

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

September 20 2017



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843



I want to thank the generous folks at Nativity for the wonderful response to the request for baby supplies for Hurricane Harvey Relief.

The items were transported to Canterbury Chapel in Tuscaloosa and will be loaded on a truck to be carried to a parish in Texas for distribution.

Please keep the victims of Harvey and Irma in your prayers.

Deacon Bob

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.

Disaster Relief

Over the past few weeks we have witnessed marked devastation from 3 powerful Hurricanes. We have seen other disasters unfold over the past few years including fires, earthquakes and floods. Not only is loss of life an issue with these forces of nature but people's way of life is altered for months, years and sometimes forever.



After a disaster there are three phases of recovery—rescue, relief and restoration. Rescue efforts are best handled by the professionals: police, fire department, rescue squads and the military. We are now in the relief and restoration phases from the recent hurricanes.

Our natural response is to reach out and try to help those affected. To try to relieve some of the suffering they experience because of the losses. It is a human reaction that I believe God the Holy Spirit motivates.

The Rev. David Knight offers some reflections on how he and his community recovered from Hurricane Katrina 12 years ago and some tips and lessons for those wanting to help communities impacted by the storms. (<http://www.episcopalrelief.org/stories/lessons-from-katrina-and-how-to-help-after-a-disaster>).

Listen to folks on the ground. They are trying to keep folks alive and one of the most difficult thing to deal with was having volunteers show up with big hearts and great intentions but with no way to sustain themselves and looking for us to provide food and shelter.

Don't send clothes, do send monetary donations. Managing mountains of donated clothes was a huge burden...much of what was sent was unusable. The best way to help is monetary donations especially as local businesses are able to reopen...the donations will be an enormous help locally.

Go with trusted partners. ERD supported Camp Coast Care as a place for volunteers to be fed and sheltered as they worked in the community. Once such places are established in Texas (and Florida) I am sure many of you will be able to join in the recovery effort.

We will sponsor a trip when Episcopal Relief and Development lets us know of their needs. In the meantime donations to ERD <http://www.episcopalrelief.org> or gift cards that can be used in multiple locations (such as a Visa card) will be most helpful.

Deacon Bob



learn, pray, play

Children's Corner

Dates to remember!

Sunday, September 24 St. Francis Day Remember to bring pet food & towels for GHHS!

Wednesday, September 27 5:30 Family Spaghetti Supper (\$5) 6:00 Escape Room at Nativity for all ages!

Sunday, October 1 Fall Break, no children's Sunday school or children's chapel.

Sunday, October 8 Children's Sunday school and chapel resumes.

Wednesday, October 25 Family Supper (\$5) with activities for all ages.

Sunday, November 5 All Saints Celebration 3-5pm— a new fall event for children and families. Would you like to join the planning group? Email mcoe@nativity-hsv.org



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.

If you haven't been to St. Francis Day at Nativity here are some helpful reminders :

- Remember to add pet food to your grocery list this week! Club 56 will be collecting pet food & towels for the Greater Huntsville Humane Society
- Leashed or caged pets are welcome in the Sanctuary for the 8:45 service.
- Although rare, accidents can happen. Cleanup supplies are available if needed. Please take responsibility for your pet.
- It is a joyous, active service!

hurricane outreach

The children of Nativity have the opportunity to help hurricane victims in a tangible way by helping families from St Christopher's in League City and Christ Episcopal in Eagle Lake. These areas near Houston were devastated by the hurricane but have received much less attention than the city.

How we can help:

The most useful and powerful ways to help are to let the families know we are praying for them and to send gift cards from Wal-Mart or Amazon.

If you would like to participate:

- shop for a gift card with your children.
- have them write a letter or a draw picture for the family that will receive the card.
- put the card and letter in an envelope marked Hurricane Relief Gift Card .

give to Mary Coe or drop by the church office. The rectors of the churches will be able to distribute these to people in need.

We would like to keep in touch with the St Christopher's and Christ Episcopal parishes and remember them a few more times in the coming year with other outreach projects.

Thank you so much for involving your children in outreach to people in need!

Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org





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!](#)



Happening #71, Nov 3-5

Happening is one of those things that must be experienced to be fully understood. During the three-day weekend, 10th-12th graders have the chance to spend time seriously considering the person and teaching of Jesus Christ in a relaxed, fun, informal and loving atmosphere. They are provided with opportunities to share, discuss, learn and live with fellow Christians in an environment of acceptance and understanding. Please visit www.happeninginal.weebly.com/ for more information about the weekend. Sign up links for Happener & staff can be found here as well: www.dioala.org/youthevents.html#senior

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!](#)

-You Are Invited-

PARENT NIGHT

Thursday, September 28
7pm-8pm in the LOFT

Coffee & Desserts Provided

All Nativity's parents of youth (7th-12th Grade) are invited for an evening of fellowship and information.

RSVP by Wednesday, Sept 27 to Sarah Watts
(swatts@nativity-hsv.org)

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 reading 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

FAMILY SPAGHETTI DINNER

NATIVITY ESCAPE ROOM CHALLENGE

SEPTEMBER 27, 2017

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

Do You Want to Play Bridge?

Last year, we started a Nativity Bridge Group of those who wanted to learn 21st Century Bridge using Audrey Grant's 3 paperback books (Amazon). We took a break over the summer and we're ready to start back. Although we've somewhat covered the first 2 books, we'll be doing lots of reviewing and we have players at different levels. We're playing in the Club 56's space upstairs in Ridley on Wednesdays from 2:45-4:45. If you want to join us and are interested in learning/ playing 21st Century Bridge style/Audrey Grant, you can contact Pat Goodson at (256) 533-5202 or patgood@knology.net. We'd love to have you join us!



Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP)

As always, thank you for
your generosity!

HAP Sunday is October 1st

Items needed:

Noodles

Spaghetti sauce

Canned vegetables (mixed)

Canned fruit

Tuna

Boxed potatoes



DON'T MISS THIS!

**THE NATIVITY MEN'S
MINISTRY FALL KICK-OFF**

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 24

5PM-7PM

**YELLOWHAMMER
BREWERY**

CAMPUS 805

2600 CLINTON AVENUE

QUESTIONS? CONTACT:

[ALLEN DANIELS](#)

[ROBERT MULLINS](#)

[BILL STARNES](#)

The Spiritual Development committee presents



FALL 2017 WEDNESDAY NIGHT SPEAKER SERIES

Join us for dinner and wonderful speakers presenting topics to stir your thoughts!

5:30 pm – Dinner
6:00 pm – Speaker

October 11 – “*Knowing One’s Own Soul*”

**Joseph B. Howell, Ph. D. – Clinical psychologist practicing in Anniston, AL
and Founder of the Institute of Conscious Being**

October 18 – *A Program on the Interim status of our parish*

Margaret Devenish (Vestry Sr. Warden) and other Vestry members

October 25 – “*The House of Love and the House of Fear-The Key to the Mind of Christ*”

**The Rev. Ed Bacon – retired Episcopal priest living in Birmingham, AL
Former Rector of All Saints Church in Pasadena, CA and frequent guest on
Oprah’s Soul Series**

Note that the Series starts on the 2nd Wednesday in October.

**Make dinner & nursery reservations via the Church Office (256) 533-2455 by Noon
on Monday.**



Please pray for our Nativity pilgrims attending Alabama Cursillo #210 at Camp McDowell October 5th-8th *Carole Albryn, Rene Manley, Rhett Meier, Shante Meier, Sarah Watts*

Everyone is welcome to join us for *Stations of the Cross* October 5 at 6:45 pm (following the Sunday on Thursday service) at Nativity.

Want to know more and become involved with
Nativity’s Annual Bazaar?

Sip & Learn

Join us **Sunday, September 24th**

2:00pm-4:00pm

at the home of Margaret Gleason

Bring a friend!

Hosted by Pollard Crowson, Xan Curran, Margaret Devenish
& Margaret Gleason



Outdoor market every Thursday

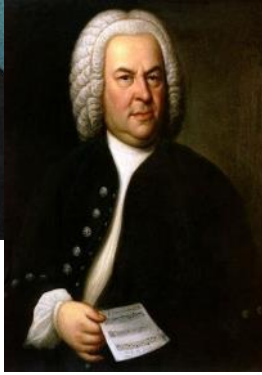
September 4pm-7pm October 3pm-6pm

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



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 McCrackard-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

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Miki Heaton, Martha Joffrion, Linda Martin, Frank Vann, Dan Lester, Joe East, Mary Durnya, Roscoe Lewis, Lucy Cotton, Georgia Hendricks, 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:

Franklin Crocker, Jib McClain and Sigrid Zeismer

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:

Kenneth Vandervoort US Navy, Middle East
Denver Colin Afghanistan

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:

9/24 Maura Farrell	9/25 Molly Manning	9/25 Van Dodgen	9/29 Emily Rowe
10/4 Tessa Dollman	10/4 Macie Meyer	10/4 Huston Morring	10/5 Anatasia Abrams
10/8 Laura Kate Evans	10/9 Sarah Whelden Hall	10/11 Lucy Kane	10/13 Ellie DeFiore
10/13 Chloe Parsons			

Parish Financial Report Period Ending 08/31/2017

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 89,527.34	\$ 103,666.67	\$ 746,882.57	\$ 840,833.35
Plate	\$ 8,975.11	\$ 6,666.67	\$ 84,563.15	\$ 53,333.32
Other Revenues	\$ 41,651.74	\$ 10,292.01	\$ 89,104.67	\$ 80,831.96
TOTAL	\$ 140,154.19	\$ 120,625.35	\$ 920,550.39	\$ 974,998.63
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 20,168.34	\$ 25,040.65	\$ 170,863.06	\$ 200,325.40
Personnel	\$ 64,035.98	\$ 72,624.99	\$ 573,859.86	\$ 581,000.04
Other Expenses	\$ 18,085.04	\$ 23,448.78	\$ 177,007.80	\$ 191,662.69
TOTAL	\$ 102,289.36	\$ 121,114.42	\$ 921,730.72	\$ 972,988.13
NET	\$ 37,864.83	\$ (489.07)	\$ (1,180.33)	\$ 2,010.50

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, October 9th**

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
Weekend Sexton

Sally Stockton
Kitchen Coordinator

Beverly Franklin
Bookkeeper/Business Mgr

Amy Kennedy
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.



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.

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

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

September 20, 2017