekends held each year in

Alabama; here are the dates of upcoming Cursillo weekends in 2016:

September 8-11

(with two staff members from Nativity)

October 6-9

(with six staff members from Nativity)

Registration forms are generally due six weeks before the Cursillo weekend, with the

September deadline only about two months away. If you are interested in attending a Cursillo weekend this year, please contact David or Debbie Collette

drc3898@knology.net to start the process.

Cursillo is a gift that you give yourself by making the time to ignite your spiritual life in the beauty of 'God's Backyard.' We hope that you will attend a Cursillo weekend this year and find out why nearly 8,000 Episcopalians in the Diocese of Alabama and hundreds at Nativity are part of this incredible community!

David and Debbie Collette

Nativity Parish Lay Rectors for Cursillo

drc3898@knology.net

Parish Financial Report - Period Ending 4/30/2016

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	76,876.84	103,610.55	407,242.50	426,110.55
Plate	7,566.00	7,083.33	25,076.06	28,333.36
Other Revenues	2,757.26	10,293.01	24,279.11	39,662.92
TOTAL	87,200.10	120,986.89	456,597.67	494,106.83
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	19,428.07	24,864.82	78,553.59	102,583.70
Personnel	82,285.78	71,250.00	303,711.57	285,000.00
Other Expenses	17,805.64	24,943.91	88,543.99	105,956.47
TOTAL	119,519.49	121,058.73	470,809.15	493,540.17
NET \$	(32,319.39) \$	(71.84) \$	(14,211.48) \$	566.66

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).



**Welcome the 2016 youth confirmands and adult seekers' class
pictured with Bishop Kee Sloan and Father Andy Anderson**

Youth Confirmation Class

Gertrude Aboudonia	Sam Hartley
Luke Alison	Joshua Huskey
Betsy Bryant	Sara Hutchens
Dylan Chenoweth	Riley Kamelchuk
Wil Clardy	Winston Kelly
Park Ellis	Tucker McClung
Elizabeth Evans	Cameron Pinson
Margaret Foster	Parker Sanders
Gracie Gore	Jack Benton Stockton
Sarah Whelden Hall	Britt Webber



Adult Seekers' Class

Carole Albyn	Anson Koch
John Cimino	Rebecca Peters
June Denson-Mobbs	Ralph Vemmer
Melissa Duff	Sherry Vemmer
Reid Duff	Joe Whitaker
Suzanne Gunnar	Karen White
Fisher Hutchens	Kris White
Johanna Hutchens	

HABITAT HOUSE 2016

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 work from 8:00am - 1:00pm without a lunch break.

Hopefully the plumbers and electricians and HVAC will do their thing next week. Dedication is still planned for the first Saturday in June.

Full details on this year's Habitat House are available by contacting Bill Giardini (256.698.5307)



Click the image for the
current building schedule

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

David Reynolds, Betty Gerlach, Linda Coffin, Bob Adams, Mari Zimmerman, Claude Boykin, Anna Post, Martha Joffrion, Avery Tincher, Millie Byram, Jacob Brown, Claire Johnston, James Lydon, Leigh Wahl, Becky Sodikoff, Warren Vann, Dell Crawford, Marion Schroeder, Gloria Hyatt, Bill Rogers, Bob Ward, Bob Hale, Katherine White, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the birth of a child:

Miles William Hartley, son of Kristen & Jack Hartley, grandson of Kim & John Hartley, born on May 12th in Walnut Creek, CA
Harriet Lucille Davis, daughter of Meade & Trey Davis, granddaughter of Lynn & Ric Ayer, born on May 14th

We pray for a marriage:

Meredith Carlton & Eddie Yessick in Nashville on May 14th.
Anna Lauren Brown & Tara Dorsey at Nativity on May 21st

We pray for the departed:

Linda Darwin
Carla King

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:

5/18 Gertrude Aboudonia	5/19 Cornelius Allen	5/19 Anna Katherine Ayres	
5/19 Jackson Morrison	5/19 Evelyn Warren	5/19 Victoria Spera	5/20 Evelyn Jones
5/20 Anthony Landers	5/23 Cassidy Bates	5/24 Lochlan Connolly	5/24 Juneau Farrell
5/25 David DiFranco	5/26 Kelly Hay	5/26 Kate Hudson	5/28 Alana Boyce
5/28 Ivy McCurry	5/30 Alexander Grelier	5/31 Britt Webber	

Only 3 books remain!



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 _____

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

2016 ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATION FORM

To dedicate Altar flowers, 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 (256) 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 - 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: _____

Available Dedication

Dates

July 10

August 28

September 25

November 27

December

4, 11, 18

May 18, 2016