

THE STEEPLE

The Church of the Nativity

November 22, 2017



CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY,
EPISCOPAL

Est. 1843

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.

The following is the report given at the Annual Meeting by Vestry Liaison to Stewardship, Dottie Crawford:

I'd like to introduce our Stewardship Committee. All of these volunteers have busy personal and/or professional lives and serve Nativity in other capacities. You have our most sincere gratitude. Russ and Minda Alexander, Mem Bryant, David Hardy, Andrew Hyche (chairman), Nick and Elizabeth Pate, Ruth Rainey, Glenn Sommer, Michael Weinberg, Kim Windham, Margaret Devenish, and me, the Vestry Liaison.

Next, thank you for trusting me to serve as a member of Nativity's vestry.

You know, it is often said that we should "let go and let God lead". How hard is that to do? It certainly is a major challenge to my faith. What about you?

Did I mention that this is my second year running as the vestry liaison for the annual campaign?

The first year, of this "duty", I felt it was a position I needed to "endure". In the beginning it was certainly not a position in which I felt comfortable serving. I thought I must have drawn the short straw! I endured. As the second year began, there I was again, Stewardship Liaison but you know, I finally got it! I came to realize that God had a purpose for me; to teach me to understand that stewardship is an important part of each person's faithful response to our loving God.

And I'm here to tell you we are responding folks!

We continue to limit our active campaign to 2 months, October and November. It is not easy for the vestry and the annual campaign committee to "let go". We want to rush God. After all, you are depending on us to make things run smoothly during 2018. Once again, I'm here to tell you we are responding folks!

Our goal is to have at least 400 family units pledge. We already have responses from more than 230 families totaling \$819,030. I know, in my heart, that by the end of December or first of January, we will meet or exceed the funds needed to support the missions of the Church of the Nativity.

The vestry took a leap of faith in 2017 when we increased the number of employees dedicated to serve our children. If we don't feed our babies now, what will bring them back when they are older? I feel like, they need to feel, down to their bones, that God is there for them, always. They need to begin to develop a strong faith now, not later. Another way of saying it is, they need to believe that God will provide.

If it is not possible for you or your family to commit to a certain dollar amount before the end of the calendar year, the campaign committee added a line, on the pledge card, for you. This message, on your pledge card, means that you want to be counted as a person or family committed to supporting Nativity's mission. You are promising that you will get back with Beverly Franklin, our wonderful book keeper, just as soon as you are able to fully respond. Finally, if you have not sent Beverly a pledge card, please do so as soon as possible.

Let us make 2018 a terrific year of transition at Nativity. To obtain the best, next, 12th rector, we need to be our best parish.... in every aspect.

Every day this card, on my refrigerator speaks to me. In closing, I'd like to share:

FOR HIS SAKE

I AM BUT ONE, BUT I AM ONE!

I CAN NOT DO EVERYTHING, BUT I CAN DO SOMETHING!

WHAT I CAN DO, I OUGHT TO DO.

WHAT I OUGHT TO DO BY THE GRACE OF GOD, I WILL DO

LORD, WHAT WILL YOU HAVE ME DO?

God be with each of you! And decolors

Dottie Crawford

JOURNEY TO
GENEROSITY

2017

learn, pray, play

St Nicholas Day & Sunday School Pajama Party



December 10

Children and fun adults are invited to wear their pj's to church and Sunday school
Sock and book gift collection for Oscar Mason After School Program. See website to sign up.

8.45 Service Children's Chapel

Visit from St Nicholas. Children bring gifts forward as they leave for chapel.

10.00 Children's Sunday School

Pajama Party with treats and special activities

Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

Mark your calendar:

November 26 No Sunday school or children's chapel

November 29 5:30 Family Spaghetti Supper and Advent Wreath making for all ages. No charge for dinner or wreath making in celebration of the annual campaign

December 3 8:45 service, FOCAL gift presentation at beginning of service.

10:00 Sunday school, Nativity scene drawing contest. Children age 3 through 4th grade are invited to draw Nativity scenes during Sunday school. The winning drawing will be on the cover of the Christmas Eve 4:00 service bulletin.

December 10 St. Nicholas Day and Sunday School Pajama Party 8:45, visit from St. Nicholas during children's chapel. 10:00, Pajama party during Sunday school with treats and fun activities.

December 17 3:00 Christmas pageant costume fitting for 1st -4th graders.

CLUB 56 Ice skating Christmas outing.... Let's get in the Christmas spirit! Club 56 will join EYC for ice skating in the park. Meet at the church at 1:45 on December 17th. We will travel over to the ice skating rink behind the museum and return to the church at 3:15. From 3:15-4 we will head up to Club 56 for hot cocoa and a short movie! At 4:00 the Christmas pageant rehearsal begins for Club 56'ers. Please let me know {insert.abrooks@nativity-hsv.org} if your child will attend and if you are willing to drive and chaperone! The cost will be \$10 per child for ice skating.

Many exciting things are coming up for our 5th and 6th graders! Make sure you [sign up for our GroupMe](#). Stay tuned!

Children's Formation Lego Drive

Got Legos? Have a box of abandoned Legos taking up precious closet space? Children's formation would love to have them!

During Lent, our children's Wednesday night study will be Building Faith Brick by Brick, a program centered around using Legos to explore faith and spirituality. If you have Legos to pass on, please contact mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.

Thank you!

Children's Christmas Pageant 4.00 pm Christmas Eve Service



For all children age 3 through 6th grade.

Dec. 17, 3:00 pm, Ridley Hall

Costume fitting for 1st grade—4th grade.

To help Christmas Eve be a little less crazy, 1st—4th graders are invited to get a costume assignment on the 17th. If you can't make this day, children can get costumes on Christmas Eve at 3.15 pm.

Dec. 24, 3:15 pm, Ridley Hall

Put on costumes and receive instructions prior to 4.00 service.

Children age 3 through 3rd grade sit with their families until their part in the pageant.

Helping hands needed at both events. Please contact Mary Coe, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org. Thank you!




Chrismons & Ice Skating

December 17th, 12:30am-3:00pm

We'll meet following the 11am service, eat lunch, and decorate the Christmas tree. Then we'll head off to Ice Skate in the Park and return to the church for pickup or pageant rehearsal by 3:00pm.

Bring \$10 for Ice Skating
Register by Dec 7: <https://tinyurl.com/Chrismons-IceSkating2017>

YOUTH SMALL GROUPS

NOVEMBER 2017 - JANUARY 2018

Here is the schedule of the small groups for the rest of the year and into 2018. Please note, EVERYONE is welcome at any of the following groups regardless of whether you are signed up or not - it is helpful if you would let us know if you are planning to attend so we have enough supplies prepared! Hope to see you all there!



Random Acts of Kindness December 3 Time TBA

Coffee with Christ November 18 & December 9, 16 9:00am - 10:00am

Hiking December 10 1:00pm-3:00pm @ the end of 510 Cleermont Drive

Jammin' with Jesus January 14, 21, 28 & February 4 3:30pm - 5:00pm

Children & Youth Sunday Planning Group January 7, 14, 21, 28 & February 4 12:30pm lunch



We are happy to report that the Boys Team won the 5th Annual SPAM Hunt! All of the youth worked very hard collecting, sorting and counting food and the HAP Pantry was very thankful for all we were able to donate. A big THANK YOU to all who supported this year's scavenger hunt!



ADVENT RETREAT

DECEMBER 1-2

WONDERFUL, WONDERFUL CAMP MCDOWELL

All 7th-12th graders are invited to explore the journey of Advent and take some time in the busyness of the holiday season to find our footing and explore the ways we are waiting for the light to shine in the darkness.

REGISTRATION DEADLINE: NOV 24TH

Contact Sarah Watts (swatts@nativity-hsv.org) for more info.

COST: \$100/PERSON* **REGISTRATION LINK:**
Scholarships always available www.tinyurl.com/NativityAdventRetreat2017

*Please note, this price includes a team building activity on their ropes course. We are unsure at this time if Camp will be able to facilitate this. If it turns out they are unable, we will reimburse you the cost of the activity.

SUNDAY MORNING ADVENT SERIES

ALL ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASSES WILL COME TOGETHER IN RIDLEY HALL
DURING THE 10:00AM SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR FOR AN ADVENT REFLECTION
PRESENTED BY SPECIAL GUEST SPEAKERS

Christmas cannot be
bought, only found-you
cannot light Christmas it
lights you!
-Ann Voskamp

DECEMBER 3 SARAH SARTAIN

Sarah is the Staff Officer for Clergy Transitions and Ministry Development for the
Diocese of Alabama. She grew up at Nativity but has been away for 30 years. Her
home is in Pelham, AL and she is mother to son Luke 21 years old.

DECEMBER 10 REBECCA EPPS

Rebecca is a cradle Episcopalian and preacher's kid that lives in Guntersville with her
husband Jay and their 2 dogs. She works as a Pediatric Nurse Practitioner in Fort Payne
and enjoys the joys and challenges of helping others.

DECEMBER 17 HARVEY COTTEN

Harvey is a Garden Writer / Designer and Consultant - three years ago he retired
from the Huntsville Botanical Garden, most recently as Vice President and Chief
Horticulturist. He is a native Huntsvillian and life long member of Nativity.

GIVE THANKS FOR OUR OFFICE VOLUNTEERS!!

Some of the unsung heroes of the church are the office
volunteers. They answer the phones and field calls, help with
our many mail-outs, take reservations for meetings and meals,
and serve as the first person to greet the many people who
come in to see us. We in the office and you in the pews
depend on them for so many things and we thank all of you
who volunteer! We are in need of volunteers for various
morning and afternoon shifts, as well as emergency fill-ins
when a volunteer is not able to make their scheduled shift.
The morning shift is from 9:00am until 12:30pm and the
afternoon shift is from 12:30pm until 4pm. If you
would be interested in volunteering at the front
desk, please contact Amy Kennedy at [akenne-
dy@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:akenne-dy@nativity-hsv.org) or 256-533-2455 ext. 203.



WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 29

5:30 IN RIDLEY HALL

PLEASE MAKE RESERVATIONS BY CALLING CHURCH OFFICE 256-533-2455 OR SIGNING UP ONLINE AT NATIVITY-HSV.ORG.
DINNER RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED AND NURSERY RESERVATION REQUIRED BY TUESDAY AT NOON

2018 Altar Flower Dedications

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Date desired: _____

Name(s) for dedication: _____

Please choose one: ☐ in loving memory of... ☐ in thanksgiving for... ☐ in celebration of... ☐ in honor of...

Will you share this dedication? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Can we list your name in the bulletin? ☐ YES ☐ NO

Dedications are \$40 each or \$20 if shared.

Make check payable to : *Nativity Flower Guild*

Mail your check along with this form to:

Andrea Vandervoort- 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801

Questions? Call Andrea: 256-539-2673



Nativity Women's Retreat

With The Rev'd Dr. Virginia Monroe

February 23-24, 2018

St. Mary's Sewanee, Tennessee

Registration DEADLINE for the retreat is JANUARY 12th

Double room \$100, single room \$120

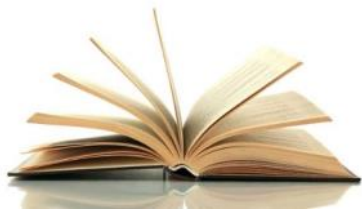
6 rooms with private bath available in the New Building—
single \$160, double \$150

If you are staying in a private home the price is \$65.00.

We are happy to say we have received lots of reservations but, we have room for more!! So get a roommate and sign up! With the holidays coming, the deadline for JANUARY 12th will be here before you know it!! Please call Lane Tutt 256-653-7200 with any questions.

Register online at <https://www.shelbygiving.com/f/f2.asp?formid=b7eb38cb-4f1f-4e33-9fa8-5b40a97a4bc5>

Or email ltutt@nativity-hsv.org * Checks payable to The Church of Nativity (credit card payment available with online registration).



Men's Wednesday Night Bible Study

With Charles Morley

We will gather next year
2018, on the last four
Wednesday Evenings –

January 10, 17, 24, 31 at 6:00pm, in Joffrion Hall Library
to consider certain non-controversial issues like “Did the
Resurrection Really Happen and Does it Matter?” and “
Does Evil Exist As a Tangible Power in the World?” (hint:
Jesus certainly thought so.) We'll consult Rob Bell, C.S.

Lewis, John Ortberg, J. B. Phillips, Anne Lamont,
Matthew, Mark, Luke and of course ,
Rev. Virginia Monroe.

Jesus promised that “....where two or three come together
in my name, there I am with them.” Mat 18:20.

My only promise is that the class will not run longer than
50 minutes. Oh, and for the Episcopalians, there will be
NO collection taken up! So mark your calendars and open
your minds and bring a friend!!!

Shalom, Charles

ADVENT QUIET DAY

Mindfulness Practices for
Peace and Presence

with

Beth Cook, LPC



DECEMBER 2

9AM-2PM

Join Church of the Nativity and St. Thomas
Episcopal Church for the annual Advent Quiet
Day. Enjoy participating in spiritual practices
that ground us, bring us peace, mindfulness,
acceptance and joy.

Lunch is available by reservation for \$7.
Please reserve your lunch by calling the Church
office at 256-533-2455 or by
emailing vhinton@nativity-hsv.org

You are Invited

The First Annual

“Angel of Hope Candlelight Vigil”

Wednesday, December 6th, 2017

St. Nicholas Day

7 p.m.

“Remembering the children we have lost”

Ditto Landing

Kingston Pavilion on the water

Rev. Carl Malm, Director of HAPC

Center for Loss, Grief & Change

This is a service for anyone who has lost a child
of any age. We are providing a place of hope
and comfort, you are not alone.

Questions: Jan Neighbors, chair of Angel of
Hope

Jan.neighbors.ma@comcast.net 256.652-9709

A SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS



Sunday, December 3rd, 2017

4:30pm - Organ Prelude

5:00pm - Service

Nativity Choir and Choristers

Christian Crocker, Organist and Choirmaster

Nicholas Bergin, Organist

Bogoroditse Dyevo-Arvo Pärt

Christ the apple tree-Stanford Scriven

Never weather-beaten sail-Richard Shepherd

Adam lay ybounden-Boris Ord

Advent carol arrangements by Sir David Willcocks and

John Rutter

Church of the Nativity

208 Eustis Ave Huntsville, AL 35801

256-533-2455

FRIENDS OF MUSIC

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

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

No rehearsal the week of **November 22nd** for Thanksgiving.

December 2nd-10:00am-12:00pm-Rehearsal for Lessons and Carols

December 3rd 3:45pm rehearsal, 5:00pm Lessons and Carols

December 17th 8:00am rehearsal, 8:45am service

December 24th Junior Choristers only at 4:00pm service (call time TBD)

FOCAL GIFTS



Thank to everyone who has already taken a FOCAL Gift Tag!

Gifts are due back to the church wrapped with the tag attached by Sunday, December 3rd. All are invited to join the procession at the 8:45am service on Dec 3rd to walk the gifts down to the front of the church to be blessed – meet in Ridley Hall a few minutes before the service with your gifts! Those who can't be at church on December 3 should bring their gifts to the church office no later than noon on Friday, December 1.

The gifts will be delivered to FOCAL December 3rs by Nativity's Random Acts of Kindness Youth Small Group. Questions: contact Madeline Mullins (madeline.mullins@gmail.com).

Holiday Farmers Market

Saturday, December 9
10 am – 2 pm

Church of the Nativity, Downtown Huntsville

LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE

FARM FRESH FOODS

FRESH BAKED GOODS

LOCAL ARTISANS

www.greenestreetmarket.com



Holiday Gathering for the



YAMS

(Young Adults, Married and Single-not to be confused with the side dish!)

Monday, December 11 at 5:30 in the Loft --
upstairs Joffrion Hall.

Bring a side dish, appetizer, or dessert.

Main dish will be provided.

Bring a non-food donation for a local homeless ministry
(hotel-sized soap or shampoo, batteries, socks, small flashlights, diapers, hand sanitizer, etc.).

Wear festive holiday attire if you wish!

RSVP by Dec. 9 by email to
bmccrickard@nativity-hsv.org

PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:

Shelley Campbell Coxwell, Luke Ham, Jody Mowrer, Suzy Nauman, Eva Nave, Jane Booth, Tom Devenish, Sandra Clements, Charlie Grainger, Norlene Wolford, Prentice White, Joann Moorman, Tommie Taylor, Louise Weathers, Sharon Griffin, Chris Duncan, Carol Muery, Gerry Nitz, Ted Bledsoe, Bill Martin, Kevin Wahl, Cecelia Duncan, Bill Nettles, Leigh Wahl, Heidi Foreman, Tom Hodge, Georgia Hendricks, Anne Boles, David Phillips, Rose Sidick, Robert McClain, Joan Bennett, Tom Booth, Elsie Olsen

We pray for the departed:

Barbara Buice, Evelyn Cheplen, Betty Giardini, Frank Vann, John Buford, Sherri Ellis

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:

11/21 Ernest Artrip	11/23 Macy Baker	11/24 Wren Bryant	11/25 Ronan Goeke
11/30 Ella Rozar	12/2 Jensen Goeke	12/2 Liam Stevens	12/4 Alec Huskey
12/6 Wells Whitfield	12/7 Sloan Dill		

The Prayers of the People

Each time we gather for worship we recite The Prayers of the People. These prayers are a most important aspect of our life together. Margaret Gunter notes in *The Practice of Prayer*, "They draw us together and remind us that we are knit together in a community much larger than our families or our parish." Intercessory prayer moves us beyond ourselves and assures us that we are connected, that we are not isolated or alone. Gunter says, "Pushed back to its Latin roots, *intercedre*, the word simply means to 'to stand between' or 'to stand in the midst'. When we "stand between" God and a child, spouse, friend, or the friend of a friend, we connect at the same time to God and the person we name before God.

In order to be more aware of those who are still recovering and those who have been restored to health, we will leave a name on the spoken prayers for a month. At the end of that time, if you wish to have the name remain on the list for an additional month, please call the office.



Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP)

HAP Sunday is December 3

Items needed:

Spaghetti sauce	canned meats
cereal	coffee
1 lb. bags white rice	boxed potatoes
dried beans	holiday cookies
soup	

Parish Financial Report Period Ending 10/31/2017

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 78,336.42	\$ 103,666.67	\$ 915,609.33	\$ 1,048,166.69
Plate	\$ 11,565.87	\$ 6,666.67	\$ 103,558.80	\$ 66,666.66
Other Revenues	\$ 2,285.00	\$ 10,292.01	\$ 93,737.61	\$ 101,415.98
TOTAL	\$ 92,187.29	\$ 120,625.35	\$ 1,112,905.74	\$ 1,216,249.33
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 20,364.88	\$ 25,040.65	\$ 225,437.46	\$ 250,406.70
Personnel	\$ 51,975.14	\$ 72,624.99	\$ 668,390.05	\$ 726,250.02
Other Expenses	\$ 13,174.35	\$ 23,447.78	\$ 211,678.59	\$ 238,558.25
TOTAL	\$ 85,514.37	\$ 121,113.42	\$ 1,105,506.10	\$ 1,215,214.97
NET	\$ 6,672.92	\$ (488.07)	\$ 7,399.64	\$ 1,034.36

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, December 4**

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe
Interim Rector

The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard
Associate

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

The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey
Spiritual Direction

The Rev. Van Foreman
Assisting Priest

Christian Crocker
Choirmaster and Organist
Lane Tutt

Adult Christian Formation
Sarah Watts

Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Mary Coe
Children's Formation

Amy Brooks
Assistant Children & Youth
Ministries Coordinator

Audrey Clayton
Nursery Coordinator

John Buyse
Property Manager

Marlin Wilder
Sexton

Regina Milton
Weekend Sexton

Sally Stockton
Kitchen Coordinator

Beverly Franklin
Finance Manager

Amy Kennedy
Worship & Ministry Assistant

Vicky Hinton
Communications

Emily Rogers
Administrative Office Assistant

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

2017 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION

Christmas dedications are \$20 each

Please complete this form with your check made payable to *Nativity Flower Guild* and return it no later than **Wednesday, December 17th** to:

Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION. If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 256.539.2673.

Your Name as it is to be listed in Christmas service leaflet (if you do not wish your name listed, please indicate) _____

Phone #: _____

Name for this dedication: _____

Please check the box next to the dedication you desire. All dedications read:

- ☐ To the glory of God and...
- ☐ In loving memory of...
- ☐ In thanksgiving for...
- ☐ In celebration of...

