THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

June 21, 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.

A Letter from the Rector

My dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

For over fourteen years now I have had the deep privilege and blessing of serving alongside the faithful people of the Church of the Nativity as we have worked towards fulfilling God's mission in Huntsville and beyond. What an extraordinary time this has been as we have worked in this lovely vineyard of God's Kingdom. We have planted and watered, weeded and fertilized, and God has overseen a fruitful harvest of ministry. So it is not without a little sadness that I tell you of my resignation as the Rector of the Church of the Nativity effective August 6, The Sunday of the Transfiguration. After prayerful consideration, I have accepted a call to serve as the Executive Director of St. Mary's Sewanee: The Ayers Center for Spiritual Development in Sewanee, Tennessee.

I had not expected to be leaving Nativity at this time, but the Executive Committee of St. Mary's Board, many whom I know and respect deeply for their faith and vision, asked that I consider entering a focused search with them instead of their conducting a national search for their new executive director. It was not an easy decision to move forward with them at this time, but I believe God's Spirit is at work and gets us where we are meant to be at a particular time. And so after much prayer and reflection the call is now for Tippy and me to continue our journey in Sewanee.

Nativity is a thriving, vital, inclusive and diverse expression of faithfulness, worship, and mission! I am so grateful to have shared God's work and life with you, now in my fifteenth year. Our ministry together, with God's blessings, has been fruitful and challenging. We have grown together in many ways. Just thinking about all God has been doing here is humbling. To leave after the tremendous building we have done together, both physically and spiritually through Nativity's many vibrant ministries, is both difficult and easy.

It is difficult to leave a place in which so many meaningful and loving relationships have been formed. I have been nurtured, strengthened, and stretched through our pastoral relationships developed, and by Nativity's powerful and prayerful worship. I am sad to leave so many friends from all segments of our parish membership with whom I have shared rich and deep moments of God's grace and presence in Christ Jesus. We have laughed together, prayed together, rejoiced together, and wept together. God has indeed touched us with blessing and love.

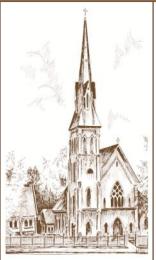
Yet I leave with a clear sense that the work God has called me to do here is accomplished. And so it is easier to leave, especially considering the faithful and strong leadership that is in place among the laity, clergy, and staff. The vitality and faith of Nativity can only continue to grow and prosper. There is momentum here that cannot be stopped because the energy comes from you and God.

I ask your prayers for my family even as I continue to pray for Nativity. Tippy and I are excited about the possibilities of God's future for us, and we will watch with love and appreciation as we see God's future unfold for our dear friends, our fellow workers in the vineyard, at the Church of the Nativity. Again, I thank God for this incredible opportunity to have served with and among you. May God's boundless love and grace sustain all of the people of this great parish as you allow the light and life of Christ Jesus shine forth from your lives.

Faithfully yours,

The Rev'd Dr. E. Lucius "Andy" Anderson III

11th Rector of the Church of the Nativity, Episcopal



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

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Children's Formation

Thanks to all of Nativity for supporting children's outreach efforts.



On Easter Sunday, our children and their families presented Lenten Mite boxes containing \$211. The funds raised will go to Episcopal Relief and Development.











On Sunday, May 21, Nativity celebrated Rogation Sunday with a market, carnival games, and a cookout hosted by EYC. Our parishioners donated \$1,200 for Heifer International.











News from Camp McDowell



A Camp Photo Diary by Thea Sommer, Rising 7th Grader







Mom and Dad took me to Camp McDowell on May 31st. I was excited, but wondered if I'd make new friends. By the end of the week, I wanted to stay at camp all summer. I enjoyed swimming, canoeing, arts and crafts, the pasture party, and spending so much time outdoors. My cabin mates bonded, and we went everywhere together. My counselor, Erin, became a trusted soul. And of course, I made a great new friend named Abby. I can't wait to go back next year.





Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell.

Registration is open for rising 1st (with adult) through rising 12th graders. Register **here**.

Have a child registered for camp? Email **Mary Coe** and we'll connect you with other Nativity campers at the same session.



Families from Nativity gather for fun at this year's Primary I session at Camp McDowell held May 26-28 2017



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



Please contact

<u>Father Andy Anderson</u> for additional scholarship information



EYC Church of the Nativity

Summer 2017 Youth Schedule

Sunday School and EYC have come to a close for this year, but we have some really great opportunities for Summer activities

June 26-28: VBS, 1pm-4pm

Rising 7th Grade & Up: Come hang out and have fun with Nativity's children for a few days of afternoon, Farmland VBS fun!

Questions? Contact Mary Coe at mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.

Can't wait to see you at Farmland!

July 10: GraceWorks Mural Painting (Birmingham)

Meet at church (7am) and head to Birmingham where we'll help paint a mural in Woodlawn from 9am-3pm and return around 5:30pm. Eat breakfast before & lunch will be served at some point during the day. Wear paint clothes and know that closed toed shoes are required.

We'll stop for ice cream or something fun on the way back, so send your youth with a little extra money for a afternoon snackstop. All youth must have a 2017 Nativity Release Form - if you think you've already filled one out for another event this year.

Email Sarah Watts <u>swatts@nativity-hsv.org</u> to sign up or make sure you have a release form on file. Sign-up deadline, Monday, July 3rd. Anyone interested in chaperoning/driving?

Summer Youth Volunteer Opportunities

Greene Street Market Set Up, Thursdays @ 2pm

Greene Street Market is in need of some helping hands on Thursdays for set up. Duties would include things such as helping to set up tents and helping vendors unpack their tables. If you're interested in helping out, please contact Marilyn Evans at 256-682-4429.

Greene Street Market Store Volunteers

Is anyone interested in helping out in the GSM store for a couple of hours a week? If so, feel free to contact Marilyn Evans at 256-682-4429.

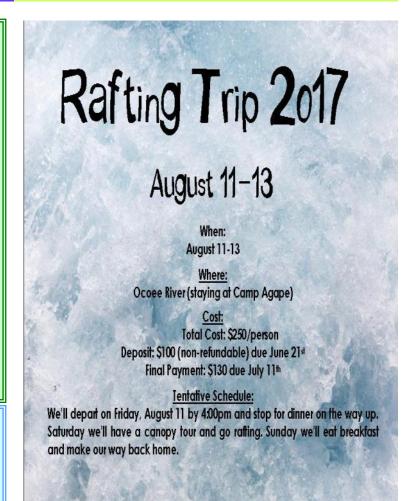
Oscar Mason Library Reading Tutors

Oscar Mason Library is in need of teen volunteers to help Tues & Thurs from 10-11 with preschool story times. Please let me know if you're interested and I'll put you in contact with the Volunteer Coordinator for Oscar Mason.

Save the Date: 2018 Ski Trip: February 16-19

We'll be heading off to Winterplace in West Virginia once 19th in the afternoon. The total cost of the trip \$500.

Click here to register!



Parishioner Joe East, Artisan and Woodworker, Makes a Gift to Nativity Lodge

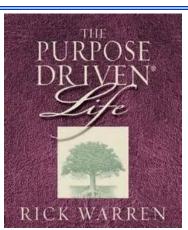
We are grateful for Joe East's talent and generosity. He has designed and hand-crafted and built a beautiful Mission-style coffee table for the Nativity Lodge at Bethany Village of Camp McDowell! The coffee table is made of oak and will be a wonderful addition to the Nativity Lodge. It will add to both the beauty and our sharing grace as we gather in the Lodge for hospitality and meetings. When Nativity Lodge was blessed, Joe built and presented a beautiful Lectern that remains in our Lodge. Thanks to Joe and Joan East for their lovely gift.





What Are You Reading? - The Purpose Driven Life By: Rick Warren Contributed by: Christine Starnes

This book has obviously been around awhile (since 2002). I had not read it before, but was invited to join a small group to read this and watch the session videos. I was intrigued, having heard about it over the years. I didn't expect to be as moved as I was. It gave me new perspectives about letting God use you for His purposes, becoming what God created you to be.



Warren lays out the five purposes of our lives as follows:

Worship - is my response to God's love. In worship, we spend time with God, trying to get to know Him better. He makes an interesting point that the goal is not a feeling, but a continual awareness of the reality that God is always present.

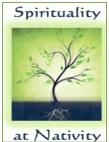
Fellowship - sharing, belonging, serving and suffering together with God's family. For Warren, these first two purposes are foundational to a true relationship with and in Christ.

Discipleship - we were created to become like Christ. Warren makes the point that "God's ultimate goal for your life on earth is not comfort, but character development."

Ministry - we were shaped for serving God. He goes into some detail to explain that we all have a different "shape" to serve God with (Spiritual gifts; Heart; Abilities; Personality; Experiences). We need to be "available, grateful, faithful and generous" in order to serve like Jesus.

Evangelism - we were made for a mission. Yikes, that word that we Episcopalians love! Warren expresses that there are two parts to this. We are to *bring* people to Jesus and we are *to go* to people for Jesus.

I was extremely glad to read this book and share in the discussion. It gave me a greater sense of purpose than before, and most importantly, it increased my commitment to spend more time with God and deepen my relationship with Him.



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 (click the logo to subscribe to the mailing list).

CAMP MCDOWELL WOMEN'S RETREAT: LESSONS ON LIVING FOR WOMEN WHO DO TOO MUCH

September 22-24, 2017



Through workshop & discussion, best-selling author Patricia Sprinkle ("Women Who Do Too Much" and "Children Who Do Too Little") will present a model for adult women of how to do less, live better, and focus on what God is calling you to do.

The experience is further supported by spiritual practices led by The Rev. Dr. Bayse Holland-Shuey (Assisting Priest for Spiritual Direction and Interfaith Consultant at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity in Huntsville, Alabama) which will allow attendees to release, restore, and re-center. Come, enjoy the labyrinth, the natural setting, and connect with others in the beauty of God's backyard. Space is limited; early registration is recommended.

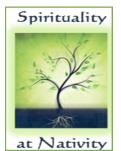
Registration open through September 15.

To register, visit Camp McDowell Women's Retreat 2017

Want to find out about upcoming **Spiritual Development opportunities?** click our logo to sign up

Nativity's Spiritual Development Committee wants to share information about upcoming speakers, workshops, events, or conferences that would be of interest to our parish family.

We are gathering information about these opportunities and will send a monthly email to anyone who signs up.



This is a new endeavor for our committee, so as we work to develop content, please feel free to provide your comments or suggestions.

If you do have any questions or suggestions, please contact Christine Starnes cjstarnes@comcast.net Thank you!

THE CHRISTIAN SPIRITUAL JOURNEY

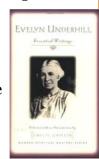
Part 3: Practical Spirituality ~ Daily Spiritual Practices That Transform Mondays, Through June 26th, 6:00pm

Our text will be:

Essential Writings:

Modern Spiritual Masters series by Evelyn Underhill and it is available

used or new through Amazon.





Questions:

Mother Basye Holland-Shuey basye@knology.net

Spirituality

The Christian Spiritual Journey is a part of Nativity's Spiritual Development Ministry



at Nativity

Dear Nativity Family,

It's difficult to put into the words our appreciation for all you have done for Laura and me. My last Sunday was incredibly special for both of us. I want to thank you for the reception, the gifts, and the purse you so generously gave to us. We we're both overwhelmed by the outpouring of support and love you showed. As you may guess it was an emotional day for us all. Thanks to all who were involved in its planning and to those who had a hand in the presentations.

While this is certainly a bittersweet time we are excited about our move to Franklin and our new ministry at St. Paul's. The past four-plus years have been such a blessing for us and we will never forget the special relationships we forged coming back home. I will take much of Nativity along with me as I begin this new chapter in serving Christ. I hope you will find the time to pay us a visit.

Please know that you will all be forever in my prayers as I hope that I am in yours. Take care and may God continue to bless our sacred parish home, Nativity.

Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) Items needed:



spaghetti sauce spaghetti noodles vegetables fruit toilet paper

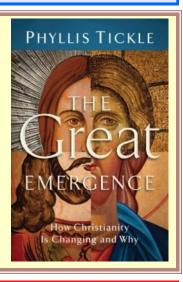
As always, thank you for your generosity! *HAP Sunday is July 2*.

Save the Date

Upcoming Adult Education Class
The Changing Face of Christianity:
What Happened to that Old Time Religion?

Join Reverend Susan Sloan as we explore how Christianity is emerging in the 21st century. Using a book by Phyllis Tickle, revered Episcopal laywoman and highly regarded religion writer, we will learn about the Church's historic rummage sales and what we can expect in the future.

If you would like to read along, the book, *The Great Emergence,* is available to order online. Visit <u>Amazon</u> for details. The class will meet on Monday nights from July 31 to August 28. Time and place to be determined.



Nativity's Cursillo community will have 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.

If you are interested in attending a Cursillo weekend, please contact: David Collette drc3898@knology.net (256-527-2560), or Debbie Collette dtc3898@knology.net (256-527-5050)



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.

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

Centering Prayer, Pot-luck Dinner, and a Movie

Annual Summer series returns



Please join our Centering Prayer group for our annual summer of Centering Prayer, Dinner and a Movie. We meet in Ridley Hall at 5:30pm on the fourth Tuesday of July and August. We begin with our Centering Prayer sit, then serve the food and begin watching the movie. After the movie, we have a brief discussion.

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

Our remaining summer series this year:

July 25 The Razor's Edge



A socialite tries desperately to rekindle a lost relationship with her ex-boyfriend despite her already being married.

August 22 WALL-E



Dutiful robot WALL-E is left to clean up earth's mess. But with the arrival of a female probe, a smitten WALL-E experiences love. for the first time.

Please contact Brenda Chynoweth 256.464.9457 brendacc@knology.net with any questions.

You are invited to attend a free informative presentation on "Living and Recovering with a Mental Illness"

UAB Substance Abuse Programs
401 Beacon Parkway West
Homewood, Alabama 35209 in Room 140 (downstairs)

Date: Wed. July 12, 2017 Time: 1:00 pm OR Friday July 21, 2017 - 1:00 pm Who: The guest speakers are from NAMI (National Alliance of Mental Illness)

Audience: This presentation is for anyone who is interested in learning more about mental illness and

recovery.

What: NAMI- "In Our Own Voice" adds a critical perspective to the popular understanding of what people

with mental illness are like.

Objectives: Attending this presentation will provide you:

- · A first-hand account of what it's like to live with a mental illness.
- Presenters humanize this misunderstood topic by demonstrating that it's possible—and common—to live
 well with mental illness.
- A chance to ask the presenters questions, which allows for a deeper understanding of mental health conditions and dispel stereotypes and misconceptions.
- The understanding that every person with a mental illness can hope for a bright future.

See more at: https://www.nami.org/Find-Support/NAMI-Programs/NAMI-In-Our-Own-Voice#sthash.JMh0jY9c.dpuf

If you are interested in attending one of these sessions- contact <u>ileary@uab.edu</u> and mention which date you will attend.



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY SEEKS DIRECTOR OF COMMUNICATIONS

Nativity is an seeking energetic, marketing-focused person with strong, creative written and verbal communications abilities along with interpersonal and human relations skills to join our staff team in this half-time position.

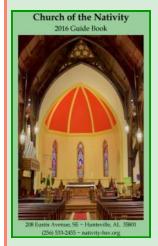
Must be familiar and adept at multiple social media platforms and possess web development and paper and electronic publishing knowledge.

A more detailed <u>job description</u> is available on the web site.

If you are interested, please send a cover letter and resume to Human Resources Committee at the Church of the Nativity, c/o Holly McClain or e-mail to Holly McClain.



2017-18 Green Book Updates



We are in the process of updating our annual Green Book Guide & Directory for the church. This book will contain everything pertinent to our church: the various ministries, organizations, committees, activities, functions and events plus a complete directory of all members. This book is being provided and direct-mailed to each family at no cost to our church, and it is again being subsidized by local businesses that advertise. If you own or manage a business and would like to find out about advertising in our book, please call the church office and let us know. A representative from our publisher, Guide Book Publishing, will be in the church office to coordinate advertising in early July.

Recent survey results by Guide Book Publishing show that 92.1% of families would rather patronize a Guide Book & Directory advertiser over a non-advertiser. It will be a positive thing for your business to advertise in our new Guide Book & Directory.

Advertising information: Camille Sommer (256.533.2455) communications@nativity-hsv.org

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Anderson		Holland-Shuey		McCrickard	Monroe	Anderson	Monroe	

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Bishop Santosh Marray, Lloyd Newman, Batrice Glen, Marty Askins, Forrest Webber, Bill Martin, Steuart Evans, Kevin Wahl, Rose Sidick, Cecelia Duncan, Bill Nettles, Barbara Buice, Leigh Wahl, Gaines Watts, Heidi Foreman, Warren Vann, Tom Hodge, Keith McRae, Anne Boles, Ney Landrum, Carol Lydon, John Meriwether, Robert McClain, Joan Bennett, Tom Booth, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the departed:

Rick Post Chet Daily **Bill Courtney**

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Afghanistan Doug Faith Hannah Tycer Mackey **US** Air Force

Kenneth Vandervoort US Navy, Middle East

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

6/23 Vivienne Shedd 6/21 Aerin Watts 6/23 Chase Howell 6/25 Matilda Smith 6/26 Laura Kamelchuck 6/27 Mhairi Kerr

6/28 Katherine Hunter 7/3 Finola O'Halloran 6/28 Charles Ayres

Eamonn O'Halloran 7/3

The Church Office will be closed on Tuesday, July 4th in observance of Independence Day.

Parish Financial Report - Period Ending 5/31/2017							
	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD			
Pledges Received	64,452.68	103,666.67	485,604.29	529,833.34			
Plate	9,168.40	6,666.67	48,427.60	33,333.31			
Other Revenues	2,285.87	10,293.01	40,856.65	49,955.93			
TOTAL	75,906.95	120,626.35	574,888.54	613,122.58			
Diocesan, School of	40 400 04	05.040.05	07.070.00	405 000 45			
Theology, & Outreach	16,123.81	25,040.65	97,270.26	125,203.45			
Personnel	67,464.25	72,624.99	365,373.36	363,125.07			
Other Expenses	22,436.65	23,454.78	110,120.14	121,310.35			
TOTAL	106,024.71	121,120.42	572,763.76	609,638.87			
NET \$	(30,117.76)	\$ (494.07)	\$ 2,124.78	\$ 3,483.71			

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.

eGiving is now offered

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.

For regularly scheduled giving, please consider setting up an Automated



Clearing House ACH PAYMENT (ACH) transfer.

To find out more, please contact **Beverly Franklin**

bfranklin@nativitv-hsv.org

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:

communications@nativity-hsv.org

The deadline for the next issue is Noon, Monday July 3

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard
Associate

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

The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey

Spiritual Direction

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

Camille Sommer

Communications

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

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	95
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

Available Dates for 2017:

December 31st

December 10th