THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

May 3, 2017

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.

SHARING RESURRECTION LIFE BY SHARING OUR TIME AND TALENT

During the Great Fifty Days of Easter we celebrate sharing God's Resurrection life in Christ now and forever. Our Year-Round Stewardship focus reminds us that we share Resurrection Life by sharing our time and talent. Our powerful worship on Easter Day reflects this. Over 200 people shared their time and talent to make our Paschal Celebration as beautiful and holy as it could be. These folks faithfully shared Resurrection life with all!

As you pray this Eastertide about where God is calling you to share your time and talent, here's an interesting thought I just came across in an article in <u>Patheos</u>: **The Church does not need volunteers.** <u>The church needs disciples</u> who share in fulfilling God's mission by serving in the ministries of the Church of the Nativity, freely giving their time and talent.

A few years ago (okay, more than a few years ago) I kept our children one weekend while my wife was away. A friend remarked, "Oh how wonderful for you to be babysitting this weekend!" Thinking about this, I said, "You know, I'm not babysitting, these are my children, they are a part of my family, I'm just doing what any Dad should be doing." I do not think you can say "babysitting" when it is *your own kid*. We simply call this parenting.

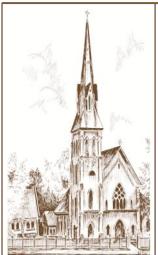
These thoughts align if we think about simply "volunteering" at church. To volunteer means that you are an outside resource, stepping in to help an organization in need. Volunteering is what we do when we pick up trash at the park, serve on the Museum Board, or the Neighborhood Watch. Volunteering is what we do at our children's schools. It's what you do at a place that is important to you—all good—but not at a place that belongs to you.

A volunteer, in most cases, is just visiting. A fly-by. Sure, it's a helpful fly-by, but it's not the same as belonging to something. It's not the same as contributing to something that's part of who you are. Ultimately, the language of volunteerism is rooted in consumer culture, in which we can swoop in and give or take a measure that we deem fit, and then dart out again feeling we have done our part. We diminish our faith, and the gospel itself, when we think of supporting the mission of the church as something you can mark on a time card.

You cannot volunteer at your own church, in the same way you cannot babysit your own kid. You belong to the church and the church belongs to you in the same way your family operates. It's your own place, your own people. So of course you help take care of it and are a part of it. Of course you do garden work and serve on Blue Apron and cook breakfast and teach the kids and sing in the choir; you serve on the altar guild and the Annual Campaign Team and the Vestry and whatever else it is you do for this home and the people God loves.

As we focus on the stewarding of our lives as God's people who receive all of life from God, especially as we consider stewarding our time and talent over Eastertide, how we talk about—and think about—the time and energy we spend in ministry is challenging. It's important to recognize these gifts for what they are: ministry. The word "volunteer" does not do justice to the depths contained in the work people do in their churches sharing Christ's life.

Call it serving. Call it discipleship. Call it the priesthood of believers or the mission and ministry we all share together. Remember, we don't just belong to the church, it also belongs to us. When you are asked to serve, say yes! For we do not babysit that which is ours.



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

Confirmation
Schedule Change

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Opening day May 4th Page 10

May 21st
Summer
schedule begins
Rogation Sunday
Heifer Market
Pages 5-6

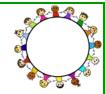




Church of the Nativity June 26-28, 2017

- Tune 26-28 from 1.00 to 4.00pm.
- Please join us for three afternoons of farm
- Free, including t-shirt and kickoff supper, for ages 4 through 6th grade.
- Register: tinyurl.com/2017farmland
- We love volunteers! Volunteer during registration. Teens & other adults, volunteer here, tinyurl.com/farmlandvolunteer

Children's Formation



Upcoming events

May 10^{th} , 6.00

Bishop's visit and confirmation.

May 14^{th} , 8.45

Teacher appreciation day; last Sunday school meeting.

May 21st

Change to summer schedule, 8.00 and 10.00

May 21st, 11.00

Rogation Day with children's Heifer Market Fundraiser for <u>Heifer International</u> youth sponsored cook-out and Greene Street Market vendors.

June 26-28, 1.00 to 4.00 pm Farmland VBS.

Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org



EYC Church of the Nativity







Farmland VBS Youth Volunteers Needed, June 26-28

Come hang out and have fun with Nativity's children for a few days of afternoon, Farmland VBS fun – youth volunteers can <u>sign up to help here</u>:



EYC golfers honor Winton Williams, this year's winner of the 4th annual Putt-Putt masters green jacket

More youth news & events on page 4

Attention Rising 7th-9th Graders: Sign up for Young People Paint Birmingham, June 19-23

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama partners with the Joe Rush Center for Urban Ministry to provide a one of a kind local mission experience. Our youth and adult staff will work scraping and painting homes in Birmingham's West End neighborhoods. Youth will also participate in programming to educate them about poverty, homelessness, and our call as Christians to be better stewards of our resources for ourselves and the world around us.

The deadline to register is May 15. The cost to participate is \$175 with scholarships available.

Confirmation Schedule Change

This year, Bishop Kee Sloan will be visiting Nativity on Wednesday evening, May 10th instead of Sunday, May 14th. Please note the following schedule changes:

Wednesday, May 10th

*6:00pm Youth & adult confirmation service (Nursery available) Reception honoring our Confirmands to follow (Ridley Hall)

Sunday, May 14th

7, 45, 8:45 & 11:00am services. 10:00am Church School scheduled

Sunday, May 21st - Rogation Sunday

Summer schedule begins 8:00 & 10:00am Church service ~ Dress Casual Heifer market following the service in the Church Yard

End of Church School Year Celebration!





Camp McDowell scholarships for Children and Youth summer camps are **IcDowell** available through July as part of the Ann Daly Reynolds Memorial Fund.

Please contact Father Andy Anderson for additional scholarship information

Nativity Young Adults will meet Monday, May 22 at 5:30 in the Loft at Nativity for dinner and planning the rest of 2017. Bring your calendar, and a side or dessert to share.

RSVP by May 18 to Mother Bonnie: Bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org

Haiti Mission Update





The Medical Mission Team arrived safely and is setting up in at the clinic where we are staying. Pictured (R to L): Rebecca Epps, Libby Potter, Liz Hardy, Deacon Bob Serio, Lisa Caprio, Debbie Collette & Lisa Hardy.

> Medical Mission to Haiti: April 29th - May 6th

2017 Green Book Updates



We are starting our annual update of The 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:

Holly McClain (256.533.2455) hmcclain@nativity-hsv.org

Extra Green Books and advertising information:

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

Nativity Choir Spring Concert



The Coronation Ceremony of His Most Gracious Majesty King George V

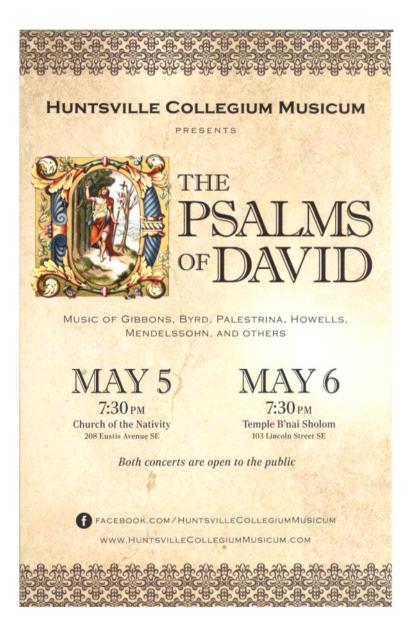
Sunday, May 21, 2017 5:00pm

Nativity Choir

Christian Crocker, conductor Elizabeth LaJeunesse, organ

Handel | Let thy hand be strengthened Handel | Organ Concerto Op. 4, no. 2 Bach | Sinfonia from BWV 42 Parry | I was glad

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal 208 Eustis Avenue SE Huntsville, AL 35801 ~ 256-533-2455



Monthly Men's Breakfast

Tuesday, May 9th, *Suggested donation \$5*6:30am Simple Eucharist, Bibb Chapel
7:00am Breakfast with guest speaker
The Rev. Katie Nakamura Rengers, Vicar
Director of *The Abbey* Coffeehouse

Hope to see you there!

Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) HAP Sunday is May 7th



Items needed:

Spaghetti sauce canned fruit beans (1lb bags) cereal canned veggies (no green beans or corn) boxed potatoes boxed meals bar soap

Thank you for your generosity!

Youth Schedule (Continued from page 2)

Sunday, May 7:

10am: Sunday School & Confirmation Rehearsal)

4:00pm: EYC Outreach to Huntsville Inner City Learning

Center

Wednesday, May 10th

5:00pm - Confirmands & Sponsors Arrive

6:00pm - Confirmation Service

Sunday, May 14th

10am: Sunday School (Senior Reception in LOFT & Teacher

Appreciation in Ridley)

4pm: Bible Study 4:30pm: EYC Sunday, May 21st

Service Times change to 8am & 10am

11am: Rogation Sunday (Youth Sponsored Cook-out!)

4pm: Bible Study 4:30pm: EYC

Contact: Sarah Watts swatts@nativity-hsv.org





















Heifer Market at Rogation Sunday

May 21st, 11.00 am Sponsored by the children of Nativity









What is Heifer?

Heifer International partners with small-scale farmers to lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. Heifer International provides farm animals, training, tools and education, enabling farmers to feed their families.

Heifer International's mission is to end hunger and poverty while caring for the Earth. For the pasta70 years, Heifer has helped more than 25 million families-115 million people-lift themselves out of hunger and poverty. By 2020, we aim to help 4 million families achieve living incomes.

Learn more at Heifer.org.

What can I do?

Attend the Heifer Market fundraiser during Rogation Sunday

Tour displays, play games and learn from roaming "livestock", all hosted by our Sunday school children.

Make a donation of any amount towards our goal of donating an entire ark (\$5,000): two water buffalos, two cows, two sheep and two goats, bees, chicks, rabbits and more.

Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org























Rogation Sunday

Celebrating the season of growing

May 21, 11.00 am

- First Sunday of summer service schedule: 8.00 am and 10.00 am.
- A time to gather, enjoy, and mark the changing of the seasons.
- Ca Children's Heifer Ga Greene Street Market Fundraiser for Heifer International
- Market Vendors
- C3 Cook-out Lunch sponsored by Nativity Youth

Sunday, May 21st, 11.00 am (following 10.00 service) in the courtyard. Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

Ro ga tion Sun day /ro 'gaSHən//'sənda/

- The Sunday immediately before the three Rogation Days which precede Ascension Thursday: the fifth Sunday after Easter.
- ○3Observed by Christians as a time of solemn supplication for the harvest and marked by processions, special prayers, and blessing of the crops.
- ☑Originated in 5th century Vienne, France, when Bishop Mamertus introduced days of fasting and prayer to ward off a threatened disaster.
- Associated in England with the blessing of the fields at planting. The vicar "beat the bounds" of the parish, processing around the fields reciting psalms and the litany.
- In the United States, rogation is associated with rural life, agriculture and fishing. The propers in the BCP have widened in scope to include commerce, industry and the stewardship of creation and also to permit the celebration at other times to accommodate regional growing seasons.

SFrom the Latin rogatio, "asking."

Thank you! Thank you! Thank you!!

The outpouring of love and generosity from our church members during the recent book drive for students at Austinville Elementary School in Decatur was heartwarming. Over 250 books were given to the library and students to keep them reading during a motivational reading program and to help them discover the love of reading. Some of the books were brand new and others were gently used.



The librarian at the school said she couldn't keep enough books on the shelf when they began the program and now they will have a larger selection and variety of books from which to choose.

Special thanks goes to Margaret Devenish, Sarah Watts, and Mary Coe for all their efforts in getting this book drive project started and making it a success!

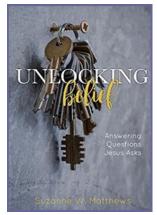
> Lovingly, Sarajane Tarter

What Are You Reading? - Unlocking Belief By: Suzanne Matthews Contributed by: Lane Tutt

Unlocking Belief, by Suzanne Matthews, is a chronological journey of Jesus' life and ministry, stopping along the way to answer timeless questions Jesus asks.

Jesus Christ, master communicator, built his communication style on the use of the question. Hundreds are recorded in Scripture; most were never answered.

The study includes eight chapters, seven study guides, and eleven opportunities to answer pivotal questions. In answering we learn much about our own hearts, yet more about the heart of the One who questions. Jesus' questions are for our benefit, not His. Answering Jesus unlocks the deep recesses of our belief.



Suzanne Matthews is a local author and past teacher of Bible Study Fellowship. She lives in Madison with her husband, Ben and enjoys their seven grandchildren. *Unlocking Belief* is her first book and is available at amazon.com.

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.



Stewardship of Creation

Do you know where the food on your table came from? Food in the United States travels between 1,500 and 2,500 miles from farm to table, according to the World Watch Institute. As part of our Stewardship of Creation, one can look no further than their backyard to make an impact.

A vegetable garden gives you some control over knowing where your food comes from, and to decrease your carbon footprint. Think it's too late to plant? Lima and pole beans, cucumbers, sweet corn and peppers can still be planted for summer crops, according to Alabama A&M and Auburn Universities Extension guide planting for spring.

The Old Farmer's Almanac recommends starting small. Plant too much and you can either get overwhelmed by the size, or have too many vegetables for your family to enjoy.

Additional Information be found at:

www.aces.edu/pubs/docs/A/ANR-0063/ANR-0063.pdf

<u>www.almanac.com/gardening/planting-dates/AL</u> – Click on your city for specific planting dates

www.almanac.com/vegetable-garden-planning-for-

beginners

Start small... then hope big!



Picture courtesy of Elizabeth Trexler Pate

Lady Chapel Renovation

The Chapel of the Blessed Virgin Mary, commonly called "The Lady Chapel" will soon be completed! The construction phase is over, and beginning Thursday, May 11, the decorative finishing and painting will take place.

Artisans from International Fine Art Conversation Studios out of Atlanta, Georgia, will do this work. These conservators and restorers of historic decoration and historic consultants have completed work all over the southeast and in other parts of the country and in England (including many historic churches as well as Biltmore House in North Carolina.

After meeting with the Rector, major donor, and members of the Interiors and Architecture Committee, Geoffrey Steward and Mary Aldrich from IFACS spent a day in the church considering the color palette of our historical church and design motifs from the stained glass windows and other design elements in the church.

The focal point of the chapel will be Nativity's "Our Lady of Kazan" icon that has been a part of the smaller chamber for over two decades. The introductory phrase of the Magnificat (The Song of Mary) in Latin letters will be in a frieze around the



circumference of the top of the room. Colors and design elements from the nave windows and the icon will be incorporated.





Picnic Palooza

Young Adults (20s-40)

Date: Saturday May 6, 2017

Time: 12:00pm

Location: Big Spring Park Gazebo across from the Museum of Art

486 Williams Ave SW, Huntsville, AL 35801

Bring: A picnic worthy dish to share

This is open to young adults at all local Episcopal churches. Come out to have fun with the people you know and for a chance to meet other young adult parishioners in north alabama! We'll have a potluck picnic and tons of lawn games. Feel free to bring the kids, there will be plenty of activities for everyone!

If you have any questions, please contact Dorothy Peters at dorothyspeters@gmail.com





eGiving is now offered

The first phase of e (electronic) giving is now available at Nativity. Our first option is a monetary gift offered by text message.



Text "giving" and the amount you would like to give to 256.530.7373, and complete the short application form. Other options such as special donations and offerings to your pledge are in the works.

Look for information cards at the back of the Church with how-to information. When you give electronically, you may place one of these cards in the offering plate as a physical gesture of giving.



For regularly scheduled giving, please consider setting up an Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfer. ACH PAYMENT To find out more , please contact **Beverly Franklin**

bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org (256.533.2455 x219) in the Church Office and she will be glad to get you started.



Sunday, May 7

8:45 A/M M Ward

C Ellie Walker, Bailey Morrison

T Clay Walker, David Young

T Ruth Rainey, Lucy Ellis

S Park Ellis

AS Jed Rainey

11:00 A/M M Ward

C Evan Ward, Dylan Chenoweth

T Sadie Anglin

T Catherine Hendricks

S Molly Ward

AS Evan Ward

Wednesday, May 10 6 PM Arrive by 5:40

A/M N Putt

C Sims Windham, Ellie Walker

Thurifer Tess Lambert

T Phoebe Duncan, Alex Ahearn

T Charles Warren, Elizabeth Evans

S Parker Sanders

AS Joshua Huskey

Sunday, May 14

8:45 A/M Sherrill

C Sidney Gunter, Margaret Foster

T Cooper Gunter

T Anna Katherine Ayers

S Katherine Hunter

AS Thomas Aldag

Sunday May 14 (continued)

11:00 A/M Nutt

C Evan Ellison, Luke Alison

T Carter Watson, Madelyn Alison

T Riley Kamelchuk, Mary Ellis Alison

S David DiFranco

AS Laura Kamelchuk

Sunday, May 21 *** SUMMER SCHEDULE BEGINS

8:00 A/M Sherrill

C Tess Lambert

10:00 A/M Nutt

C Jack Benton Stockton, Bankston Creech

T Van Dodgen, Nannette Aboudonia

T Gertrude Aboudonia, Mary Maddox Creech

S Ireland Braudaway

AS Mary Maddox Creech

Sunday, May 28

8:00 A/M Nutt

C Nutt

10:00 A/M Nutt

C Sam Hartley, Cameron Pinson

T Will Pinson

T Phoebe Duncan

S Sarah Whelden Hall

AS Ella Jane Duncan



~ Opening Day ~ Thursday May 4th, 4:00pm

"One of the Best Farmers Markets in America"
The Daily Meal

Greene St. at Eustis Ave. - downtown Huntsville

Every Thursday Afternoon 4:00-8:00pm

The Greene Street Market at Nativity

greenestreetmarket.com greenestreetmarket@gmail.com

The Greene Street Market and store are a part of Nativity's Outreach Ministry

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Carol Lydon, David Corriveau, John Meriwether, Bill Nettles, Barbara Buice, Robert McClain, Barbara Cook, Joan Bennett, Rick Barnett, Leigh Wahl, Joyce Adams, Gaines Watts, Heidi Foreman, Warren Vann, Tom Hodge, Gerry Nitz, Tom Booth, Sara Welch, Genny Hoskins Beaver, Keith McRae, Dick Gragg, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the birth of a child:

Ann Culver Tyson, great-granddaughter of Sally Ann Culver, born on April 22, 2017

We pray for the departed:

Bess Smith

Bob Adams

Elizabeth Ryan Nicholson

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Doug Faith Afghanistan

Hannah Tycer Mackey US Air Force Kenneth Vandervoort US Navy

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

5/3 Stella Allbritton 5/6 Violet Gullion 5/7 Christopher Laney 5/10 Eleanor DeFiore

arsillo

5/11 Julia Cote 5/12 Anna-Claire Stevens 5/14 Harriet Davis 5/14 Zoe Maddox

5/14 Laura Green Nelson 5/15 Liam Stafford 5/15 Lucy Baggette

Looking to enhance your spiritual life? Take a look at CURSILLO!

Cursillo is an incredible experience that transformed the lives of over 8,000 Episcopalians in the Diocese of Alabama and several hundred parishioners at Nativity. If you are looking for a means to energize your relationship with God and to become more active in the life of the church, Cursillo may be the answer.

The Cursillo Community is made up of Episcopalians who have attended a three -day spiritual retreat, then continue to meet together in small groups within their parish. All Alabama Cursillo weekends are held at Camp McDowell and are guided by volunteer staff

members (including clergy) who have already attended a weekend retreat. Once back at Nativity, the Cursillo Community will help you find a reunion group with which to meet on a regular basis.

These small reunion groups generally meet weekly and members discuss their **piety** (prayer and worship activities), **study** (how they have studied God's word or come in contact with information that enhances their understanding of His word), and **action** (those things we have done to bring others closer to Christ). The purpose of

these group meetings is to encourage and hold each of us accountable in these aspects of our Christian life.

Throughout the year, we also hold larger group meetings. These meetings may consist of several reunion groups at Nativity, groups from other parishes in North Alabama, or diocesan-wide meetings with Cursillo Community members from all over our diocese. These meetings often consist of the sharing of a meal, an enlightening talk, and fellowship with one another.

There are five Cursillo weekends held in Alabama each year (you only attend one!) – March, April, June, September, and October.

Nativity's Cursillo community will also be holding an informational

event Sunday, June 25 after the 10:00 am service. Lunch will be provided and members of the Cursillo Community will be available to tell you more about Cursillo. Again, please contact Debbie or David Collette if you will be attending this no-pressure informational event.

If you are interested in attending one of the weekends this year, please contact David Collette dreas-en-th-1256-527-2560), or Debbie Collette dtc3898@knology.net (256-527-5050), for more information.

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 May 15th

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

The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey Assisting Clergy

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

Amy Baxter

Worship & Ministry Assistant

Holly McClain

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 Paul Bonner - Assistant 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 number to call *In Case of an Emergency Only* is 256.533.7007

July: 9

August: 20

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 Avenue SE Huntsville AL 35801 256.533.2455 Fax: 256.533.2374 nativity-hsv.org

2017 Altar Flower Dedications	1
Your Name:	
Phone #:	
Date desired:	
Name(s) for dedication:	- ///
	- ((()))
Will you share this dedication? \square Yes \square No	Please choose one:
Can we list your name in the bulletin? \square Yes \square No	
Dedications are \$40 each or \$20 if shared	☐ in loving memory of
Make Check payable to: Nativity Flower Guild	☐ in thanksgiving for
Mail your check along with this form to:	\square in celebration of
Andrea Vandervoort - 434 Locust Ave., Huntsville, AL 35801	☐ in honor of
Questions? Call Andrea: 256-539-2673	

September:

October:

10, 24

29