

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

September 6 2017



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843



Welcome Father Steve!

During their August meeting the Vestry authorized a part-time support contract for Reverend Stephen Gruman to provide part-time support from August 28th to October 23rd. We are thankful for his willingness to serve this parish by providing additional pastoral and liturgical support during this time.

A decision regarding the interim rector position will be made at the October 2017 Vestry meeting, and an announcement regarding that decision will be sent to the parish.

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.

Dear Nativity Family,

The Vestry would like to inform you of our actions as part of the search for the 12th Rector of the Church of the Nativity.

The Spiritual Development Committee (SDC) has agreed to create a nomination form that will be used to identify parishioners to serve on the Self-Study Committee and the Discernment Committee. A parishioner may self-nominate (i.e., volunteer) or nominate other parishioners to serve on these committees.

Using input from the Diocese, the SDC will develop the nomination form. This form will reflect the specific needs of Nativity. Heavy emphasis will be placed on the spiritual aspects and qualities required of individuals desiring to serve on these two very important committees. The SDC will submit the nomination form to the Vestry for approval on October 17.

On **November 12**, at the Annual Parish Meeting, nomination forms will be made available throughout the church. On **November 13**, a link to an online version of the nomination form will be available on the website. The nomination form will also be included in the November 22 Steeple. After much prayerful consideration, parishioners should submit completed nomination forms no later than **November 30**. Nomination forms should be placed in clearly marked boxes in the church office and the breezeway outside the Mary Chapel entrance. Electronic versions may be emailed to communications@nativity-hsv.org. If a parishioner previously made a nomination via telephone, a follow-up paper or electronic nomination form must be completed and submitted by **November 30** in order to be considered for participation.

After November 30, the Vestry will review all nomination forms received and will choose the members and chairs to serve on the committees. The respective chair of each committee will notify its members by **December 31**.

The search process is being coordinated around the fall annual stewardship campaign which culminates at the Annual Parish meeting on **November 12**. We, Nativity parishioners, must not be distracted from the important work of providing financial support for the church, our missions in the greater Huntsville community, our Diocese, and the world.

The Vestry looks forward to completing this important work in December, and continuing the process of calling the 12th rector to the Church of the Nativity.

Your Vestry



Children's Formation

learn, pray, play

Sunday school starts this Sunday!

We can't wait to see all our friends back on Angel Lane! Please remember Sunday school is from 10.00 to 10.50 and children 4th grade and younger need a grown up or older sibling to pick them up from class. Children can be registered [here](#) or in class on Sunday.

Our classes this year:

Angel Lane, Downstairs Ridley Hall

3 & 4 years 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

Up the back stairs of Ridley Hall

5th & 6th grade Club 56: Connect, a curriculum just for 5th & 6th graders.

Register on line at <http://tinyurl.com/nativityformation>

Questions: mcoe@nativity-hsv.org



Good Housekeeping

Nativity is a safe and welcoming place for all its members, from the oldest to the youngest. With our multi-building campus, there are places our younger parishioners can wander off to and perhaps get into mischief. For the safety of everyone and our facilities, here are a couple of reminders:

- When not involved in a supervised activity like Sunday school, chapel, or choir, please keep children elementary age and younger within eye/earshot of the adult accompanying them to church.

- Please do not let children play in Sunday school classrooms unsupervised—an adult in the room or on the hall with them—and make sure all materials are put away when you leave. If children are in the Godly Play rooms, please stay in the room with them and help them get materials put back in the right spot.

Thank you for helping our staff and volunteers keep our church household in order!

We're Hiring!

Nativity is hiring a part time Children & Youth Assistant Coordinator to work in collaboration with the Director of Children's Formation and the Youth Ministry Coordinator to create an energetic, welcoming and safe space for our 5th-6th graders and to provide continuity for the youth as they transition from 5th-6th grade (Club 56) into 7th-12th grade youth group (EYC). Please visit the website to view the full job description and send resumes to Rev. Bonnie McCrickard (bmcriccard@nativity-hsv.org) no later than September 13, 2017.



*Lord, make me an instrument of Thy peace,
where there is hatred let me sow love,
where there is injury, pardon;
where there is doubt, faith;
where there is despair, hope;
where there is darkness, light;
and where there is sadness, joy.
O Divine Master,
grant that I may not so much seek to be consoled, as to console;
to be understood, as to understand;
to be loved, as to love.
For it is in giving that we receive,
it is in pardoning that we are pardoned,
and it is in dying that we are born to eternal life.
-St. Francis of Assisi*

St. Francis Sunday Blessing of the Animals Sunday, September 24

All happily leashed or carrier-contained pets are welcome at the 8:45am service. During the sermon there will be a special visit from St. Francis.

Pet Blessing in the Courtyard directly following the service.

Club 56 will be collecting pet food and towels for the Greater Huntsville Humane Society.

There will be No Children's Chapel during 8:45 service today.



Visit campmcdowell.com to see what events are happening in God's backyard this fall!



EYC Church of the Nativity

District Day Sept 24, 2017 1:00pm-5:00pm

Episcopal Youth from all over the northern district of the Diocese of Alabama are invited to come together for an afternoon of Galaxy Ball (think dodge ball, happy happy joy joy, and capture the flag combined into one game) at Epiphany in Guntersville, AL. Nativity Youth will meet in the Greene Street parking lot at 1pm and head off to Guntersville in the church vans. We'll return between 4:30pm-5:00pm. [Please sign up to attend here!](#)

Small Groups: Oct-Dec

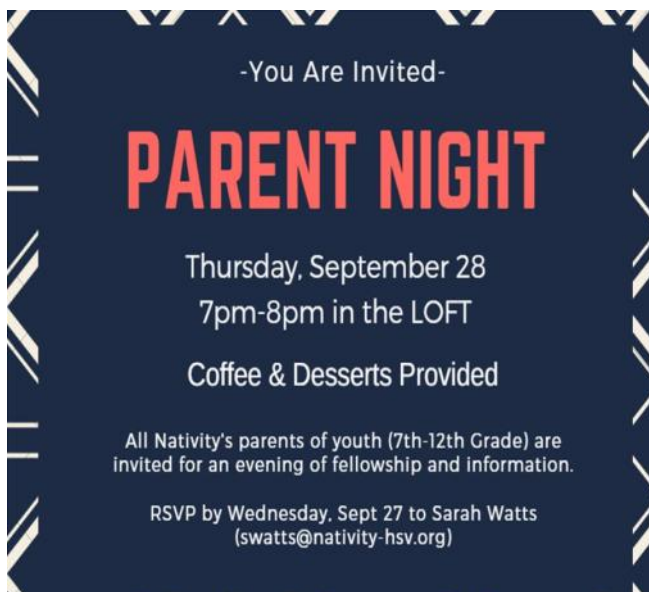
During the 2017-2018 program year, we will be offering various small group. The idea is to invite youth to come together around a particular interest and provide a space for youth to form relationships with peers and small group facilitators and to provide an opportunity for them to learn something about themselves, the world and God.

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! Preston Watts will be facilitating this small group. The group will meet 4 times during the months of October through December. Once we have enough people signed up, we'll decide as a group which days/times work best for all of us! [Sign up here!](#)

Grillin' with God- Gather together at the Mullins' house to learn the basics of grilling and to have fun eating great food together. Robert Mullins will be facilitating this group! The group will meet 4 times during the months of October through December. Once we have enough people sign up, we'll decide as a group which days/times work best for all of us! [Sign up here!](#)

Coffee with Christ- Gather together for some coffee and conversation during the months of October, November and December - so many fun holiday flavors to try! Amy Creech is facilitating this group. The group will meet a total of four times and once we have enough people sign up, we'll decide as a group which days/times work best for all of us! [Sign up here!](#)

Hiking on the Mountain- Put those boots on and get ready to go hiking! The group will gather together 4 times between October and December. We'll hike local trails and explore the important things that happened on the mountain throughout the Bible. All skill levels welcome! Amanda Goeke is facilitating this group. Once we have enough people sign up, we'll decide as a group which days/times work best for all of us! [Sign up here!](#)



Sunday School & Youth Confirmation Begins Sunday, September 10th

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. We could not be more excited about this coming Sunday School year! See you there!

Meeting Locations:

7th & 8th grades: 2nd floor of Ridley Hall

High School Sunday School: 3rd floor of Joffrion Hall (EYC room)

High School Confirmation: 2nd floor of Joffrion Hall (Confirmation Room)

ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES

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, Rev. 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.

SEEKERS CLASS

January – May 2018

Ridley Hall

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

THE ZIMMERMAN BIBLE STUDY

Jane Brocato, Valerie & Jim Chesney

Basye Holland- Shuey, Rev. Bonnie McCrickard, Rev. Virginia Monroe, Jeannie Robison, Rev. 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

Rev. Jeannie Robison, Walter Thames and

Lynne Vallely

January 7th –February 11th

Bibb Chapel

Explore stories from Genesis-2018 through art and literature.

ADULT WEEKDAY BIBLE STUDIES

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 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, Rev. 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

Women's Wednesday Night Bible Study

September 6, 13, 20, 27
6:00pm

Joffrion Hall Library

The Gospel According to Mark Facilitated by Rev. 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.

Men's Wednesday Night Bible Study

September 6, 20, 27
6:00pm

Joffrion Hall Library
2nd Floor East

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.

The Christian Spiritual Journey: The Sequel

Leader:
Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey
Joffrion Hall Library
Mondays 6:00-7:00pm
November 6, 13, 20, 27
Contact: 256-533-2455

Men's Breakfast Group

Leader: Rev. Bob Serio
Ridley Hall
2nd Tuesday of each month
starting September 12th
7:00am

Men's Wednesday Morning Bible Study

Every Wednesday morning September–May
Joffrion Hall Library
7:15am

Contacts: Rusty Stephenson 256-539-1707 or John Hendricks 256-539-4915

Education for Ministry (EfM)

EFM, Education for Ministry, is a four year program of theological education designed for the laity of the church. The classes are set up as seminar groups comprised of 6 to 12 students, guided by Mentors. All members of the seminar group contribute to lesson reviews and to "theological reflections," which are an integral part of the program.

If this is of interest to you, please consider registering for a Fall EFM class.

For further information and registration, contact the mentor listed above.

Ron Hogan ronhuntsville@yahoo.com or Ted Briggs ted.l.briggs@gmail.com



NATIVITY CHOIR NOTES

October 31, 2017 marks the 500th anniversary of the beginning of the Protestant Reformation. One of Martin Luther's greatest contributions to the church is the large number of hymns and tunes that we still sing today. Later in the 18th century, Johann Sebastian Bach harmonized a vast number of these tunes and other Reformation chorales for congregational singing (see hymn 174, 309, 688, etc.) but also in his two passions (St. Matthew and St. John). Bach's contribution to world of church music is one of the largest and most important. Not only did he write harmonizations of chorales, a sacred cantata for every week of the liturgical year, and chorale preludes, he composed free works for organ that include his preludes and fugues. In addition to singing several of these chorales that are either Martin Luther original or results of the Reformation during the month of October, I will be playing a Prelude and Fugue of Bach's once a month as a nod to this historic event in Protestant church history and to pay homage to two of the greatest contributors to sacred music.

Choir Rehearsal Schedule:

All rehearsals on Wednesday in the basement level of Joffrion Hall.

Cherub Choir (3 & 4 yrs) 4:00pm

Jr. Choristers (3rd-5th) 4:00pm

Novice Choir (k-2nd) 4:45pm

Sr. Choristers (6th-12th) 4:45pm

Adult Choir 7:00pm

Christian Crocker

FRIENDS OF MUSIC EVENTS 2017-18

October 1, 2017 5:00pm

Choral Evensong for the Feast of St. Michael and All Angels

October 13, 2017 7:00pm

Christopher Jacobson, organ

November 5, 2017 5:00pm

Choral Evensong for All Saints' Sunday

November 17, 2017 7:00pm

Reginald Mobley, countertenor

December 3, 2017 5:00pm

Advent Lessons and Carols

January 26, 2018 7:00pm

Michael Weinberg, baritone and Christian Crocker, tenor

Elizabeth LaJeunesse, piano

February 11, 2018 5:00pm

Choral Evensong for the Last Sunday after the Epiphany

March 16, 2018 7:00pm

Patrick Scott, organ

May 20, 2018 5:00pm

Nativity Choir Spring Concert

June 3, 2018 5:00pm

Choral Evensong



CHORAL EVENSONG FOR THE FEAST OF ST. MICHAEL AND ALL ANGELS

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 1ST

5:00PM

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Nativity Choir

Mtr. Bonnie McCrickard-Officiant

Christian Crocker-Organist and Choirmaster

Kenneth Leighton-Preces and Responses

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis "Tonus peregrinus"-

William Byrd

Factum est silentium-Richard Dering

Croft's 136th-Charles Hubert Hastings Parry

Church of the Nativity

208 Eustis Ave Huntsville, AL 35801

256-533-2455

Verger's at Nativity- Prentice White and Terry Clevenger

Verger's – we see them at every service held at our church. We've come to realize that our services do not start or end without them, but few of us know anything about the powerful lay ministry of our faithful Vergers, Prentice White and Terry Clevenger.

In the Episcopal church Vergers are committed lay assistants with a special calling to the Order and conduct of the church's liturgy, reporting directly to the clergy and carry out a liturgical style directed by the clergy as do the Altar Guild, Acolytes, Lay Readers, LEMS, Sextons, Musicians and other lay participants of the liturgy.

As Vergers they are the protectors of the Procession and are the first person in the Procession followed by the Crucifer, Acolytes, Choir and Ministers.

The Verger's basic vestment is a black cassock with a sleeveless gown covered by a chimere typically in gray, purple or black. Vergers carry a "virge" which is a staff of office carried in the Procession.



Exciting Verger News. Terry Clevenger has been a Verger-In-Training for the past year under the tutelage of Prentice White, our Head Verger, and the direction of the Vergers Guild of the Episcopal Church. He has completed the one year course study which was approved by Rev. Dr. Andy Anderson and the Vergers Guild which concurred with Father Anderson's recommendation that Terry be accepted as a Member of the Vergers Guild. Terry will be formally presented at the 2017 Vergers Guild Annual Conference in Atlanta in October. Congratulations Terry!

If becoming a Verger is a calling you would like to pursue please feel free to talk with Prentice White about this exciting lay ministry.



7th Annual

Nativity Women's Retreat with The Rev'd Dr Virginia Monroe

Listening for God Through Sharing our Stories

One Night Only!
Friday, February 23rd
thru
Saturday, February 24th
St. Mary's Seawanee, Tennessee

Cost: \$100 per person
Sign Up Early, Limited Space
Registration Deadline:
Friday, January 12th, 2018
*You Must Have Registration Form and Payment
turned in to secure your room.*
Contact: Lane Tutt 256-653-7200

Maybe nothing is more important than that we keep track, you and I, of these stories of who we are and where we have come from and the people we have met along the way because it is precisely through stories in all their particularity, as I have long believed and often said, that God makes himself known to each of us most powerfully and personally.
Telling Secrets: Frederick Buechner

Bannister Room Gallery

The featured artwork in the Bannister Room this month is from local artist Mary Ellen Davidson.

Growing up on the Mississippi Gulf Coast, Davidson enjoyed painting throughout her school years, reaping many rewards. Mary Ellen majored in Fine Arts at the University of Southern Mississippi, and eventually received a Commercial Art Degree from Delgado College in New Orleans. She began a new journey while living in the New Orleans area with her husband Bob and their two children Tim and Heather. Mary Ellen has worked with a variety of mediums including printmaking, acrylic, watercolor and clay. For a complete biography or more information about her

work please visit

maryellendavidsonart.com

Family Spaghetti Night at Nativity



Wednesday, September 27th, dinner 5:30 program 6:00

Dinner reservations- appreciated but not required

Nursery Available- reservation required

\$5 per person, \$20 family maximum

Reservations through church office 256-533-2455 or email

vhinton@nativity-hsv.org

YOUNG ADULTS' GATHERING

Monday, September 11

5:30 p.m.

The Loft
(Joffrion Hall, 3rd floor)

Refreshments provided

Children welcome

RSVP to
abaxter@nativity-hsv.org
by Friday, September 8



Save the Date!

Sunday, September 24th

Sip & Learn

Enjoy this opportunity to learn about how you can help with
the Annual Nativity Bazaar!

More details to follow

Questions: vhinton@nativity-hsv.org

What does
40,000 pounds of
potatoes look like?



**The Great
Potato Drop**
Sat * Sept 16th
Starting at 9:00 am

in the parking lot of
Faith Presbyterian
5003 Whitesburg Dr
Huntsville

HOW CAN I HELP?

Help is needed to make bags, fill bags,
move bags, and load bags into trucks
for delivery to local feeding agencies.

There are jobs for ALL ages and physical abilities

**BRING...your water bottle, jacket, chair,
family & friends to make your morning count
as you reach out and help feed hungry people!**

Sponsored by Faith Presbyterian Church, The Society of St. Andrew
Gleaning Project and the Food Bank of North Alabama.

For more information, contact Krista Lovell, Mission Coordinator
at Faith Presbyterian Church (kristalovell@comcast.net)
www.presby.org * Facebook: Faith Presbyterian Church



What are You Reading? - *Sapiens*

By: Yuval Noah Harari

Contributed by: Paul Bonner

“...Then the eyes of both of them were opened and they discovered that they were naked: So they stitched fig-leaves together and made themselves loincloths.”

Genesis Chapter 3 Verse 7

I have always been fascinated with the Creation Story in *Genesis* especially from a secular perspective. Yes, the core of the story is spiritual, but I have always admired the logical intuitive conclusions that set in place the order of events meant to explain who, what and why we are.

As I read *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari, I became even more impressed with the skills of observation that led to what we now see as the Creation Story. In *Sapiens*, Harari takes a straightforward look at the events and environments that resulted in who we are as Homo Sapiens today. He identifies four major developments: The Cognitive Revolution, where human kind developed tools and organizational practices that eventually led homo sapiens to become the sole human species dominating the planet; The Agricultural Revolution, where humans began to identify ownership through agriculture leading to the development of wealth, cultural identification, poverty and conflict; The Unification of Humankind, brought about through migration around the globe and the technologies that made contact among cultures more and more frequent; and The Scientific Revolution that has resulted in a technological expansion where rapid acceleration of technology has brought an existential element to the future of human kind.

In *Genesis*, the *Bible* identifies epochal events that lead to the constant ecological and economic conflict that has become our human condition. In *Sapiens*, Harari goes into great deal explaining what we know of that history through scientific study and anthropological scholarship. Be warned, Harari is an atheist, who does not write kindly of the development and justification for Religion which he claims was a product of the Agricultural Revolution that began around 12,000 years ago. Being a believer, however, I found *Sapiens* to be an affirmation of my understanding and admiration of Genesis as a tool to explain how God works in our world.

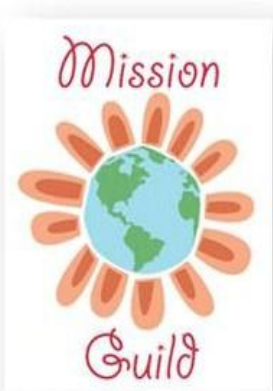
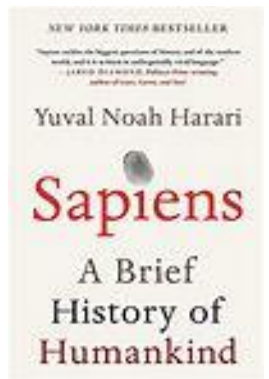
I find that reading intellectual perspectives that dismiss God often provide a logical explanation of God's work in the world. I once heard Billy Graham say that learning of an expanded Universe was not to him a denial of God, but recognition of the vastness that many suspected all along. The experiential expansion of the human understanding of our connectedness, our world, and even our universe not only heightens our separation from God, but our dependence on the spiritual journey.

Spirituality



at Nativity

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).



Learn about the Mission Guild

The oldest guild at Nativity which has roots back to 1898 invites all women of the Church for coffee & treats.

Monday, September 18

10:00am

Joffrion Hall Library

Please help us continue our long history of service! We plan to help the recovery efforts in Houston with donations or supplies and plan to have guest speakers to advise us.

Henrietta Boykin and Anne Moses will be bringing our treats.

We hope you will come and be part of this group whose strength is in its diverse membership and fellowship.

Contact Joan East for more information joaneast@knology.net

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.

Blossomwood Elementary Snack-Pack Program

School is back in session and it is time to get packing! Every week we pack over 200 week-end snack packs for students at Blossomwood School. These packs are available for students to pick up as they head home for the weekend, and provide a supplemental food source. Volunteers are needed to help with this program every week starting August 16th.

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

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)

As always, thank you for your generosity!

HAP Sunday is October 1st

Items needed:



corn
canned chicken
cereal
spaghetti sauce
boxed potatoes
mixed
canned vegetables and
fruit

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Roscoe Lewis, Lucy Cotton, Georgia Hendricks, Warren Towry, Ted Bledsoe, Wannie Evans, Linda Mixon, Bill Martin, Kevin Wahl, Cecelia Duncan, Bill Nettles, Barbara Buice, Leigh Wahl, Heidi Foreman, Tom Hodge, Anne Boles, David Phillips, Rose Sidick, Robert McClain, Joan Bennett, Tom Booth, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the departed:

Amber Horner, Machiezelli Paulk, Mugan Carter, Raymond Dawson, Warren Vann and Gaines Watts

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

| | |
|---------------------|----------------------|
| Doug Faith | Afghanistan |
| Hannah Tyce Mackey | US Air Force |
| Kenneth Vandervoort | US Navy, Middle East |
| Denver Colin | Afghanistan |

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

| | | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 9/8 Tate Dollman | 9/9 Mary Ceil McClung | 9/12 Micah Watts | 9/13 Park Ellis |
| 9/14 Sara Hutchens | 9/15 Grace Twitty | 9/15 Lillian Retzke | 9/16 Reed Peters |
| 9/19 Jefferson Retzke | 9/23 Sarah Cote | | |

Sewanee, Tennessee 20 August 2017

Dear Nativity Friends,

It is hard to believe that the wonderful celebration of our life and ministry together was two weeks ago. My heart is full of gratitude and love for all of you and for the incredible outpouring of your love shown to Tippy and me and our family. Words from my favorite of Paul's letters, his epistle to the Philippians, come to mind: I thank our God every time I remember you, constantly praying with joy in my prayers for all of you, because of your sharing in the gospel from the first day until now. I am confident of this, that the One who began a good work among you will bring it to completion...for we all share in God's grace together...

As Tippy and I go about the tasks of transition, we feel that we have been showered by God's grace from our friends at Nativity and in Huntsville. And we know that God is at work abundantly bestowing grace and life upon us all as we faithfully move into God's future for each of us. Your cards, e-mails, notes, phone calls and so many other tangible expressions are cherished. Thank you for your kind words of both gratitude and encouragement.

The Champagne Picnic was simply perfect. What a beautiful Nativity reception which I know is a part of the hospitable fabric of who you are, all with my favorite Nativity foods overflowing, beautiful flowers, and an amazing video to boot! Thanks to all who had a part in organizing the day and thanks to all of you for your generous offerings of food and champagne (which by the way, Sally Stockton sent us home with a few bottles to help us pack and unpack!). And thanks to those who spoke such lovely and gracious words.

We are overwhelmed with gratitude by all of these things, especially for the generous "purse" given us; my goodness, thank you! This will come in handy for our getting settled in our home in Sewanee. The gift for Tippy is just beautiful and so thoughtfully recognizes her love of flowers and her ministry with Nativity's Flower Guild. And then those other gifts offered...

My thanks also, to those who have given to the portrait of your 11th Rector. I am humbled and honored to realize that I will be remembered this way in the annals of Nativity's glowing history. This is quite an interesting experience, and I am pleased that Huntsville artist and Nativity good friend through our Centering Prayer ministry, Maggie Little, received the commission. Maggie is also connected to St. Mary's Sewanee's life and prayerfulness. Working with her is wonderful.

Words are not enough, so again, thank you, thank you, thank you. I know that our vibrant parish will continue to thrive and be a beacon of Christ's light and a wellspring of God's love and blessing in the heart of Huntsville. You are in my daily prayers and I ask for yours as well. Please come see us on the Mountain and at St. Mary's Sewanee! Finally my friends, favorite words, again from Paul and quoted in our Book of Common Prayer: Glory to God whose power, working in us, can do infinitely more than we can ask or imagine; Glory to him from generation to generation in the Church, and in Christ Jesus for ever and ever. Amen!

Andy

THE STEEPLE is published the two times 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 **12:00pm, Monday, September 18th**

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard
Associate

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

The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey
Spiritual Direction

The Rev. Steve Gruman
Supply Priest

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
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Sally Stockton
Kitchen Coordinator

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Amy Baxter
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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.



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.

Stay in the know!

Have you moved? Changed phone numbers? New email address? Let us know! Please contact the church office if you have had any changes in your home address, phone numbers or email address so that we can update our records. You can email changes to vhinton@nativity-hsv.org or call the church office 256-533-2455 during normal business hours. Help us ensure that you don't miss a thing happening at Church of the Nativity!

Save the date!
Annual Parish Meeting
Sunday,
November 12th

September 6, 2017