

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

July 5, 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.

A Holy Independence Day Celebration

Barbecue, watermelon, fireworks, friends and family gatherings were on the agenda for many over the extended holiday weekend for Independence Day: The Fourth of July. This is a day we share our love for our nation and the values and ideals which have brought us together. For Episcopalians, Independence Day is a holy day observance marked in our Book of Common Prayer (remember, the word holiday comes from holy day!).

For us, then, it is more than picnics and parades, reflecting a sacred celebration connecting our liberties, freedoms and ideals as a nation to our core identity as citizens of God's Kingdom. I love celebrating the Fourth in Sewanee, TN with its quintessential small town observance. And for me, the day always begins at 8:00 a.m. with the official flag-raising with brass band, national songs and our Prayer Book Collect for Independence Day (BCP p242):

Lord God Almighty, in whose Name the founders of this country won liberty for themselves and for us, and lit the torch of freedom for nations then unborn: Grant that we and all the people of this land may have grace to maintain our liberties in righteousness and peace; through Jesus Christ our Lord, who lives and reigns with you and the Holy Spirit, one God, for ever and ever.

If you haven't prayed this prayer yet, I invite you to offer it for yourself, and for our nation and our leaders. Our holy observance of our Nation's birth also invites us to ask this stewardship question: What do we do with the gift we've been given in our common life, as a nation blessed with remarkable prosperity and unprecedented freedoms? How will we maintain our liberties in both righteousness and peace?

I am reminded of verse 10 of Psalm 85 telling us that when we listen to God's desires for us, "Mercy and truth have met together; righteousness and peace have kissed each other." That word righteousness is important to us as God's people and as a nation. Righteousness is not so much about "being right or good" but with our living in a right relationship with God and others. We will live and promote God's justice and peace with both mercy and truth for all people. As a righteous nation, we will be about building relationships marked by healing and wholeness, justice and peace. We will work towards mending broken relationships and dreams.

It also seems, especially reading the scripture passages appointed for Independence Day, our righteousness as a nation will have to do with how we treat the least among us and those whose lives have been pushed towards the margins of obtaining the liberties we share. Across the political spectrum, folks will disagree about how best to accomplish this. But the problems are real and the goal seems clear.

Where are the broken relationships you can be a part of mending and rebuilding? Where can you promote liberty and justice for all? As citizens of God's Kingdom, we recognize that we are all in this together. As citizens of this great nation in which we claim "out of many, one," you and I have our work cut out for us.

The Fourth of July is a time to renew our love for our country. As God's people in Christ Jesus and as citizens of God's Kingdom, we can make a difference as we proclaim the good news of God's reign of mercy, justice, peace, and love. Living into the hope of another one of our prayers, the collect for the Nation (BCP p. 258), may we have "a zeal for justice and the strength of forbearance, that we may use our liberty in accordance with [God's] gracious will."

Andy +



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

Welcome

Rev. Virginia Monroe
Part-Time Interim
for Pastoral Care

We are grateful to have Rev. Monroe join our staff to fill our needs for pastoral care. She will coordinate our Stephen Ministry and, as time allows, she will work with hospitality and welcoming people to Nativity. She will be with us on Sundays, Tuesdays and Wednesdays.



Children's Formation

We had a showdown at the hoedown at Farmland VBS. Thanks to all our volunteers, church staff, and children for three days of fun, fun, fun.





EYC Church of the Nativity

Summer 2017 Youth Schedule

August 11-13: Rafting Trip – Last Chance to Register

This year we'll be rafting on the Ocoee River and staying at nearby Camp Agape. We'll depart on Friday, August 11 by 4:00pm and stop for dinner on the way up. **Saturday we'll have a canopy tour and go rafting. Sunday we'll eat breakfast and make our way back home.** The total cost of the trip is \$250/person. Please register online at <https://tinyurl.com/NativityRafting2017> or email Sarah Watts (swatts@nativity-hsv.org) with any questions.

Save the Date

Youth Kickoff & Parent Meeting
Sunday, August 6th at 4pm

We're in the midst of planning a really great year for youth and their parents and hope that all of you will make every effort to come and hear about all of the opportunities!

2018 Ski Trip
February 16-19

We'll be heading off to Winterplace in Ghent, West Virginia once again. The total cost of the trip is \$500.

[Click here for more info and to register](#)

Mountain T.O.P. Mission Trip



From June 4-10, five of us travelled to Grundy County, TN and participated in a week's worth of home repair. We helped build a porch, shed, staircase, and fence and also did a good bit of yard work. Throughout the week we had time to travel throughout Grundy County where we had our fair share of milk shakes from the Gruetli-Laager Dairy Bar and a good few cookies from the Dutch Maid Bakery. One of the most enjoyable aspects of the week was having the chance to form relationships with other youth from surrounding areas and the opportunity to get to know the families we were assisting in the community. All around we had a wonderful time!

Young People Paint Birmingham

In mid-June, a couple of us helped paint houses around Birmingham and had a blast (despite the rain!).



**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.

Spirituality



at Nativity

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

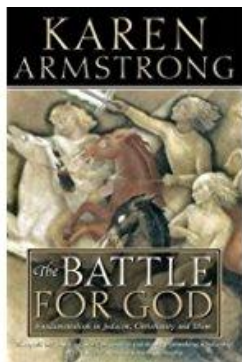
If you do have any questions or suggestions, please contact Christine Starnes cjstarnes@comcast.net

Thank you!

The Book Class Announces Fall Text

For those of you who would like to get a head start on our next book selection, we will read and discuss Karen Armstrong's *The Battle for God: A History of Religious Fundamentalism*. The paperback book is about \$10 and is available in Kindle format for about \$14. Click the picture of the book for more information.

We meet in Ridley Hall at 10am on Sunday mornings. Class will resume in September.



Summer Choir will begin on July 23rd

Ever wanted to sing in the choir? Join us this summer in a more relaxed setting! Rehearsal will begin at 9:00am in the choir stalls before the 10:00am service on Sunday mornings.

For more information please contact Christian Crocker at 256-533-2455 or ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org



2018 VESTRY NOMINATIONS

We want to hear from you!

The Vestry Nominations Committee is developing a slate of nominees for the upcoming year to fill six Vestry vacancies resulting from six members completing their three-year terms. The Nominating Committee will be looking at particular skill sets needed to compliment and replace the skills that will be lost by the Vestry members rolling off the Vestry at the end of the 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 12th. 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 as follows:

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

The Vestry Nominating 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. This year's committee members are:

Lou Durnya
Bill Starnes
Rusty Stephenson
Margaret Devenish
Donna Joffrion
Holly Ellis
Alice Lanier
Andy Anderson

Chair
Senior Warden, 2015 & 2016
Senior Warden, 2013
Senior Warden, 2017
Member at Large
Member at Large
Member at Large
Rector

LDurn@aol.com
abcstarnes@comcast.net
stephenson526@gmail.com
mdevenish100@gmail.com
djoffrion@gmail.com
hollyellis804@gmail.com
amlanier@knology.net
aanderson@nativity-hsv.org

There are several ways to submit a nomination:

- [Click or tap here for the electronic nomination form](#)
- **Drop boxes located on the Hospitality table in Ridley Hall and in the hallway by the Banister Room**
- **Mail your nomination proposal to:**

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

Nominations will be accepted through Sunday, September 10, 2017.

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING

The Daughters of the King installed new officers on June 20, 2017. The Installation Service was held in Bibb Chapel and was followed by lunch. The new officers are President Virginia Kobler, Vice-President Marcia Machek, Secretary Jane Wacaster, Treasurer Joan East, and Chaplain Basye Holland-Shuey.

The Order of the Daughters of the King is organized as a religious order whereby each daughter pledges herself to a lifelong program of prayer, service and evangelism, dedicated to the spread of Christ's Kingdom and the strengthening of the spiritual life of her parish.



Anyone interested in learning more about the Daughters of the King, please contact Virginia Kobler at 256-881-0854.

Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP)

Items needed:



spaghetti sauce
spaghetti noodles
vegetables
fruit
toilet paper

As always, thank you for your generosity!

Stewardship of Life Class

Sundays at 9am
July 30- August 20

Deacon Bob Serio
will facilitate a series
on healthy living and
preparation for End
of Life.



Nativity Young Adults (20-30-40-Somethings)

Grill Night

Monday, July 10 at 5:30pm

We will enjoy the hospitality of Elizabeth and Nick Pate for a cookout . Bring a steak or something to grill, and something to share (side, appetizer, dessert, etc.). Bring your own beer or wine; non-alcoholic beverages will be provided.

RSVP by July 6 to Mother Bonnie
BMcCrickard@nativity-hsv.org

Fellowship Kickoff

Friday, August 25, 6:00pm

We will meet at the home of Andrew Hyche.
RSVP to Amy Baxter in the church office:
256-533-2455. More details coming soon!

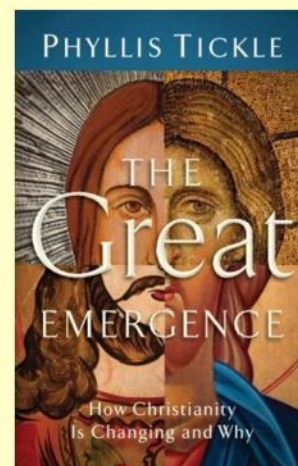


THE CHANGING FACE OF CHRISTIANITY: WHAT HAPPENED TO THAT OLD TIME RELIGION?

6PM MONDAY NIGHTS, JULY 31 TO AUGUST 28 IN THE JOFFRION HALL LIBRARY

Join Rev. 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 Great Emergence* is available to order online. Visit [Amazon](https://www.amazon.com/dp/0830825061) for details.



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 jleary@uab.edu 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 [job description](#) 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](#).

Rector's Farewell Funds

With Father Andy's calling to St Mary's in Sewanee and departure on August 6, parishioners have two ways to support and say "thank you" for his and Tippy's nearly 15 years as Rector of Nativity:

Rector's Farewell Purse and Portrait Fund*

All donations may be made via Egiving or sent to the attention of Beverly Franklin in the church office. Be sure to mark which fund or funds you are supporting.

Questions? Call 256-533-2455.

*Following a Nativity tradition, a portrait of Andy will be painted for the church.

2017-18 Green Book Advertising



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 contact the church office and let us know. A representative from our publisher, Guide Book Publishing, will be in the church office to coordinate advertising the week of July 10.

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

St. Mary's Sewanee: The Ayres Center for Spiritual Development

Programs and Retreats

2017 - 2018

2017

One River Wisdom School

July 7 - 9, 2017

*Presenters: Gordon Peerman
Rami Shapiro*

One-Day Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop

July 29, 2017

Presenter: Tom Ward

Eight Day Centering Prayer Retreat

July 30 - August 6, 2017

Presenter: Tom Ward

"The House as Metaphor for Self"

Art Workshop

August 11 - 13, 2017

Presenter: Lendon Noe

One River Wisdom School

September 8 - 10, 2017

*Presenters: Gordon Peerman
Rami Shapiro*

God is Love:

A Journey into the Heart of Creation

September 15 - 21, 2017

*Presenters: Mary Anne Best,
Carolyn Goddard*

The Labyrinth: A Walking Meditation

October 7, 2017

Presenter: Margy Oehmig

Mindfulness on the Mountain

October 20 - 22, 2017

*Presenters: Gordon Peerman,
Paloma Cain*

The Deep Heart's Core: A Contemplative Retreat with Literature

November 17 - 19, 2017

Presenter: Henry Parsley

One River Wisdom School

December 1 - 3, 2017

*Presenters: Gordon Peerman,
Rami Shapiro*

Three-Day Advent Centering Prayer Retreat

December 8 - 10, 2017

Presenter: Tom Ward

2018

One-Day Introduction to Centering Prayer Workshop

January 27, 2018

Eight-Day Centering Prayer Retreat

January 28 - February 4, 2018

One River Wisdom School

March 2 - 4, 2018

Three-Day Lenten Centering Prayer Retreat

March 23- 25, 2018

Mindfulness on the Mountain

May 4 - 6, 2018

*For information regarding programs, fees and registration,
visit www.stmaryssewanee.org
(931)598-5342 (800)728-1659*

**ACOLYTE SCHEDULE
JULY 2017**

We settle in for a quiet month of regular Sunday services. Please remember that as an Acolyte, you are one of the service leaders—use your prayer books and hymnals to follow along with the service. If you find yourself unable to serve when scheduled, please arrange for a substitute and let us know who will be filling in.

Sunday, July 2

8:00

C Tess Lambert

10:00 A/M Nutt

C Evan Ellison

T Alex Ahearn, David Young

T David DiFranco

S Patrick Ahearn

AS Alice Malone

Sunday, July 9

8:00

C Sadie Anglin

10:00 A/M Nutt

C Margaret Foster, Evan Ward

T Katherine Hunter, Cooper Gunter

T Riley Kamelchuk, Laura Kamelchuk

S Britt Webber

AS Joshua Huskey

Sunday, July 16

8:00

C Bailey Morrison

10:00 A/M Sherrill

C Van Dodgen, Huston Moring

T Will Pinson, Anna Katherine Ayers

T Evans Bryant, Betsy Bryant

S Cameron Pinson

AS Margaret Bryant

Sunday, July 23

8:00

C Sam Hartley

10:00 A/M Putt

C Parker Sanders, Ellie Walker

T Phoebe Duncan, Mary Ellis Alison

T Madelyn Alison, Carter Watson

S Ella Jane Duncan

AS Clay Walker

Sunday, July 30

8:00

C Sidney Gunter

10:00 A/M Ward

C JB Stockton, Dylan Chenoweth

T Elizabeth Rainey, Elizabeth Evans

T Nannette Aboudonia, Gertrude Aboudonia

S Sarah Whelden Hall

AS Jed Rainey

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Kelley Pratt, Ted Bledsoe, Bishop Santosh Marray, Lloyd Newman, Marty Askins, 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, John Meriwether, Robert McClain, Joan Bennett, Tom Booth, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the departed:

Carol Lydon
Robert Lee McDaniel, Jr.

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Doug Faith	Afghanistan
Hannah Tycer Mackey	US Air Force
Kenneth Vandervoort	US Navy, Middle East

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

7/5	Alexander Cahue	7/6	Crosby Smith	7/6	Joseph Cantey
7/8	Eleanor Fassett	7/8	Rebecca Fassett	7/11	Kate Albritton
7/10	Alexander Allbee	7/10	Daniel Starnes	7/11	Evelyn Hendrickson
7/11	Harvey Wilson	7/12	Alex Elliott	7/13	Joanna Jackson
7/17	Caroline Ayres	7/19	Harper Hudson	7/19	Carter Whitehead

Stewardship of Creation: The Story of Stuff Project

During Lent 2017, we challenged Nativity parishioners to give away items we no longer need by filling a bag of trash a day for forty days. Did you succeed? Great! Need another challenge? Try Plastic-Free July, sponsored by The Story of Stuff Project.

Every July, over a million people around the world participate in **Plastic Free July**, a challenge to refuse single-use plastics for one whole month. This year, we're trying something a little different – and we'd like to invite you to take part.

Here's the thing. Avoiding plastic for any amount of time is a great thing to do – but that alone won't end our addiction to plastic. When individuals choose not to buy or use plastic, they remove plastic from *their* lives. But what we really need to do is eliminate problematic plastic from the economy altogether. **To do that, we need to work together to push communities, companies, and countries to go plastic free.**

This year, take the Plastic Free July pledge to make plastic a thing of the past. Every week this July, we'll send you ideas and action opportunities to get polluting plastic out of your life *and* out of your community.

[Are you ready to take the Plastic Free July pledge?](#)
[Click this link to visit The Story of Stuff Project for more details.](#)

Submitted by Freya Neely



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 17

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
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

Your Name: _____
Phone #: _____
Date desired: _____
Name(s) for dedication: _____



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 10th

July 5, 2017