

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

August 3, 2016



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)

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.

Radical Hospitality

Like many of you, one of my favorite things to do is to walk around the Greene Street Market on a nice Thursday evening. The sights, sounds, and smells have become part of the downtown experience. Since I'm usually wearing my clerical collar, there are times when I get an odd glance as I'm sure I stick out in the casual throngs of people. There are also times when someone from the community wants to engage in a conversation about the church. I gladly do this wanting to remind them that GSM is part of the church.

One of these conversations still resonates with me. It occurred a couple of years ago with a local citizen. He was telling me how much he enjoyed the market and how he appreciated that we sponsored it. The discussion then turned to the beauty of our church. What I recall was his comment, "I love your church, but I hate your fence." He saw the fence as a way to block out people from coming in.

Now I'm not in the position to say whether we should have a fence, but his opinion says something. As a cradle member of Nativity, I have not thought much about the fence except that it is part of our beautiful grounds. But what can seem beautiful to some may be an ugly hurdle to others.

Episcopalians, especially those in historical churches, are often met with this challenge of honoring the past while looking towards the future. This is where we have the opportunity to expand our vision of hospitality. And in some ways, we must be radical in our thinking.

Radical hospitality, while not necessarily a new concept, is a new approach to sharing the Gospel of Jesus Christ. It is a model of transformation that speaks to the ever-changing need for spiritual renewal. In his book, *Serving with Power*, Kortright Davis wrote,

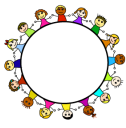
"...this requires of us a persistent openness to the leading and urgings of God's good Spirit. These urgings often take us down the paths of a new and surprising spirituality as we discern fresh ways of expressing the age-old faith once delivered to the saints."

Over the past year or so, we have been looking at ways to be more inviting. Nativity and the Episcopal Church have a great story to tell. It's simply a matter of bringing people to the church to hear it, see it, and live it.

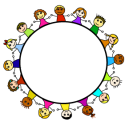
You may have noticed we recently began giving tours of the church during the Greene Street Market. This is another way to welcome people into the church that is open and inviting. This is just one example of ways we are thinking "outside the box" when it comes to hospitality.

What ways are you bringing someone to Christ? Be radical. Let your love for God show in the hospitality that you show others. Let's demonstrate that the church is more than wrought iron fences and large doors and tall steeples. The church is a haven for everyone looking for their spiritual home. Let's radically welcome everyone to Nativity, showing what being a true follower of Jesus Christ is all about.

Rusby +



Children's & Youth Corner



Blessing of the Backpacks August 14th during the 10:00am Service



All school-aged children are invited to bring their backpacks, tote bags, or computer bags to receive a blessing and set the tone for a new school year.

Sunday School Teacher & Helper Meeting **Grades Pre-K through 12:**

**Sunday, August 14
11:30am-12:30 (Ridley Hall)**

Light snacks will be served

Mother Bonnie will lead an important training for all children/youth teachers, both new and experienced! We will discuss:

- Safeguarding God's Children requirements
- The children/youth programming calendar for the coming year, including Sunday School and EYC
- Travel plans and retreats
- Service opportunities
- Parent permission forms,
- Plans for Youth and Children's Sunday

There will be breakout groups (according to grade level or curriculum) to discuss teaching rotations, materials requests, and room setup/decoration.

Please bring your calendars!

RSVP to Mtr. Bonnie if you cannot attend:
bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org

EYC Kick-off

Sunday, August 7th, 4:00-6:00pm

Olympics Themed all Episcopal Youth Community (EYC) kick-off for 7th-12th grades!

Come play some games, eat some great food, and get to know fellow Nativity youth

Dress comfortably so you can run around.

For the Parents of all 7-12th graders at Nativity!

Following the EYC kickoff, please attend a brief Youth Parent Meeting with Mtr. Bonnie McCrickard on August 7th at 5:45pm in The Loft (3rd floor Joffrion Hall).

We will discuss the youth programming calendar for the coming year, including

- Sunday School and EYC
- travel plans and retreats
- service opportunities
- plans for Youth and Children's Sunday

All parents of 7th-12th graders at Nativity must turn in permission forms for their children to participate in youth programming for the 2016-2017 school year.

These forms, plus calendars and details for the year, will be available at the meeting.

Questions: Mtr. Bonnie McCrickard
bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org

Blossomwood Elementary Weekend Food Pack Ministry



Thanks to everyone signed up to help!
There is still time to participate!

Watch our website and facebook page for info on how you can get involved!



Click, tap, or scan the Quick Response (QR) code for Mother Bonnie's July 31st sermon about the Blossomwood Ministry or use the web address:

tiny.cc/nathsvBlossomwood

Coming soon: Sign-ups for weekly food pickup, packing, and delivery.

Contact Mtr. Bonnie bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org for information on how to get involved.

Blossomwood is a partner with
Nativity's Outreach Ministry

Chorister and Choir Rehearsals

Nativity Chorister Rehearsal
Schedule Starting August 17th

Cherub Choir:

(age 4-1st grade) Wednesdays,
4:45-5:30pm,
led by Mrs. Barbara Bonner



Junior Choristers: (2nd-5th grade) Wednesdays,
4:00-5:15pm, led by Mr. Christian Crocker

Senior Choristers: (6th-12th grade) Wednesdays,
4:45pm-6:00pm, led by Mr. Christian Crocker

Our chorister program is an integral part of our music ministry at Nativity. It allows children to receive musical education in addition to what they learn in school in areas of theory, history, and vocal development. Choristers will also receive a more in-depth understanding of liturgy and their particular role as leaders in worship. Choristers will sing several times a semester with adults at the 8:45am service.

Nativity Choir rehearsals resume on August 24th. Rehearsals are Wednesdays, 7:00-9:00pm All skill levels are welcome!

For more information about our Nativity music programs, please contact our Organist/Choirmaster, Christian Crocker at ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org or 256.533.2455

On August 21st, we invite you to...

Take home a rooster!



The Nativity Cursillo Community is hosting a painting party benefitting Alabama Cursillo.

Whether you are a member of our Cursillo Community, thinking about attending a Cursillo weekend, or just want to get together with your Nativity family and have some fun, you are invited.

Everyone will have the opportunity to paint a rooster (the symbol of Cursillo) to take home and enjoy a fun afternoon of fellowship.

TIME: 3:00-5:30pm (Ridley Hall)

COST: \$30 per person

RSVP: Your payment holds your spot.

You can drop it by the church office or give a check to: Debbie Collette, Dottie Crawford, or Holly Ellis

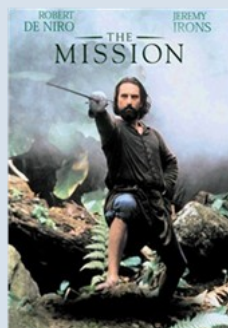
BRING: Your favorite beverage,
invite your friends!

Centering Prayer, Pot-luck Dinner, and a Movie Tuesday, August 23, 5:30pm - Ridley Hall

Please join our Centering Prayer group for the final movie in our annual summer series.

We start with a Centering Prayer sit, then serve dinner while watching the movie.

The Mission



In the 18th century, a Jesuit missionary establishes a church in the hostile jungles of Brazil, but finds his work converting the indigenous Indians threatened by his superiors. Meanwhile, a slave hunter converts and joins the Father on his mission.

Afterwards, we have a brief discussion.

Bring a dish to share and join us for an evening of spiritual connection and sharing.

Please contact Brenda Chynoweth
with any questions 256 464-9457

brendacc@knology.net



2017 VESTRY NOMINATIONS

We want to hear from you!

The Vestry Nominations Committee is developing a slate of nominees for the upcoming year. According to the Nativity by-laws, the Vestry Nomination Committee submits a slate of proposed new Vestry members to the congregation for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting on November 13th.

You may recommend someone in the parish or submit your own name for consideration. Vestry membership requirements are set forth in the Nativity By-laws :

- confirmed member of Nativity
- regular in attendance,
- made or kept a pledge for at least the current year.

There are several ways to submit a nomination:

- **Click or tap the nomination proposal for an electronic nomination form**
- **Drop boxes located on the Hospitality table in Ridley Hall and the hallway by the Banister Room**
- **By mail**

The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal
Attn: Nominations Committee
208 Eustis Ave.
Huntsville, AL 35801

The Committee is composed of the sitting and three most recent Senior Wardens willing and able to serve, along with three members-at-large chosen by the six outgoing Vestry members; the Rector serves *ex officio* in a non-voting role:

Lou Durnya, Chair, Senior Warden 2014
LDurn@aol.com

Bill Starnes, Senior Warden, 2015 & 2016
abcstarnes@comcast.com

Rusty Stephenson, Senior Warden 2013
stephenson526@gmail.com

Pat Goodson, Senior Warden 2012
patgood@knology.net

Donna Joffrion, member-at-large
djoffrion@gmail.com

Elizabeth Foster, member-at-large
elizabethfoster1704@yahoo.com

Holly Ellis, member-at-large
hollyellis804@gmail.com

Andy Anderson, Rector, *ex officio*, non-voting
aanderson@nativity-hsv.org

The Committee welcomes your comments. Please contact any one of them about concerns or suggestions.

NOMINATE YOUR CANDIDATE TODAY

VESTRY NOMINATION PROPOSAL

tiny.cc/nathsvVestry2017

Candidate: _____

email: _____

Phone (personal): _____

Work: _____

What strengths would this person bring to the Vestry:

In what Parish activities has this person participated?

Have you discussed this with the person; if elected, would he/she agree to serve on the Nativity Vestry? _____

Your signature _____

Printed name _____

Date: _____

Thank you for your input on this candidate. The Nominations Committee meets regularly to consider all proposed nominees and to ensure representative leadership from the entire Parish.

HAP Sunday is August 7th



Items Needed

Cereal
spaghetti sauce
spaghetti noodles
tuna
canned hams
vegetables

toilet paper
bar soap

Thanks for all your support!

Weekday Studies & Groups

It is still Summer, but it is time to think about upcoming (and ongoing) programs:

Upcoming Studies

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study

August 31st through September 21st, 6:00–7:00pm,
Joffrion Hall Library

A study of The Old Testament by Dr. Amy-Jill Levine. A good follow-up to her visit to Huntsville!

Leader: Mtr. Basye Holland-Shuey

Contact: Lane Tutt -256-653-7200

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

September through early May, 7:15am,
Joffrion Hall Library

Contact: Fr. Andy Anderson, 256.533.2455

The Good Book Women's Bible Study

Wednesdays - September through early May,
1:00-2:30pm, Joffrion Hall Library

Leaders: Marty Askins, Susan Morley.

Contact: Carole Sue Goodwin, 256.534.4477 for
information or to register

Reflections Bible Study

Class begins Thursday, September 8,
9:30–11:00am, Joffrion Hall 2 East (J2E)

We will begin our year with *Entrusted*, a new six-week course on 2 Timothy by Beth Moore. . The participant workbook should be available September 1st and is available for pre-order from Amazon or Lifeway.

Class facilitators are: Connie Stephenson, Kim Hartley, Lisa Caprio, Shelly Whitney, and Debbie Collette. Contact Debbie Collette, 256.830.2451 for information or to register.

Ongoing Groups

Prayer Shawl Ministry

Tuesday, 1:00-3:00pm, Joffrion Hall Library

No knitting or crocheting skills are necessary – we will teach you!

Contact: Gail Brown 256.880.1149

Centering Prayer

Tuesday – 5:30pm, Thursday – Noon, Bibb Chapel
Contact: Brenda Chynoweth, 256.464.9457

Farewell William We will miss you

Nativity recently wished former Youth Minister William Blackerby best wishes as he starts his new career at Indian Springs School just outside of Birmingham.

Thank you again for your contributions.



Nativity Annual Parish Picnic / Rally Day

Sunday, August 28th, following the 10:00 service

Food, Fun & Fellowship in the Church Yard

Wear your casual clothes to church and stay for the Picnic!

Please bring a SIDE DISH to share.

The Church will provide:

Meat Dessert Drinks

Paper products



Nativity Lodge at Bethany Village

Construction of the Lodge is complete!

Now we need a few things for the inside to make your stay more comfortable.



* Here are the things we need: *

- 1 coffee table; less than 3 feet in diameter
- 1 large dining room table that seats 8 or more
- 8 or more chairs to go with the table
- 2 - 3 bookshelves
- 11 wall mirrors (1 per guest room)

If you would like to donate one or more of the items listed,
please contact Fr. Rusty or Connie in the church office.

New Pew Bibles

You will notice on Sunday morning a new addition in the Sanctuary.

We now have Bibles in each pew to enhance your worship experience!

We now have hymnals in Bibb Chapel. We ask you to please leave them in the Chapel when you exit. Thank you.

Sunday on Thursday 6:00pm, Bibb Chapel

Remember Sunday on Thursday if you are 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!

Continue Your Spiritual Journey

EfM classes forming for fall and spring semester



EfM (Education for Ministry) is a four-year course offered at Nativity through the University of the South's School of Theology.

Participants study the Hebrew Bible, the New Testament, Church History, and Theology. Weekly meetings focus on developing theological reflection; a way of examining and understanding our beliefs and lives as Christians.

Tuition, including texts, is \$350 per year. Scholarships are available.

To enroll, contact Ron Hogan

ronhuntsville@yahoo.com or

Ted Briggs tedlbriggs@gmail.com

for more information, click or tap the logo to visit efm.sewanee.edu.

*Join us for a
Celebration*

Of Our Ministry With



**Bishop Santosh &
Lynn Marray**

Sunday August 28th

3:30 Reception

5:00 Service

St. Mary's on the Highlands
1910 12th Ave South
Birmingham, AL 35205

In honor of Bishop Marray's ministry with us, we invite you to give a monetary gift to help support the ministries and missions of the Diocese of Easton. Gifts should be sent to Carpenter House and made out to the Diocese of Alabama marked 'Bishop Marray Fund' or made on-line at www.dioala.org

KAIROS TRAINING

Anyone interested in prison ministry or attending a Kairos closing at Limestone Correctional Facility must attend a four-hour training session before you can enter the prison. Below are this year's classes:



- | | |
|--------|--|
| Aug 6 | Central Presbyterian Church Huntsville, AL |
| Aug 25 | First Seventh Day Adventist Church Huntsville, AL |
| Sep 17 | Capshaw Baptist Church Harvest, AL |
| Oct 1 | Church of the Nativity Huntsville, AL |
| Nov 5 | Hartselle Church of Christ Hartselle, AL |
| Dec 3 | Bridge Builders Church International Decatur, AL |
| Jan 7 | Lindsey Lane Baptist Athens, AL |

For additional details, please contact:

Michael Shipley MichaelLShipley@aol.com

256.520.8741

Acolyte Schedule - August 2016

This is the last month of our summer schedule, and we also say goodbye to our remaining seniors who stayed with us through the summer months—thank you for your service! We will be holding acolyte training for all new and returning acolytes later this month. I have left some unassigned spaces for those new folks after training. Do keep stopping by the back hallway to see if we need a last minute sub—we always appreciate that!

August 7 A/M Sherrill

8:00 10:00

C Tess Lambert C Powell Stockton, John Laney
T Joshua Huskey, Van Dodgen
T Dylan Chenoweth, Patrick Ahearn
S Jack Benton Stockton
AS Huston Morring

August 21 **ACOLYTE TRAINING 11:30**

8:00 10:00 A/M Nutt

C Nutt C Sidney Gunter, Chloe Parsons
T Alice Malone, Thomas Aldag
T Riley Kamelchuk, Katherine Hunter
S Cameron Pinson
AS Laura Kamelchuk

August 14 A/M Ward

8:00 10:00

C Sam Hartley C Evan Ward, Molly Ward
T Evelyn Warren, Margret Foster
T Evan Ellison, Ella Jane Duncan
S Parker Sanders
AS Sarah Whelden Hall

August 28 A/M Sherrill

8:00 10:00

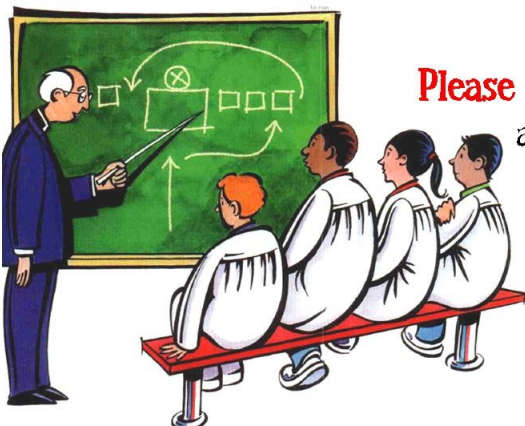
C K Correale C Ellie Walker, Bailey Morrison
T Jed Rainey, new acolyte
T Clay Walker, new acolyte
S David DiFranco
AS Leighton Luther
Nativity Banner: Ireland Braudaway

It's time for ACOLYTE TRAINING!

ALL Prospective and Returning Acolytes in grades 7-12 will meet Sunday, August 21st *following the 10:00 service* (about 11:30) in the Church Sanctuary for this year's training session. The training will last about an hour-less for returning acolytes.

If you can't make it, please come to the make-up session on Monday, August 22nd at 7 p.m. in the Church Sanctuary.

If you are interested and are unable to make either of these sessions, email Dorrie to set up an individual training time.



Please respond to email below to let us know your child will be attending - or if we need to set up an individual training time

Questions: call or email Dorrie Nutt
256.533.1128 ~ dorrie.nutt@gmail.com

Acolytemasters

Dorrie Nutt, Nina Putt, Clay Sherrill, Mike Ward

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Hubert Fowler, Margaret Smitherman, Linda Coffin, David Stanton, Paige Fague, Ron Cook, Dick Gragg, Evin Sanna Olsen, Fred Lackey, Nancy Lackey, Charlie Lyle, Kim Tycker, Rick Barnett, Betty Gerlach, Bob Adams, Claude Boykin, Fr. Dan McKee, Bess Smith, David Reynolds, Claire Johnston, Leigh Wahl, Bob Ward, Bob Hale, Katherine White, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the departed:

Stewart Silsbee, nephew of Christi Falt
Marvin Knight IV, son of Donna & Marvin Knight III

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

US Army Special Forces, Maj. Wes Williams
US Navy, Kenneth Vandervoort
US Navy, Jesse Teal

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

| | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 8/3 Harrison Hall | 8/3 Alexander Young | 8/4 Evan McCarty | 8/5 Drew Dodgen |
| 8/6 Addison Duncan | 8/6 Henry Keener | 8/6 Noah Huskey | 8/6 Anna Post |
| 8/8 Hunter Ray | 8/8 Beau Cline | 8/9 Will Clardy | 8/9 Moss Fleming |
| 8/13 Sarah Huskey | 8/15 Pierce Anderson | 8/16 Charlotte Klos | 8/16 Read Klos |
| 8/16 Kathryn Kelly | | | |



TWICKENHAM Fest
ALABAMA'S PREMIERE CHAMBER MUSIC FESTIVAL

August 26 - 28, 2016

Please visit twickenhamfest.org or call
(256.469.1356) for festival information

ALTAR FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Please print all information

Only three dates left for 2016! ~ December 4, 11, 18

Date desired: _____

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Would you share a dedication? Yes No

Do you wish to have your name listed in the bulletin? Yes No

Name for this altar flower dedication: _____

If you have questions, you may call Andrea at (256) 539-2673.

(\$40 or \$20 for shared dedications)
Please make your check payable to:

Nativity Flower Guild

Please check your desired dedication:

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

Mail your form and check to:

Andrea Vandervoort
434 Locust Ave
Huntsville, AL 35801

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

Noon Monday, August 15th

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev. Rusty McCown
Associate

The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard
Associate

Christian Crocker
Choirmaster and Organist

Lane Tutt
Adult Christian Formation

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

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

Regina Milton
Weekend 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 phone 256.533.2455 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

Upcoming Events at a Glance - August

| | |
|------|---|
| 7th | HAP Sunday EYC Kick-off & youth parent meeting.....4:00pm & 5:45pm |
| 14th | Blessing of the Backpacks 10:00 service Sunday School Teacher & Helper meeting 11:30am |
| 17th | Youth choristers rehearsals start Junior - 4:15, Cherubs - 4:45, Senior - 4:45pm |
| 18th | FOM recital, Jeffrey Dortch & Dr. Frank Contreras 6:30pm |
| 21st | Acolyte training following the 10:00am service Alabama Cursillo 'Take home a Rooster' painting party..... 3:00pm |
| 22nd | Acolyte training make-up session..... 7:00pm |
| 23rd | Centering Prayer, pot luck dinner, & a movie - <i>The Mission</i> ... 5:30pm |
| 24th | Adult choir rehearsals start..... 7:00pm |
| 28th | Rally Day all Parish picnic following the 10:00am service Men's Ministry social (offsite)..... 5:30pm |

August 3, 2016