## THE STEEPLE

#### The Church of the Nativity

March 1, 2017



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.

#### Stewardship in Lent: The Call to Living Simply In Order to Serve and Grow

I invite you in the name of the Church, to the observance of a holy Lent....is the clarion call to each of us today. A holy Lenten observance is set apart from our regular ways of living in order to help us know and serve God in deeper ways, not only for 40 days but every day.

In our year round focus on Stewardship, Lent gives us special opportunities through the stewarding our lives in more simple ways, getting rid of things that get in the way of our sharing blessings and growing in relationship with Jesus; getting rid of things that keep us from easily following Jesus. As you will also note from other information in the Steeple, Lent is a time for those who are able to consider, pray about, and to make legacy gifts for the future. Our Lenten stewardship efforts enable us to build a brightly burning fire of love for our lives and for the world now, and for future generations to come.

Simplicity and the ethics and spirituality of simple living help us examine what gets in the way of God. We are busy people with full and often over scheduled lives. The commitments on our time and money are significant. In Lent, we strive to travel more lightly, not because things and obligations are bad, but because God wants to use our time and talent and financial resources to help us love our neighbor and God above all else.

Jesus reminds us in the Sermon on the Mount to "consider the lilies" in order to learn to trust God more and stuff and schemes less. He tells us "make purses for yourselves that do not wear out." When he sends his disciples out to tell the world about God's Kingdom purposes and to enlist others in spreading the Good News, he tells them to simplify. "Don't carry more than you absolutely need to get by, learning to trust the generosity of others."

Wonderful Lenten commitments are being made by Nativity's faithful people. Paying attention to how we are stewarding God's blessings, or not, through self-examination and repentance; by prayer, fasting, self-denial, and alms-giving; and by reading and meditating on God's Word found in holy scripture, we are all growing in our relationship with God in Christ. But the point of these things is not as an end in themselves, but as a means to an end: The full stewardship of all of our lives and God's blessings which always results in service and love for God and neighbor.

Make a commitment to attend our weekly Lenten preaching series at Noon on Tuesdays and our Wednesdays in Lent evening programs to inspire and guide. Forty days of cleaning out drawers or closets or even your inbox can be liberating (pages 4, 5, & 7). Choose a fast that matters. Simplify. Allow God to set your life on fire with love this Lent.

Consider these beautiful words from Miskin T'Filah as you strive for living more simply: What makes a fire burn is space between the logs, a breathing space. Too much of a good thing, too many logs packed in too tight can douse the flames....So building fires requires attention to the spaces in between, as much as to the wood. ....A fire grows because the space is there...

I hope during this Lenten Season we learn to and embrace living more simply, intentionally avoiding packing our lives so full of things and our schedules so busy with obligations that the fire of God's love may burn brightly, as brightly as God's love shines in Christ.



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843



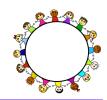
Come join us at the Nativity Legacy Society

(Page 6)





#### Children's Formation



#### FARMLAND VBS Save the date!

June 26-28, 1-4 in the afternoon. Mark your calendars for our afternoon, farm-themed VBS! Registration coming soon... Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.



#### Ash Wednesday Children's Service.

March 1, 6:00pm. Children age 5 and up are invited to a kid-friendly Ash Wednesday service. Please sign-in your children in Ridley Hall, service will take place downstairs on Angel Lane.

#### Wednesdays in Lent for Children.

God's PE Class: Faith in Action.

Each week we'll be connecting what we believe with what we do. March 8, 22, 29 and April 4; no meeting on March 15 (spring break). Dinner 5.30, program

6.00; Angel Lane,



downstairs Ridley Hall; ages 4 and up; nursery available by reservation. Questions, **mcoe@nativity-hsv.org**. Dinner and nursery reservations, **cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org**.

#### Spring Break Calendar Reminders.

Sunday, March 12, no children's Sunday school or Children's Chapel. Sunday, March 19, regular Sunday school and chapel schedule resumes.



## Wednesdays in Lent for Youth – Living Simply: There's an app for That

EYC Church of the Nativity

#### Wednesdays in Lent for Youth











Living Simply: There's an App for That

#### March 8, 15, 22, 29 & April 5

During our Wednesday Nights in Lent programming, youth are invited to the LOFT following dinner to explore different apps and activities that can help us to live more simply. We'll be exploring HeadSpace, Lectio Divina, the Daily Office and Daily Examen, Anglican Rosaries, Praying in Color, the Labyrinth, and a few TED Talks and other documentaries. Dinner begins at 5:30pm and programming follow at 6:00.

**Other Youth Events & Schedule** 

Sun, March 5

10am: Sunday School

4pm: Bible Study

4:30pm: EYC

Sun March 12,

no Sunday School, Bible Study or 4:30 EYC

1:30pm: Soccer Tournament @ St. Thomas, All youth are invited to gather for a soccer tournament with St. Thomas in Huntsville &

St. Johns of Decatur.

**Sun, March 19 Confirmation Trip to Birmingham** 

10am: Sunday School 4pm: Bible Study

4:30pm: EYC

Contact: Sarah Watts swatts@nativity-hsv.org



#### Lenten Choral Evensong

Sunday, March 12, 2017 5:00pm

sung by the Nativity Choristers and Adult Choir

Gabriel Jackson:

O thou that art the light

William Smith:

Responses

Charles V. Stanford:

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in G

Henry Balfour-Gardiner:

Te lucis ante terminum

Charles Hubert H. Parry Psalm 84

Church of the Nativity ~ 208 Eustis Avenue ~ Huntsville ~ 256.533.2455 Coming up: Sunday, March 26 ~ 5:00pm Kevin Class, piano

Contact: Christian Crocker <a href="mailto:crocker@nativity-hsv.org">ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org</a> (256.533.2455 x216)

#### NATIVITY LENTEN MEDITATIONS

Please email Connie Gadomski in the Church Office: <a href="mailto:cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org">cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org</a> if you want to receive Nativity's Lenten Meditations via email.

#### **Monthly Men's Breakfast**

Tuesday, March 14th, Suggested donation \$5
6:30am Simple Eucharist, Bibb Chapel
7:00am Breakfast with guest speaker:
John Brinkley, past President of the Board
of Directors of the Madison County
Volunteer Lawyers Program

Daylight saving time begins March 12th Remember to set your clocks ahead.

#### **Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP)**

**HAP Sunday is March 5th** 



**Items really needed:** 

tuna peanut butter boxed meals (including potatoes) fruit toilet-paper

Thank you for your generosity!

#### Lunch & Dinner Menus

## Tuesdays at Noon (\$7)

March 7th Marketplace Sandwiches (Hot Ham)

March 14th To be determined

March 21st Chicken Pasta Salad

March 28th Chicken Salad

April 4th Chicken Rice Salad

#### Wednesdays in Lent (\$7) [Page 5]

March 8th Fried Chicken

March 15th Reuben Casserole

March 22nd Chicken Casserole

March 29th
Family Night
(Build your own Taco)
\$5 per person
\$20 family maximum

April 5th Baked Ham

## Tuesdays at Noon

Lent 2017

The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

## "LENT - a season of Spiritual Growth"

30 minute Service ~ beginning at 12:05 p.m.



#### Series Preachers

March 7
The Rev. Dr. Jerrie Lewallen

Former Nativity parishioner Retired Episcopal priest Sewanee, Tennessee

March 14
The Rev. Mary Bea Sullivan

Associate Rector St. Luke's Episcopal Church, Birmingham

March 21
The Rev. Charles Youngson

Associate Rector
All Saints Episcopal Church, Birmingham

March 28 The Rev. David Kling

Associate Pastor Covenant Presbyterian Church, Huntsville

April 4
The Rev. Aaron Raulerson

Church of the Epiphany Episcopal, Guntersville

Box Lunches (\$7.00 each) will be available in Ridley Hall following the services. Reservations for the lunches are required by Monday noon, (256)533-2455.

The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal ~ 208 Eustis Street ~ Huntsville, Alabama 35801

#### 2017 Wednesday Evening Lenten Series



## ... the Spirituality and Ethics of Simple Living

#### March 8

The Rev'd Ann Benton Fraser, Rector of St. Paul's Corinth, MS and 1996 Nativity Seminarian Assistant

#### March 15

The Rev'd Mark Johnston, Director of Camp McDowell

#### March 22

The Rev'd Dr. Deborah Jackson, Associate Dean for Community Life, School of Theology, Sewanee

#### March 29

Dr. Joshua Davis, Dean of Diocese of Alabama Integrative Ministry School (AIMS) & spouse of St. Mary's on the Highlands priest, Danielle Thompson

#### April 5

The Rev'd Tom Ward, former Chaplain at the University of the South; former Dean of Christ Church Cathedral in Nashville, and well known Centering Prayer Advocate and Spiritual Director

Dinner ~ 5:30 p.m.

Program ~ 6:00 p.m.

Nursery is available by reservation. For Nursery and/or dinner reservations: 256.533.2455

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal ~ 208 Eustis Avenue ~ Huntsville ~ Alabama ~ 35801 ~ 256.533.2455 ~ www.nativity-hsv.org



Who will win the Golden Halo this year? http://www.lentmadness.org/about/

An offering from



# LENTEN NOONDAY SERVICES Guest Preacher each week EACH TUESDAY IN LENT 12:05 - 12:35 CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL 208 EUSTIS AVENUE

#### A SIGN FOR THE TIMES

If you have a Yard Sign from advertising the Tuesday in Lent services, Please Put It Out! These are great publicity items to remind our parishioners and to invite other people.

If you need a Yard Sign (or two) to advertise our Noonday Services, they are now available.

Contact the Church Office.

## Online Lenten Meditations available from Episcopal Relief and Development



These meditations are available by selecting **Lenten Meditations** at the very top of **Nativity's website** 

For more information about this resource, please visit

episcopalrelief.org/Lent

#### Come join us at the Nativity Legacy Society!

The Vestry has recently created the Nativity Legacy Society. This is a group of committed followers of Christ who have already named or want to now name Nativity as a beneficiary in their will. Remembering Nativity in your will ensures Nativity's legacy for future generations.

At The Church of the Nativity, there are two separate, endowed funds for which planned gifts can be designated.

If your passion is <u>outreach</u>, designate your gift to the **NATIVITY TRUST**, which provides financial support for new outreach programs and special capital needs of the parish.

If your passion is *historic preservation*, designate your planned gift

to the **NATIVITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOUNDATION.** The foundation was formed to preserve and maintain this holy place—a National Historic Landmark—so that it may continue to invoke the spirit of the past and inspire future generations.

Gifts for historic preservation must be specifically designated to the Nativity Historic Preservation Foundation within the bequest. Undesignated gifts automatically go to the Nativity Trust and cannot be redirected by representatives of Nativity.

#### Yes, you can give to both!

To find out more about the Nativity Legacy Society and/or update Nativity's records, please click or tap the logo above or go to our website <u>nativity-hsv.org</u> and click the Legacy Society logo on the front page.

#### What Are You Reading? The Theological Implications of Climate Control: Reflections on the Season of Faith By: Brian Erickson

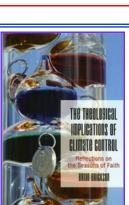
#### **Contributed by: Sarah Watts**

Wait! Before you skim past this one because the title sounds boring or complicated, it is most definitely not. I have found that I continually return to Brian Erickson's reflections on the liturgical seasons and biblical stories to go with them over and over again.

While I may not directly use his book in the Sunday School classroom or EYC, I have found that my worldview and the way in which I enter into, engage, and teach scripture and each liturgical season has been shaped and informed by my continual turning to Erickson's poems and prose. He has a way of setting a particular biblical story or season in context and bringing it to life in a way that enables readers, sitting in their climate controlled living rooms centuries later, to truly enter into these ancient narratives of our faith. He gives the stories a new voice and a new life which, I have found, opens my eyes to the various ways these stories still play out in our own lives.

#### Please let us know what you are reading by contacting:

Mary Johnson <u>maryjohnson2@knology.net</u> or Laura Malone <u>lpmalonepi@gmail.com</u>' What are you Reading?' is a book review column brought to you by Nativity's Spiritual Development Committee.



## ARE YOU READY TO TAKE THE 40-BAG CHALLENGE?

Instead of giving up something for Lent, challenge yourself to GIVE AWAY something - at least a bag a day for 40 days!!!!

Start on Ash Wednesday, March 1, and end on Holy Saturday, 40 days later, .

It is so easy to join in the fun. get a trash bag, and pick a spot in your home that needs "attention" and...

Irs more than physical items. Clean out emails, unused phone apps - anything will work.

What you can to someone who needs it - DONATE, DONATE, DONATE.

DAKE before and after pictures. At the end of Lent, look back at all your pictures and reflect. Share your progress!!!!! Post your photos to our facebook group so we can share your progress!!



expired!

Wmar you give to someone else is Stewardship in Action! What you give to yourself is a gift of LIVING SIMPLY

Church of the Nativity Episcopal, Huntsville, Al



## Manna for Mamas

A Lenten Bible Study for Moms

All mothers with small children are invited to attend this 6-week Bible Study
We will read Shauna Niequist's new book,

Present Over Perfect. Join us as we explore ways to slow down, simplify life, and listen to God's voice.

Thursdays - March 2 through April 6 10:30-11:30am in the Nativity Library

Childcare is provided at no cost

You must make a reservation to ensure the
nursery is properly staffed

Sign-up by calling the Church Office
(256.533.2455) or email
anne.elizabeth.cowan@gmail.com



## MEALS ON WHEELS



Nativity parishioner Jim Douthit delivers a meal and a smile as a part of this important ministry. Become a volunteer on the third Thursday each month. Deliveries take about 1 1/2 hours.

To volunteer: Contact Jennie Coe (256 883 6398) or ronjcoe@yahoo.com

Meals on Wheels is a part of Nativity's Outreach Ministry

Photo: Rusty Stephenson

### LIVING SIMPLY



#### REWIND WITH US











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NATIVITY PARISH WEEKEND: APRIL 28-30



## CENTERING PRAYER WORKSHOP

Saturday, April 8, 2017 8:30am to 3:00pm

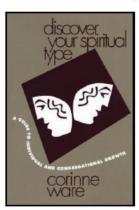
Church of the Nativity is hosting an Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop on Saturday, April 8, 2017. Centering Prayer is a means to deepen one's prayer life by learning "to rest in God."

The workshop is designed for all who are seeking a deeper relationship with the Lord through their prayer life. The registration fee of \$35 per person includes lunch. The presenters are the Reverend Tom Ward, retired Episcopal priest and Contemplative Prayer teacher and retreat leader and the Reverend Dr. Andy Anderson,

Registration information coming soon.

## THE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

A TRILOGY - for everyone, you & me, all of us - no matter where we are on our journey



#### DISCERNING GOD'S CALL IN YOUR LIPE

Monday Nights in March 20 & 27 and April 3 & 10 6:00 - 7:15 pm in Ridley Hall

BOOK: Discover Your Spiritual Type - A Guild to Individual and
Congregation Growth

- This class offers the opportunity to discover our spiritual type as well as exploring new ways to pray and discern spiritual experiences
- Some reading required prior to first class!
- . Books will be available soon!

QUESTIONS? Mother Basye ~ basye@knology.net



COMING THIS SUMMER!

Practical Spirituality:
Daily Spiritual Practices that Transporm

#### Acolyte Schedule March 2017

#### March 1 Ash Wednesday 6:00 pm. A/M Putt, Sherrill

ARRIVE NO LATER THAN 5:45 FOR INSTRUCTION

- C Dylan Chenoweth, Sims Windham
- T Emery Windham
- T Phoebe Duncan
- S David DiFranco
- AS Ella Jane Duncan

#### March 5

8:45 A/M Putt	11:00 A/M Sherrill
C Sims Windham, Katherine Hunter	C Huston Morring

T David Young T Anna Katherine Ayres, Phoebe Duncan
T Emery Windham T Nannette Aboudonia, Sadie Anglin
S Emery Windham S Huston Morring

AS Joshua Huskey AS Gertrude Aboudonia

#### March 12

0.15	TIJ III BIICITIII	11.00 11,111	rucc
8.45	A/M Sherrill	11:00 A/M	Nutt

C Ireland Braudaway C Jack Benton Stockton, Evan Ellison

T Katie Garth Kelly T Catherine Hendricks
T Thomas Aldag T Margaret Foster
S Evelyn Warren S Evan Ellison

AS Ireland Braudaway AS Jack Benton Stockton

#### March 12 EVENSONG 5 pm Arrive no later than 4:45 for instruction A/M Nutt

C Parker Sanders Thurifer Tess Lambert

#### March 19

8:45 A/M Putt	11:00 A/M Ward
C Bailey Morrison, Park Ellis	C David DiFranco, Molly Ward
T Holly Ellis	T Evan Ward
T Alice Malone	T Riley Kamelchuk
S Sarah Whelden Hall	S Laura Kamelchuk

AS Riley Kamelchuk

#### March 26

AS Alice Malone

8:	45 A/M Ward	11	1:00 A/M Nutt
C	Sam Hartley, Forrest Webber	C	Bankston Creech
T	Patrick Ahearn, Van Dodgen	T	Evans Bryant
T	Elizabeth Evans, Will Pinson	T	Betsy Bryant
Ç	Camaron Pincon	ς	Mary Maddoy Cros

S Cameron Pinson S Mary Maddox Creech AS Britt Webber AS Margaret Bryant

#### **Thomas Merton's Desert Spirituality**

Contemplative Outreach Birmingham
24th Annual Gathering ~ March 18, 2017



**Featuring Dr. Bonnie Thurston**Merton scholar, educator and writer.

Our contemplative day will focus on the ambiguous image of the desert in the thought and prayer of Thomas Merton

Saint Stephen's Episcopal Church 3775 Crosshaven Drive, Birmingham, AL 35223 9:00am-4:00pm \$60

> More information and registration centeringprayeralabama.org

Questions: contact Louise Meredith centeringprayeralabama@gmail.com

2017 Easter Flower Dedications Easter dedica	tions are \$20 each
Please complete this form with your check made payable to: <i>Nativity Flower Guild</i> Mailing address: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville AL 35801  Your Name as it is to be listed in the service leaflet (if you do not wish your name listed, please indicate)  Phone #:	Please check the box next to the dedication you desire.  All dedications read:  In loving memory of  In thanksgiving for  In celebration of
Name for this dedication:  PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, If you have questions, you may call And The Dedication Deadline is April 9th	rea at 256.539.2673 THANK YOU

Flower Dedication forms are also available in the hallway by the Banister Room & in Bibb Chapel

<b>Available Dates:</b> Mar 26 Apr 2, 9, 16, 23, 30	
Your Name:Phone #:	
Will you share this dedication? ☐ Yes ☐ No  Can we list your name in the bulletin? ☐ Yes ☐ No  Dedications are \$40 each or \$20 if shared  Make Check payable to: Nativity Flower Guild  Mail your check along with this form to:  Andrea Vandervoort - 434 Locust Ave., Huntsville, AL 35801  Questions? Call Andrea: 256-539-2673	Please choose one:  □ in loving memory of  □ in thanksgiving for  □ in celebration of  □ in honor of

#### PRAYER REQUESTS

#### We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Elizabeth Pate, Dave Phillips, Betty Ann Council, Sophia Rowe, Gaines Watts, Cheryl Linn Carter, Heidi Foreman, Warren Vann, Tom Hodge, Elise Goodson, Tom Booth, Sara Welch, Genny Hoskins Beaver, Rick Barnett, Jim Martin, Keith McRae, Dick Gragg, Leigh Wahl, Elsie Olsen

#### We pray for the departed:

Christi Falt

Evin Yadegar, daughter of Elsie Olsen

Robert Jones, grandfather of Richard Culbertson

#### We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Doug Faith, Afghanistan

Kenneth Vandervoort, US Navy

#### We give thanks for birthdays of our children & youth:

$\frac{-}{2/22}$	Shelby McNully	3/1	Grant Howell	3/1	Bailey Morrison	3/1	Hampton Shrout
3/2	Justin Foscue	3/3	AJ McNully	3/4	Clay Walker	3/4	Isabelle Towry
3/5	Lucy Cooper	3/5	Caroline Abney	3/7	Mary Maddox Creech	3/8	Catherine Hendricks
3/10	Casey Drees	3/10	Gracie Gore	3/1	John Steigner	3/11	Leighton Luther
3/11	Rosie Gullion	3/12	Riley Kamelchuk	3/14	4 Thea Sommer	3/14	Riley Alexander



#### **EYC Mission Trip 2017**

Dates: June 4 – 10

Ages: 13-18

Estimated Cost: \$500

Mark your calendars for Nativity's 2017 summer mission trip! We'll be heading back to Grundy County, TN to do some home repair through the Mountain T.O.P. program.

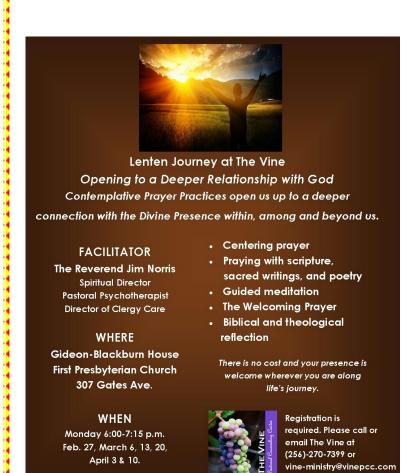
The camp week begins on the afternoon of Sunday, June 4th with worship, orientation, games and fun. Monday through Thursday groups will be in the community, and on Friday work groups will take time to celebrate in the local community and we'll return on Saturday, June 10th.

The estimated cost per person for the trip currently is \$500, which includes transportation, lodging, and meals. Cost can and should be brought down by fundraising. Helping with fundraising is a requirement for this trip! Financial assistance is available by request. We can bring a total of 11 youth.

Registration and \$100 deposit (non-refundable) due no later than March 12th.

Sign up by emailing Sarah Watts today!

swatts@nativity-hsv.org



#### 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 March 13th

#### **CLERGY & STAFF**

The Rev. Dr. Andy Anderson Rector

The Rev. Rusty McCown
Associate

The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard
Associate

The Rev. Robert A. Serio, M.D. Deacon

**Christian Crocker** 

Choirmaster and Organist

Lane Tutt

Adult Christian Formation

Sarah Watts

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

**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**

Margaret Devenish - Sr. Warden Robert Dunn - Jr. Warden Donald Christian - Treasurer

Brandon Smith - Finance chair

Dottie Crawford -

Clerk and Stewardship Ministries **Linda Watts -** 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 Nativity's full online calendar: tiny.cc/nathsvCalendar

#### March

5 HAP Sunday

Lenten Noonday Service Series [more on page 4] 12:05pm

8 \*\*Wednesdays in Lent, Dinner & Program [more on page 5] 5:30pm

12 Daylight Saving Time Begins

Nativity Choir, Evensong 5:00pm

14 Simple Eucharist (Bibb Chapel) 6.30am
Mon's Ministry Prockfort with guest gneeker (Bidley Hell) 7.00am

Men's Ministry Breakfast with guest speaker (Ridley Hall) 7:00am Lenten Noonday Service Series 12:05pm

15 \*\*Wednesdays in Lent, Dinner & Program 5:30pm

20 The Christian Spiritual Journey - Part 2, begins [page 8] 6:00pm



\*\* Nursery available by reservation