# THE STEEPLE

# The Church of the Nativity

August 16, 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.

# Back to School for all of us!

Summer vacation seems so much shorter than when I was in grade school, and it's not just an illusion because of my age! Members and staff at Nativity squeezed in so much important ministry in those hot, brief weeks since Easter: a beautiful farm-themed 3-day Vacation Bible School this summer, a youth rafting trip, the Christian Education Conference at Kanuga, conversations about expanding our ministry to 5th and 6th graders, Confirmation, reshaping our relationships with community organizations through our Outreach Committee, baptisms, EfM graduation, another season of GSM... and that's just a partial list! Yes, we've had some transitions, but we've also welcomed so many new members through baptism, confirmation, and transfer to this particular part of the Body of Christ. And already these new members are ready for Sunday School and helping with our youth and children! The seasons may be brief, but the richness of our community demonstrates growth in the Spirit that yields a harvest of people who want to connect with our community.

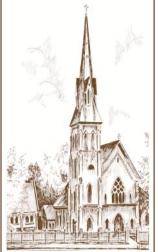
As we move more deeply into this season of learning about ourselves as a parish and about our place in ministry to this world, remember that Nativity offers so many opportunities to help us learn and grow as followers of Jesus Christ. Our fellowship after worship and at parish spaghettie suppers is an important part of our spiritual education and journey. Take a moment to thumb through this latest addition of the Steeple. Choir has begun, a women's retreat will take place next month and in a few short weeks we will fill the classrooms with children and adults who are ready to begin another wonderful season of Sunday school. Rally Day will give our parish an opportunity to come together for fellowship and fun. Fellowship, whether on the ball field, a picnic at church or at dinner with friends offers opportunity to learn how to live together and understand each other. Remember that summertime is not the only time that we can enjoy each others company and be refreshed by God's love.

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace: and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation: through Jesus Christ our Lord. Amen

God's Peace,

The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard





# CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

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# learn, pray, play

Sunday School Registration is OPEN!

Register here for ages 3 through 6<sup>th</sup> grade

# Sunday school and regular church schedule resumes September 10

8.45 Holy Eucharist with children's chapel

10.00-10.50 Sunday school for all ages

11.00 Holy Eucharist

# Our classes this year:

3 & 4 year olds, Godly Play

Kindergarten & 1st grade, Godly Play

2nd Grade, Godly Play

3rd Grade, Whirl Lectionary

4th Grade, Telling God's Story The Unexpected Way

5th & 6th Grade, Club 56 Connect.

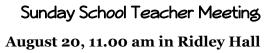
Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

Register https://goo.gl/forms/Y3aqepPlSBKhiCm83

# Children's Sunday School Open House

August 27 during Rally Day Parish picnic following 10.00 service

Please stop by Angel Lane to see and learn all about this years' Sunday school classes for children, register for Sunday school and sign up to support children's activities.



Teachers, please plan to be there! We'll meet in Ridley Hall right after the 10.00 service concludes and have lunch followed by our meeting for the year.

Email <a href="mailto:mcoe@nativity-hsv.org">mcoe@nativity-hsv.org</a> if you have questions or to RSVP. Remember your calendars!

learn, pray, play

# CHOIR REHEARSALS START BACK WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 16

Novice Choir (K- 2<sup>nd</sup> grade) 4:45pm-5:30pm Junior Choristers (3<sup>rd</sup>-5<sup>th</sup> grade) 4:00pm-5:15pm Senior Choristers (6<sup>th</sup>-12<sup>th</sup> grade) 4:45pm-6:15pm Adult Choir 7pm-9pm

All choir rehearsals are on Wednesdays. If you are interested in joining any of our choirs, contact Christian Crocker at <a href="mailto:crocker@nativity-hsv.org">crocker@nativity-hsv.org</a> or 256-533-2455 (x216). If you have questions about our Novice or Junior Choir contact Barbara Bonner at <a href="mailto:bcbonner65@gmail.com">bcbonner65@gmail.com</a>.





# **EYC Church of the Nativity**

# Save the Date: Youth Lake Day September 10, 2017 1:00pm-5:30pm Meet in church parking lot at 1pm. We'll spend the day at Lake Guntersville playing games, swimming, and taking boat rides! Snacks will be provided and we'll return to the church by 5:30pm. Registration Deadline: Wed, Sept 6th www.tinyurl.com/NativityYouthLakeDay2017

### Miss the Kickoff Event?

That's okay! Check our youth webpage for helpful information, schedules, forms and links: <a href="http://www.nativity.dioala.org/Youth/nativity-youth.html">http://www.nativity.dioala.org/Youth/nativity-youth.html</a>!

# **Sunday School & Confirmation Registration**

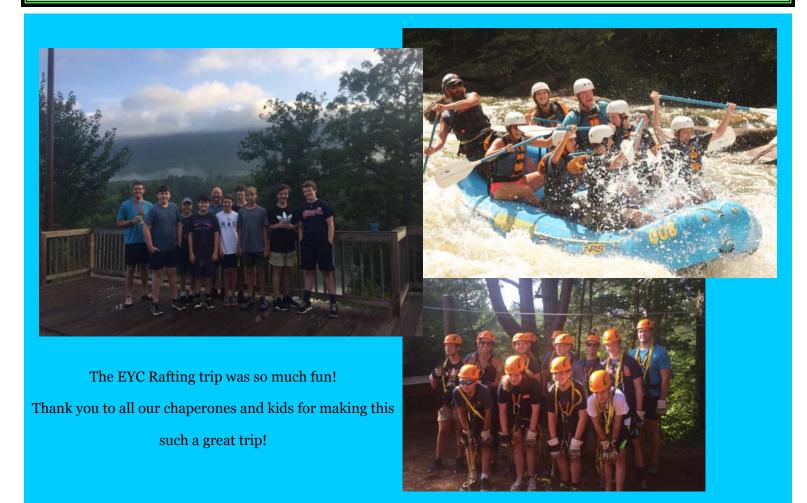
We are so excited about this coming Sunday School year! Sunday School & Confirmation will begin on Sunday, September 10th and both 7th-8th grade and the High School Class will be spending the year exploring different topics and projects on a three-week cycle. Look out for the schedule of lessons coming soon on the website! Please take the time to register your youth here:

www.tinyurl.com/NativityYouthSundaySchool

Join us for EYC!

Sunday, August 20th 5:00pm in the LOFT Sunday, August 27th 5:00pm in the LOFT NO EYC SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 3rd

**Calling all rising 7<sup>th</sup> 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 <a href="mailto:swatts@nativity-hsv.org">swatts@nativity-hsv.org</a>



# ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES 2017-2018

# Classes begin 10:00am Sunday, September 10th

# THE BREAKFAST CLUB

Amy Creech & Emily Rodgers

# Joffrion Hall 2 West

Relax in a comfy setting with a cup of coffee, as we delve into the Bible, strengthen friendships and experience helping others. This year we will study the book *Jesus Did It Anyway* BY Kent M. Keith.

# THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS

Jennifer Dill, Melissa Kirkendall, Freya Neely,

Jackie Sheldon, and Bill Starnes

# **Banister Room**

This class will discuss the book We Make the Road by Walking: A Year-Long Quest for Spiritual Formation, Reorientation and Activation by Brian D. McLaren, The class is structured so anyone may drop in anytime to discuss the book and issues relevant to our community and world.

# THE BOOK CLASS

Ted Briggs, Darlene Ehinger, Buddy Moon, Bob Serio, Walter Thames, Rick Wihoite

# Ridley Hall

This year the group will read and discuss *The Battle For God: Fundamentalism, Judaism, Christianity and Islam* by Karen Armstrong.

### THE ZIMMERMAN BIBLE STUDY

Jane Brocato, Basye Holland- Shuey, Bonnie

McCrickard, Jeannie Robison, Bob Serio,

Sally Stockton and Elise Taylor

# Joffrion Hall Library

This year we will study:

1 Corinthians 16

2 Corinthians 1-13

Romans 1-15

# ADVENT FORUM

Harvey Cotton, Rebecca Epps and

Sarah Sartain

December 3, 10 & 17

# Ridley Hall

All adult Sunday school classes meet together for this special Advent presentation.

### ART AND LITERATURE CLASS

Jeannie Robison, Walter Thames and

Lynne Vallely

January 7th -February 11th

# Bibb Chapel

Explore stories from Genesis-2018 through art and literature.

### SEEKERS CLASS

January - May 2018

# Ridley Hall

For new members desiring to be confirmed and received into the Episcopal Church.

Contact Lane Tutt for more information ltutt@nativity-hsv.org



# ADULT WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES

# The Good Book Women's Bible Study

This year we will study the book *What is the Bible* by Rob Bell. We would love to
welcome new Inquisitive Minds!

Leaders: Marty Askins, Virginia Monroe, Susan Morley, Jeannie Robinson

Joffrion Hall Library

Wednesdays 1:00 – 2:30pm September 6 – early May

Contact: Carole Sue Goodwin 256-534-4477

# Reflections Bible Study

This year we Reflections will study the greatest sermon Jesus ever preached! Join us as we discuss *The Sermon on the Mount --Bible Study Book* by Jen Wilkin. We can't wait to see everyone and welcome new faces and friends.

Leaders: Lisa Caprio, Debbie Collette, Kim Hartley, Connie Stephenson, Shelley Whitney

7th & 8th Grade classroom

Thursdays 9:30 – 11:00am

September 7th – early May

Contact: Debbie Collette 256-830-2451

The Christian Spiritual Journey: The Sequel

Leader: The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey

Joffrion Hall Library

Mondays 6:00-7:00pm

November 6,13,20, and 27

Contact: Rev. Basye Holland-Shuey 256-533-2455



Men's Wednesday Night Bible Study September 6, 20, 27 at 6:00pm In Joffrion Hall 2nd Floor East

Topic: The Power of the Bible Today Facilitated by Charles Morley

The men will take a non-literal, off-beat look at why an ancient library of poems, songs and beautiful / violent / passionate stories (the Bible) can change the way we feel about EVERYTHING. Fish bites man on first night!!! Bring a friend.



Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study September 6, 13, 20, 27 6:00pm In the Library in Joffrion Hall

Topic: The Gospel According to Mark Facilitated by Virginia Monroe

Join us as we explore the Gospel according to Mark and get a head-start on the lectionary readings for Year B. Bring your Bible, all versions welcomed! As part of your end of summer reading, you may want to read the Gospel to get an idea of how Jesus is constantly "on the move." It is only sixteen, not-too-long chapters.

# Nativity Annual Parish Picnic



# Rally Day

# **SUNDAY, AUGUST 27**

following the 10:00 service

# FOOD, FUN & FELLOWSHIP IN THE CHURCH YARD

Wear your casual clothes, bring a blanket, a chair and a smile & stay for the picnic!

Please bring a side dish or dessert to share. The Church will provide:

Fried Chicken
Lemonade & Water
Paper Products

Children's Sunday School Open House in Angel Lane

More Information: Church of the Nativity, Episcopal 256-533-2455 nativity-hsv.org

# Centering Prayer, Pot-luck Dinner, and a Movie Annual Summer Series

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 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 last remaining movie will be:

# **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.

# Y.A.M.S.

(YOUNG ADULTS MARRIED AND SINGLE)

# KICK-OFF PARTY

Calling all of those who are young at heart! Please join us for our Y.A.M.S. Kick-Off
Party:

Friday, August 25th, 6:00pm Home of Andrew Hyche 2630 Mountain Stream Way SE Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763

Children are welcome, so forget the babysitter! Please RSVP to Amy Baxter at abaxter@nativity-hsv.org or at 256-533-2455 no later than Friday, August 18th.

# Stewardship of Life Class

Sundays at 9am July 30- August 20 in the Library

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

click here to view notes



# **Series Topics**

Week 1: Healthy lifestyle tips exercise, diet, sleep

Week 2: Living with illness
physical limitations, visual changes,
palliative and hospice care

Week 3: Legal considerations

power of attorney, living wills,
advance directives, funeral wishes,
property disposition

Week 4: Spiritual needs for final days funeral plans, closure, legacy

# 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.

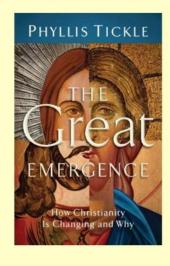
For information, contact: Ron Hogan 256.679.5786, ronhuntsville@yahoo.com or Ted Briggs 256.457.1188, tedlbriggs@gmail.com

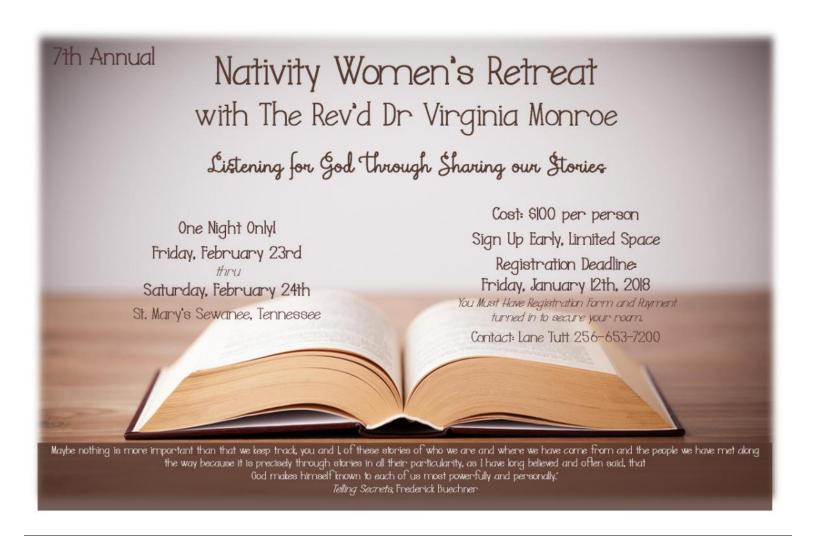
To learn more about EFM and address frequently asked questions, visit http://efm.sewanee.edu/

# 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 for details.





Nativity Women's Retreat February 23–24, 2018 St. Mary's Sewanee, Tennessee

# REGISTRATION

Name:	 	 
Email:		
Phone:		
Roommate Request:	 	 

Cost: \$100 per person

Deadline (Limited Space) Friday, January 12<sup>th</sup>, 2018

> Checks Payable to: Church of the Nativity

> Church of the Nativity Attn: Lane Tutt 208 Eustis Avenue SE Huntsville. AL 35801

Questions? Lane Tutt 256-653-7200 Itutt@nativity-hsv.org



# August 25- 27

Performances at Church of the Nativity include:

Friday, August 25th - 7:30pm

# **Opening Night Concert**

Works by Schubert, Dvorak, Rachmaninov and Elgar

Saturday, August 26th - 7:30pm

# **Saturday Night Classics**

Enjoy Bach, Schumann, Mozart and Grieg

Saturday, August 26th - 10:30pm

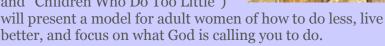
Messiaen's Quatuor pour la fin du temps (Quartet for the End of Time)

For more information about Twickenham Fest performances and seat registration visit twickenhamfest.org

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

September 22-24, 2017

Through workshop & discussion, best -selling author <u>Patricia Sprin-</u> <u>kle</u> ("Women Who Do Too Much" and "Children Who Do Too Little")



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



# Rector's Tortrait Fund

Following a Nativity tradition, a portrait of Andy will be painted for the church. Work is underway on Andy's portrait by local artist, Maggie Little. Completion is expected by early December. Contributions for the Portrait fund will continue to be gratefully accepted.

All donations may be made via Egiving or sent to the attention of Beverly Franklin in the church office.

Be sure to mark the donation for *Portrait Fund*.

Questions? Call 256-533-2455.

# **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

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

The Vestry Nominating Committee is composed of the sitting and three most recent Senior Wardens willing and able to serve, along with three members-atlarge 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

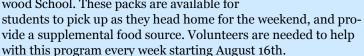
Chair Senior Warden, 2015 & 2016 Senior Warden, 2013 Senior Warden, 2017 Member at Large Member at Large Member at Large Rector

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

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

# **Blossomwood Elementary** Snack-Pack Program

School is back in session and it is time to get packing! Every week we pack over 200 weekend snack packs for students at Blossomwood School. These packs are available for



### Volunteer opportunities include:

Wednesdays at 2:00pm- Pick up supplies from Manna House & deliver to Nativity. (heavy lifting involved, large vehicle needed)

Wednesdays 4:00pm in Joffrion Hall Library- Help pack over 200 weekend snack packs.

Thursday- (timing is flexible) Pick up snack packs and deliver to Blossomwood School. (heavy lifting involved, large vehicles needed)

Friday 2:45pm Blossomwood Cafeteria- Pass out snack packs to students. (picture ID required to check in at school)

Contact Lee Anne Bryant bessnackpacks@gmail.com for information on how to get involved in this wonderful ministry.

> Blossomwood is a partner with Nativity's Outreach Ministry



Outdoor market every Thursday

August 4pm-8pm September 4pm-7pm October 3pm-6pm Store open Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday & Friday 10am-2pm & Thursdays 3pm-7pm

> For more information visit www.greenestreetmarket.com Save the date for our Holiday Markets! November 18th & December 9th 10am-2pm

# **Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP)** Items needed:



AP Food canned chicken cereal spaghetti sauce boxed potatoes canned vegetables and fruit

As always, thank you for your generosity! HAP Sunday is September 3rd

# PRAYER REQUESTS

# We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Rose Mary Lambert, Ted Bledsoe, Wannie Evans, Walt Grundy, Linda Mixon, Bill Martin, Kevin Wahl, Rose Sidick,, Cecelia Duncan, Bill Nettles, Barbara Buice, Leigh Wahl, Heidi Foreman, Warren Vann, Tom Hodge, Keith McRae, Anne Boles, Robert McClain, Joan Bennett, Tom Booth, Elsie Olsen

# We pray for the departed:

**Gaines Watts** 

# 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:

8/16	Charlotte Klos	8/16	Read Kloss	8/16	Kathryn Kelly	8/18	Warren Towry
8/19	Frances Fortner	8/19	Wren Guffey	8/22	Quinten Maddox	8/22	Alice Burson
8/23	Ford Whitfield	8/24	Lillianne Dollarhide	8/26	John Cowan	8/26	Elizabeth Evans
8/27	<b>Atkins Connelly</b>	8/27	Nathaniel Swillie	8/29	Lucy Ellis	8/29	Sam Hartley
8/30	Anna Abney	9/1	Caroline Baugher	9/2	Emma Angelichio	9/3	Ashley Ortel
9/3	Courtney Ortel	9/3	Jed Rainey	9/5	Kylie Wilson	9/6	Patrick Ahearn

# Parish Financial Report Period Ending 07/31/2017

		CURRENT MONTH		BUDGET for PERIOD		ACTUAL YTD		BUDGET YTD		
Pledges Received	\$	96,307.50	\$	103,666.67	\$	657,355.23	\$	737,166.68		
Plate	\$	16,963.76	\$	6,666.67	\$	75,588.04	\$	46,666.65		
Other Revenues	\$	4,148.46	\$	10,292.01	\$	47,452.93	\$	70,539.95		
TOTAL	\$	117,419.72	\$	120,625.35	\$	780,396.20	\$	854,373.28		
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$	26,551.98	\$	25,040.65	\$	150,694.72	\$	175,284.75		
Personnel	\$	75,432.23	\$	72,624.99	\$	509,823.88	\$	508,375.05		
Other Expenses	\$	19,389.07	\$	23,448.78	\$	158,922.76	\$	168,213.91		
TOTAL	\$	121,373.28	\$	121,114.42	\$	819,441.36	\$	851,873.71		
NET	\$	(3,953.56)	\$	(489.07)	\$	(39,045.16)	\$	2,499.57		

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:

vhinton@nativity-hsv.org The deadline for the next issue is 9:15am, Tuesday, September 5

### **CLERGY & STAFF**

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

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

Vicky Hinton

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 including church or building and grounds issues 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

# 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.



Enjoy the convenience and safety of regular pledge payments to Nativity directly from your checking or savings ACH PAYMENT 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.



We would like to welcome the new Communications Director, Vicky Hinton to the Nativity staff. Vicky will be in the office Monday-

Friday 8:30-1:00pm. If you have any announcements, calendar requests or general communication questions you can contact her at 256-533-2455 ext. 204 or vhinton@nativity-hsv.org

# Downtown development update:

The Variance Commission did not approve the height variance requested by builder John Blue at the Variance meeting on Tuesday, August 15.