

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

July 19, 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.



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

Save the Date

August 6
Celebration of Our Rector
Rev. Andy Anderson



Photo montage inside



Dear Nativity Family,

It is the Vestry's intent to be as transparent as possible as we move forward with the process of calling a new Rector to our church. To that end, the following initial information is provided as an overview. Additional updates will be added as they are available.

On Tuesday, July 11, 2017, the Vestry met with Sarah Sartain from the Bishop's Office. She provided an initial overview of the call process. One of the primary themes of our discussion was there is no reason for us to be anxious. We are not in this pilgrimage alone; God's presence is with us.

The process begins with the selection of an Interim Rector. To that end, Bishop Sloan has provided the Vestry with three candidates for consideration. We have been asked to keep the names confidential. A small group of vestry members will interview the candidates. This group will make a recommendation to the full Vestry of who should be called for the interim position. The final decision will be voted on by the Vestry, and a call will be made. We hope to have this work completed during the August 22nd Vestry meeting. For clarity, Diocesan policy states that Interim Rectors may not be considered for permanent positions.

After the parish has had time to adjust to the change (Sarah Sartain suggests three months), and the Interim Rector has settled into the parish, we will begin the formal call of a new Rector. We will be assigned a Calling Coach by the Diocese to guide us through the process. As our present focus is on the call of the Interim Rector, we have not addressed the details of the search process. We will follow the three-month guideline before considering these very important questions.

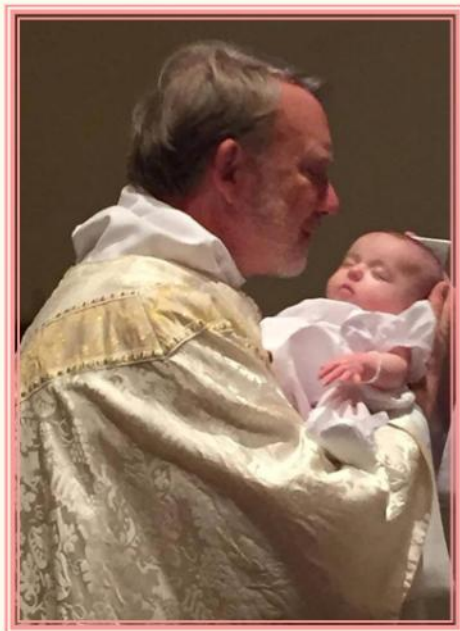
From the diocesan guidelines that have been provided, a general idea of the search process follows. The Vestry will appoint a Chairperson of the Call Committee and then will work to put together two teams within the Call Committee, the Self-Study Team and the Discernment Team.

The Self-Study Team will work on compiling the Parish Profile. This profile will then be offered to potential candidates for the Rector position. The Discernment Committee will then review, interview candidates, and make a recommendation to the Vestry of whom to call as the 12th Rector of the Church of the Nativity. The Vestry will mail a detailed letter to all parishioners by November 15th with information on how parishioners can participate in this important work.

First, let us celebrate Father Anderson's service with much gratitude and a great picnic on August 6th. At the same time, accept that many feel disoriented in regards to our church family. We have been assured that if we follow the diocesan process, Nativity will find this transition beneficial and we will re-orient towards a healthy and happy Church of the Nativity.

The Vestry asks for your prayers for discernment as we move through this process. We also urge your prayers for the parish as we, a community of Christ, discern what God would have us do in the world. Peace.

Your Vestry



CELEBRATION OF OUR RECTOR

Father Andy Anderson will be moving to St. Mary's Sewanee, Tennessee to serve as the Executive Director of The Ayers Center for Spiritual Development. His last Sunday at Nativity will be August 6.

We will celebrate his nearly 15 years at Nativity with Liturgy for Leavetaking and Ending a Pastoral Relationship. After the service we will honor Andy and Tippy with a champagne picnic.





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.





EYC Church of the Nativity

YOUTH SMALL GROUPS MEETINGS ANNOUNCED

For the 2017-2018 church school year, our youth will gather in small groups. These groups will run for four weeks each during the months of August, October, January, and April. The groups are designed to bring youth together around a particular interest to give them a chance to have fun, form relationships and ultimately live out their faith together.

It is our hope that youth who sign up to participate in a small group will commit to taking part in all four group meetings to help foster community. We want to provide a space where they can come together, grow, and make youth group at Nativity their own sacred space.

See the schedule below for details.

Ocoee Rafting Trip Update

There are still a few open spots for youth, and scholarships are available! This year we'll be rafting on the Ocoee River and staying at nearby Camp Agape. We'll depart on Friday, August 11. 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 contact Sarah Watts (swatts@nativity-hsv.org) to sign up ASAP!

Rafting Trip 2017

August 11-13

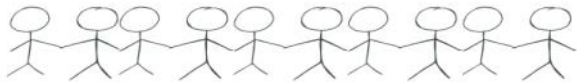
When:
August 11-13

Where:
Ocoee River (staying at Camp Agape)

Cost:
Total Cost: \$250/person
Deposit: \$100 (non-refundable) due June 21st
Final Payment: \$150 due July 11th

Tentative Schedule:
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.

Youth Small Groups connect • discover • belong



Sign up today!

EYC August Small Groups

(each group will meet 4 times)

Jammin' with Jesus

Bring your instrument, maybe some sheet music (or not) and come prepared to jam out together! All skill levels are very welcome! Even if you don't play an instrument and want to just come and hang - you're welcome! Specific meeting days & times will be decided by participants and facilitators. Preston Watts will be facilitating this small group. [Sign up here!](#)

Grillin' with God

Bring something to stick on the grill and gather together at the Mullins' house to learn the basics of grilling and to have fun eating great food together. Specific meeting days & times will be decided by participants and facilitators. Robert Mullins will be facilitating this group! [Sign up here!](#)

Random Acts of Kindness

This group will gather together to spread joy and happiness to our community. Activities might include delivering "You Deserve a Treat" bags, filling laundry machines with coins, or anything else! Do you enjoy serving or need some more service hours? This is the small group for you! Specific meeting days & times will be decided by participants and facilitators. Amy Brooks will be facilitating this small group! [Sign up here!](#)

EYC 101

This small group is the only group designed specifically for our new 7th graders. Our gatherings will provide a space for the youth to get acquainted with all things youth-related and form deeper and lasting relationships with each other. While this group is set aside just for them, they are also welcome to join other small groups as well! Specific meeting days & times will be decided by participants

-You are Invited-



Youth & Parent Kickoff Event

Come for TACOS! and to learn about the great things we've got planned for this year!
SERIOUSLY—we have some really awesome new things going on and we hope to see you there!

Sunday, August 6th

4:30pm-6pm

Nativity LOFT

(3rd Floor Joffrion)

What to Bring:

Your Calendar

Clothes & Shoes you can run around in

RSVP to Sarah Watts (swatts@nativity-hsv.org)

by Wednesday, August 2nd

Calling all rising 7th graders and their parents! If you have not been receiving emails from Sarah Watts and would like to know more about upcoming youth offerings, please contact Sarah at swatts@nativity-hsv.org

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.

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	Chair	LDurn@aol.com
Bill Starnes	Senior Warden, 2015 & 2016	abcstarnes@comcast.net
Rusty Stephenson	Senior Warden, 2013	stephenson526@gmail.com
Margaret Devenish	Senior Warden, 2017	mdevenish100@gmail.com
Donna Joffrion	Member at Large	djoffrion@gmail.com
Holly Ellis	Member at Large	hollyellis804@gmail.com
Alice Lanier	Member at Large	amlanier@knology.net
Andy Anderson	Rector	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.

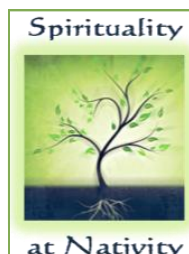
What Are You Reading? - The Grace of God

By: Andy Stanley

Contributed by: Eleanor Loring

I absolutely loved reading this book! So much that I read it twice. It was written by Andy Stanley who is the founder and pastor of North Point Ministries in Atlanta where over 20,000 adults worship each Sunday. In the book, Stanley carefully and interestingly lays out the pattern of God's grace from the Old Testament through the New Testament. Using familiar and prominent characters such as Abraham, Moses, David, Matthew and Nicodemus he takes their unique stories and gives evidence of God's grace in all of their lives. The book is written in an easy, conversational manner that presents the case for grace while also showing how the stories and truths are relevant to our lives today. Stanley helps to reconcile the contrasts between the angry God of the Old Testament to the loving, merciful God of the New Testament by showing God's continuous pursuit of restoring relationship with man through grace.

I read somewhere that grace is the one thing we all crave for ourselves but are reluctant to give to others. Reading this book has opened my eyes even more to God's goodness and made me so much more willing to extend grace to those around me. Reading it is fun, interesting and inspirational! I hope it will be a blessing to you!



Please let us know what you are reading by contacting:

Mary Johnson maryjohnson2@knology.net or Laura Malone lpmalonepi@gmail.com

'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).

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



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!



Sign up for Education for Ministry (EfM)

Would you like to deepen your understanding of the church and the roots of Christianity? Are you ready to take the next step, beyond attending church, to examine the underpinnings of your faith? Or perhaps you would like to take a refresher class with the new EfM materials. Join us weekly for an evening of learning, discussion, and fellowship.

Come explore the foundations of the Episcopal three-legged stool (scripture, history, and reason). The University of the South's School of Theology is again offering Education for Ministry (EfM) at the Church of the Nativity. It is a four-year course covering Old Testament, New Testament, church history, and theology. We meet weekly starting from September to May. Tuition is \$375, which includes books.

For information about Nativity classes, contact:

Ron Hogan 256.679.5786, ronhuntsville@yahoo.com
Ted Briggs 256.457.1188, tedlbriggs@gmail.com

For more information and frequently asked questions about EfM, visit <http://efm.sewanee.edu/>

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](#)

THANK YOU, AMANDA GOEKE

Amanda Goeke is leaving her post as the faithful Children's Ministry Assistant at Nativity! Amanda's creativity, energy, and flexibility have been tremendous assets to our children's programs, especially on Sunday mornings and Wednesday evening events. We are sad to see her leave the staff at Nativity, but so grateful that she and her family will still be among us as parishioners, worshiping together and supporting these and other ministries.

Please join us this coming Sunday, July 23, after the 10:00 am service as we thank Amanda for her dedication and hard work on behalf of our littlest parishioners!



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. Topics will include:



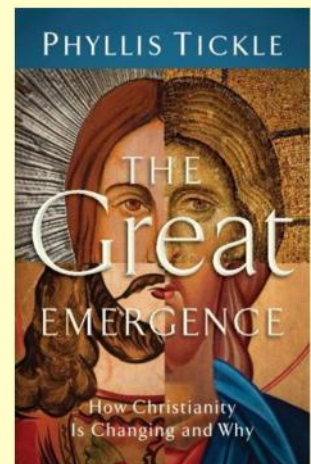
- *Healthy lifestyle tips*
exercise, diet, sleep
- *Living with illness*
physical limitations, visual changes, palliative and hospice care
- *Legal considerations*
power of attorney, living wills, advance directives, funeral wishes, property disposition
- *Spiritual needs for final days*
funeral plans, closure, legacy

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/0312321631) for details.





SAINT JOHN'S EPISCOPAL CHURCH

211 North Monroe Street
Tallahassee, FL 32301
(850) 222-2636
www.saint-john.org

June 27, 2017

The Reverend Dr. Elenor Lucius Anderson III
Church of the Nativity
208 Eustis Ave. SE
Huntsville, AL 35801-4293

Dear Father Anderson,

On behalf of the choir of St. John's Church of Tallahassee I wish to thank you, the choir, the Reverend Bonnie McCrickard, Music Director Christian Crocker, and your generous and welcoming congregation for inviting us to sing Sunday services at Nativity on Trinity Sunday, June 11. We all felt an immediate kinship with your choir members and with the beautiful interior of Nativity, which is remarkably similar to our own church.

Combining forces with the choir of Nativity to sing Evensong was a great joy; all of us who knew Christian as a student at FSU and a staff singer/organ scholar at St. John's were happy that he has found such a fine and encouraging place to make music at Nativity, and pleased at how well he is doing.

We are grateful for the great hospitality shown by the church in providing us a hearty lunch after our Saturday rehearsal and for the beautiful reception following Evensong. It was a gratifying weekend of hard work resulting in vibrant music-making together.

With gratitude,

Betsy Calhoun

cc: The Reverend Bonnie McCrickard
Christian Crocker

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*

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Al Elliott, Lee Coggins, Wannie Evans, Walt Grundy, Jim Straub, Linda Mixon, Ted Bledsoe, Bill Martin, 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:

Rev. Stefani Schatz
Rosalie Evans

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

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

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

7/19 Harper Hudson	7/19 Carter Whitehead	7/20 Reagen Huskey	7/21 Alice Mae Hinton
7/23 Dylan Chenoweth	7/24 Madison Doss	7/26 Lily Durnya	7/26 Anna Zuga
7/28 Tripp Elliott	7/28 Anna Crawford Mullins	7/29 Greer Baker	7/31 Ellie Roderick
8/2 Caroline Cooper	8/2 Caroline Brooks	8/2 Sean Berman	8/3 Harrison Hall
8/4 Evan McCarty	8/5 Drew Dodgen	8/5 Graham Duncan	8/6 Henry Keener
8/6 Noah Huskey	8/6 Anna Post	8/8 Hunter Ray	8/8 Beau Cline
8/9 Moss Fleming	8/9 Wil Clardy	8/13 Sarah Huskey	8/15 Pierce Anderson

Parish Financial Report, Period Ending 06/30/2017

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges				
Received	75,443.44	103,666.67	561,047.73	633,500.01
Plate	10,196.68	6,666.67	58,624.28	39,999.98
Other Revenues	2,447.82	10,292.01	43,304.47	60,247.94
TOTAL	88,087.94	120,625.35	662,976.48	733,747.93
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach				
	26,872.48	25,040.65	124,142.74	150,244.10
Personnel	69,018.29	72,624.99	434,391.65	435,750.06
Other Expenses	29,413.55	23,454.78	139,533.69	144,765.13
TOTAL	125,304.32	121,120.42	698,068.08	730,759.29
NET \$	(37,216.38)	\$ (495.07)	\$ (35,091.60)	\$ 2,988.64

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.

YOU ASKED FOR IT!

We now have several options for making your monetary gifts to the church. Besides the always accepted cash or check, you can now use your credit or debit card.



Text "giving" and the amount you would like to give to 256.530.7373, and complete the short application form. Options such as your pledge or special donations are available to pick from. There is no charge to you for this option.

Our website, www.nativity.dioala.org, also offers giving options of using your MC, Visa, American Express, bank debit card or Pay Pal. There is a small charge for the use of Pay Pal only.

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.



ACH PAYMENT

Enjoy the convenience and safety of regular pledge payments to Nativity directly from your checking or savings account by setting up an Automated Clearing House (ACH) transfer. To find out more or to set up automated giving, please contact Beverly Franklin, bfranklin@nativity-hsv.org, or 256.533.2455 ext 219 in the Church Office and she will be glad to get you started. This is also FREE.

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 31

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector

The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard
Associate

The Rev. Virginia Monroe
Interim Associate, Pastoral Care

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

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



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

Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP) Items needed:



soup
cereal
spaghetti sauce & noodles
boxed/package potatoes
bar soap
toilet paper

**As always, thank you for your
generosity!**

July 19, 2017