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.

Stewardship at Work
First Stop - Empowering the Homeless

Maureen and I thoroughly enjoyed our time at Church of the Nativity. Thank you so much for the opportunity to share with your congregation about First Stop.

Blessed Be You,
Mike Gordon
President, First Stop

First Stop is a local not-for-profit corporation whose primary objective is to reduce the number of street homeless persons. First Stop is funded by donations, grants, and individuals. First Stop promotes outreach to the homeless camps, individualized case management support and in coordination with local agencies placing clients into transitional and permanent housing.

Individualized case management is just that. An individualized approach to helping our homeless clients on a one-on-one basis. It is meeting them where they are and empowering them to achieve a better life. We help our clients with their medication, transportation, mental and physical well-being. First Stop takes clients that can’t be helped by any other organization and gives them the opportunity to better themselves.

First Stop operations, in partnership with community and social services organizations, provides individualized services to our clients.

At First Stop, we work to empower the lives of the homeless by providing them with the tools they need to transition off the street and into a better life.

First Stop’s continued success depends on gifts of time, financial donations, and in-kind donations from our volunteers and financial supporters. Our volunteer supporters come from faith-based organizations, non-denominational groups and unaffiliated groups of interested citizens.

Volunteers groups provide clients with hot meals almost daily at our 206 Stokes St. facility. Our clients can also use personal items for use by those who still reside in camps. Other areas that volunteers are needed at First Stop are grounds beautification, facility revitalization (painting, etc.) and partnering with our clients to maintain our First Stop garden. If you would like to volunteer, call the Stokes Street facility at (256.533.3391) and ask for Phil Moore.
Children’s Formation

A scary good time was had by everyone at this year’s Trunk or Treat

Welcome Sarah Watts - Nativity’s new Youth Ministry Coordinator

Youth Ministry at Nativity has great news! Sarah Watts accepted the call to become our new Youth Ministry Coordinator. Sarah grew up at Nativity so she knows this community well, and she also brings with her many experiences, including working with an exciting youth program in New Hampshire. You may have seen her already helping the EYC as a volunteer and coordinating with Mother Bonnie to help with the recent Youth Confirmation trip.

Sarah will begin full-time as Nativity staff on November 6th. Please help us welcome her and support her new ministry among us!

“My heart has been absolutely full of joy since accepting the call as Youth Ministry Coordinator at Nativity. To have the chance to walk alongside and support the youth on their journeys of faith at a parish which has given me so much for so many years is truly a gift. Having had the opportunity to get to know some of the youth and parents over the past few weeks, I couldn't be more excited to be a part of this vibrant and truly important ministry, and I very much look forward to stepping into the position next week”. - Sarah Watts

Costume winner:
Harper Hudson (left)

Trunk winner:
Kelly, Ken and Alton Hudson (above)

Winners and their family receive reserved seating for this year’s Christmas Eve service.
As we prepare for the Annual Nativity Bazaar on November 17th, we need to rearrange the majority of our “Meeting Spaces.”

If you have a weekly or monthly meeting scheduled for Tuesday, November 15th thru Thursday, November 17th, contact Amy Baxter 256.533.2455 x221 or abaxter@nativity-hsv.org to re-schedule or cancel your meetings.

Thank you for your help!!!

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Thursday, November 10th, 6:00pm
At the home of Michele and Ross Hunter
Enjoy food from our very own Nativity chefs plus beer and wine.
$25 per person.
Contact: Margaret Gleason
msconway13@yahoo.com
(502.810.8558)

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ANNUAL BAZAAR LINKS & NOTES

Annual Bazaar dine-in Reservations
Dine-in ($18), Take-out ($15)
For Luncheon tickets, contact Marilyn Grundy
mtgrundy@yahoo.com (256.509.9962)

Tickets on Sale this Sunday
Tickets for all events will be available after the 8:45am service and before the 11:00am service in the foyer of Ridley Hall.

Kitchen Helpers and Turkey Cooks needed
Sign up online via SignUpGenius:
tiny.cc/nathsvBazaarHelp

Donate to the Annual Bake Sale
Sign up online via SignUpGenius to donate baked, canned, or frozen items:
tiny.cc/nathsvBazaarBakeSale

Bazaar Contacts
If you have questions or would rather not use online signups, Xan Curran (256.651.5334) will be glad to take your information.
Coming up:
Friday, November 18th, 7:30pm
Nativity Friends of Music presents:
Organ Duet Recital:
Elizabeth LaJeunesse & Christian Crocker

A Service of Choral Evensong for All Saints’ Sunday
sung by the Nativity Choir
Sunday, November 6, 2016 at 5:00 p.m.

Douglas Guest
Bernard Rose
Charles Villiers Stanford
Herbert Howells
Geraint Lewis

For the Fallen
Versicles, Responses, The Lord’s Prayer
Psalm 150
Magnificat & Nunc dimittis “Coffium Regale”
The Souls of the Righteous

All-Parish Meeting
Sunday, November 13th, 10:00am
(Ridley Hall)

The 2017 candidates for Nativity’s Vestry will be presented at the meeting. Their profiles are available by clicking or tapping here. Additionally, their profiles were published in the October 5th and 19th Steeple editions.

There will be no adult Sunday School classes on the 13th. Children and youth Sunday Schools are scheduled as usual.

Monthly Men’s Breakfast
Tuesday, November 8th, Suggested donation $5
6:30am Simple Eucharist, Bibb Chapel
7:00am Breakfast with guest speaker: Pranteek Patnaik, Director of Community Outreach for Huntsville Hospital. He is in charge of our Mobile Medical Unit (the giant Winnebago-like vehicle the hospital operates) that serves the homeless population as well as the Community Health Initiative.
Family Spaghetti “Gratitude Dinner”*  
Advent Wreath Party  
Wednesday, November 30th - 5:30pm  
Everyone is welcome to this event without charge

With grateful hearts, the Vestry and Stewardship Committee invite everyone to an evening of delicious food, warm fellowship, and fun to celebrate the close of our 60-day Annual Campaign. We are genuinely thankful for everyone’s generosity and support during this stewardship phase.  
For this event, the dinner and wreath supplies are at no charge. however, we ask that you make reservations for dinner AND/OR wreath making (1 wreath per family please) for an accurate headcount. Donations will be kindly accepted. Greens for wreath making will be available but you are welcome to bring your own.

*Nursery is available (age 4 and under) but reservations are required.

Reservations: call the Church Office (256.533.2455) or cgadomski@nativity-hsv.org

Outreach in Acton

Thanks your generous donations to the Alabama Episcopal Trust, Outreach at Church of the Nativity (Huntsville) was able to give $5,000 to Manna House to buy a much-needed piece of equipment: an electric pallet jack. This piece of equipment allows Manna House warehouse staff to move food much faster and safer than with hand-operated equipment.  

Manna House is part of the Huntsville Dream Center, and a major partner with Nativity’s Outreach to feed the hungry through the Blossomwood Snack Packs, First Stop food assistance, and hot meals prepared by local caterer Ashley Carlton.

(L to R): Lee Hicklen, Outreach Committee Chair and Vestry Member; Fr. Andy Anderson; Fran Fluhler, Director of Manna House Ministries; & Mtr. Bonnie McCrickard with the new electric pallet jack.
ANNUAL BLANKET & COLD WEATHER GEAR DRIVE

Donation bins in Ridley Hall and the Church Office

Most of us are blessed with a warm place to sleep during the cold winter months. Let’s help those who aren’t as fortunate.

Adult sizes only, please

Blankets  Sleeping bags
Coats/Jackets  Warm hats
Gloves/Socks  Sweat shirts/pants
Thermal underwear  Warm scarves

Sponsored by The North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless

The Greene Street Holiday Farmers Market at Nativity

Saturday, November 19
9:00am until 12:00pm

Eustis Avenue, Downtown Huntsville
Enjoy shopping the open air Holiday Market for your Thanksgiving meal!
Locally produced goods including produce, farm raised meat and poultry, fresh eggs & cheese, fresh flowers & greenery, baked goods, jams, jellies, relish and more. More information at greenestreetmarket.com

Special thanks to our presenting sponsor

Huntsville Assistance Program (HAP)

HAP Food Pantry Needs

The pantry is low on just about everything!

Items (Really) Needed:

- rice
- canned beans of all kinds
- small canned hams
- spaghetti sauce
- soups
- canned vegetables (including green beans!)
- cereal
- bar soap
- boxed meals
- boxed potatoes

Thanks for all your support!

How can you help meet the spiritual needs of a teen who is grieving or anxious or troubled or depressed or feels isolated and alone and rejected?

The next HAPC School of Applied Ministry class will be "The Spiritual Care of Teens," Tues., Nov. 15, 6:00-8:30 in Room 118 of First Baptist Church, 600 Governor's Dr. (Entrance # 6). (Supper and registration at 5:30.) Presenters: The Rev. Christie Ashton, Pastor, Hope Presbyterian Church and the Rev. Jamie Mackey, Minister of Students, First Baptist Church. Cost: $35 (includes supper!) except for those from sponsoring churches.

CEU's will be available for nurses and social workers. For more information or to register: malmcarl@hotmail.com or 256 883-6539.
What Are You Reading?

Just Mercy: A Story of Justice and Redemption by Bryan Stevenson
Contributed by: Fr. Andy Anderson

Bryan Stevenson’s riveting and moving account of his work defending the poor, the wrongly condemned and those trapped in the furthest reaches of our criminal justice system through poverty, racism, and mental illness will open your heart and mind to the redeeming potential of hope, mercy and justice that God desires for all. Stevenson was a reluctant participant when he first came to the South from Harvard Law School for an internship in Atlanta providing defense for death row inmates with the Southern Prisoners Defense Committee. His passion and dogged determination to do the right thing emerges through his account of defending wrongly accused and convicted Monroeville, Alabama death row inmate Walter McMillan. Stevenson is a modern day Atticus Finch, only he is black and his story is true. Woven into his own struggles as an African American confronting inherent and systemic racism, it doesn’t take the reader long to begin cheering Stevenson on, not only in his battle for justice for McMillan, but in his tireless work for all who suffer through injustices in the legal system. His broader story takes him to argue before the Supreme Court five times and sees justice finally seizing the day as he wins significant cases.

Stevenson’s voice towards the end of this New York Times Best Seller and winner of the Carnegie Medal for Non-Fiction could be one of God’s prophets when he writes: “Walter taught me that mercy is just when it is rooted in hopefulness and freely given. Mercy is most empowering, liberating, and transformative when it is directed at the undeserving. The people who haven’t earned it, who haven’t even sought it, are the most meaningful recipients of our compassion. Walter genuinely forgave the people who unfairly accused him, the people who convicted him, and the people who had judged him unworthy of mercy. And in the end, it was just mercy toward others that allowed him to recover a life worth celebrating, a life that rediscovered the love and freedom that all humans desire, a life that overcame death and condemnation until it was time to die on God’s schedule.” And what does the Prophet Micah tell us that the Lord requires? That we should do justice, love mercy (and kindness), and walk humbly with our God. Stephenson founded and still works tirelessly with the Equal Justice Initiative in Montgomery. I want to meet him! After reading his book, I want to be one of God’s agents of hope as well.

‘What are you Reading?’ is a book review column brought to you by Nativity’s Spiritual Development Committee. Please let us know what you are reading by contacting: Mary Johnson maryjohnson2@knology.net or Laura Malone lpmalonepi@gmail.com
STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

David Rhoads, Professor of New Testament, Lutheran School of Theology at Chicago provides the following:

“Steward is a biblical term that refers to a manager who is responsible for the goods and property of another. A steward is not, therefore an owner, but one who has a responsibility to an owner to treat their property with care and respect. Stewardship is a term that refers to the responsibility of a steward to manage wisely. The unjust steward was one who took advantage of his position to aggrandize himself.” (Luke 16:1-13).

Americans have a love affair with bottled water. According to the Beverage Marketing Corp., $10 billion was spent last year to prove it. But many of the reasons for buying bottled water just don’t hold, well, water. From a spending-smart standpoint, drinking tap water is a better idea, even if you filter it. That’s because bottled water is by far the most expensive way to get your H2O.

Here are some common reasons given for drinking bottled water and some less costly alternatives:

- Taste. If you believe bottled water is better, conduct a blind taste test in your home, sampling bottled and tap water at the same temperature. This will determine if your taste buds know the difference. Several well-publicized taste tests have shown many water drinkers can’t distinguish which is bottled. In fact, some bottled water tastes worse than tap water because of the plastic taste from the bottle or jug. And a quarter or more of all bottled-water brands start out as municipal tap water, including such top brands as Dasani and Aquafina, and many of them are then filtered.

But, if you dislike tap water--it’s true that some tap water has a distinct chlorine aftertaste--try storing tap water uncovered in the refrigerator overnight to let the chlorine dissipate. Or you could use a simple carafe filter. This year, Consumer Reports rated all the carafe filters it tested as very good at removing lead and chloroform. It found the Pur Advantage CR-1500R, $18, good, and the Brita Classic OB01, $20, very good at removing bad tastes.

And, of course, many refrigerators have built-in water dispensers to provide convenient access to filtered water.

- Safety. News coverage of the threats of bioterrorism, waterborne disease outbreaks, and other water-quality problems might have you spooked. But Americans have one of the safest water supplies in the world. And consumers have no assurance that bottled water is any safer or cleaner than tap water, said the Natural Resources Defense Council in a 1999 petition to the Food and Drug Administration after the NRDC conducted a four-year study. The FDA requires bottled-water companies to test their water once a month, while the Environmental Protection Agency requires municipal water to be tested several times a day, said Bryan Hirsch, a spokesman for Corporate Accountability International. The group campaigns for change in multiple areas and criticized bottled-water companies, claiming they use advertising to undermine the public’s trust in U.S. tap water so they can sell more water in stores. But while the bottled-water industry emphasizes the "consistency" and "safety" of bottled water, it is careful not to say it is safer than tap water.

- Health. Water is, indeed, a healthful substitute for such beverages as sugar-laden soft drinks, juices, and sport drinks. It has no caffeine or calories. But that’s true of any water, bottled, filtered or tap. So health is not a reason to choose plain bottled water over other water.

- Convenience. It’s true that grabbing a sealed bottle from the refrigerator is slightly more convenient than filling a water bottle from a tap, a task that might take several seconds. But how convenient is it to haul that water home from the supermarket in the first place?

Instead of bottled water, you could buy the most expensive, feature-laden refillable water bottle available. Fill it with tap water or filtered water, and you’ll quickly recoup the cost of the water bottle and then continue to reap savings.

Care for creation is to be exercised not to serve our wants and desires but to serve the best interests and well-being of all Earth-community together, including ourselves.

CREATION - Let’s Take Care of It

The Lord God took the man and put him in the Garden of Eden to work it and take care of it.

Genesis 2:5
FOCAL GIFT BOARDS RETURN TO RIDLEY HALL

Gifts to be presented in Church on Sunday, December 4th

During this season as we give thanks for the blessings bestowed upon us - we have the opportunity to share our blessings with foster children in the FOCAL (Foster Children’s Alliance) program. FOCAL is a non-profit organization dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for children in foster care in Madison County. FOCAL assists foster children and their foster family with resources to meet their many needs which cannot be obtained in other ways. FOCAL receives no state, county, city, or United Way assistance. Every dollar spent on foster children is privately raised and administrative costs are kept to a minimum. FOCAL volunteers work with and thru the Department of Human Resources.

The boards in are Christmas gift wishes for 40 foster children. The boards with the gift tags will be in Ridley Hall through Thanksgiving. Please visit the board, choose a gift tag, and pick up an instruction sheet. Many parents let their children choose the request and help purchase the gift as a way of teaching them to give to those less fortunate.

Return the gift (wrapped and with the board tag attached) to Ridley Hall prior to the 8:45am service on December 4th. The gifts will be taken into the church during the 8:45am service.

Questions: contact Gail Rogers (256.534.8044)

57th Annual
Festival Service of Lessons & Carols

All Saints’ Chapel, Sewanee, Tennessee

Sunday, December 4th

Price of $60.00 per person, includes:
- Transportation via luxury motorcoach
- Happy hour served enroute
- Reserve seating at the 5:00PM service
- Dinner at St Mary’s Conference Center following the service

- Departure from the church at 2.00PM Sharp
- Arrival in Sewanee at approx. 3.30PM
- Limited seating (only 40 seats!)
- Payment required at time of reservation
- Reservations through Connie in the church office
- For more information contact Sam Porter (256)651-8990
1. Hope of the world, O Christ of great compassion:
speak to our fearful hearts by conflict rent.
Save us, your people, from consuming passion,
who by our own false hopes and aims are spent.

2. Hope of the world, God's gift from highest heaven,
bringing to hungry souls the bread of life:
still let your Spirit unto us be given
to heal earth's wounds and end our bitter strife.

3. Hope of the world, afoot on dusty highways,
showing to wandering souls the path of light:
walk now beside us lest the tempting byways
lure us away from you to endless night.

4. Hope of the world, who by your cross did save us
from death and dark despair, from sin and guilt:
we render back the love your mercy gave us;
take now our lives and use them as you will.

5. Hope of the world, O Christ, o'er death victorious,
who by this sign did conquer grief and pain:
we would be faithful to your gospel glorious;
you are our Lord, and you forever reign!

A PRAYER BEFORE THE NATIONAL ELECTION
(words to Hymn 472, Georgia Harkins)
PRAYER REQUESTS

We pray for those whom prayers have been requested:
Sarah Henderson, Kai Gustafsen, Nancy Lackey, Bob Thompson, Keith McRae, Genny Hoskins Beaver, Paloma Maria, Fr. Dan McKee, Claire Johnston, Rick Barnett, David Reynolds, Betty Anne Councill, Jody Mowrer, Dick Gragg, Bess Smith, Betty Gerlach, Leigh Wahl, Elsie Olsen

For those attending Happening #69 this weekend:
Sara Hutchens and David DiFranco, pilgrims
Alec Bonner, staff

We pray for the departed:
Gloria Giardini Hyatt, sister of Bill Giardini
Robert Baker Hale, Jr.
Ernest L. Meinecke, father of Ernie Meinecke
Jene Black, sister of Nancy Sharp
George Hamner, father of Richard Hamner

We pray for those deployed/serving with the Military:
Doug Faith, Afghanistan
Kenneth Vandervoort, US Navy
Jesse Teal, US Navy

We give thanks for birthdays of our children:
11.3 Dalson Brantley 11/3 Tucker McClung 11/4 Katie Banish 11/7 Holland Ray
11/7 Caroline Knight 11/8 Zoe Church 11/8 Rowan Cline 11/10 Maura Berman
11/10 Morgan Watkins 11/10 Caroline Hornsby 11/10 Sarah Coleman Hornsby
11/11 Ellie Webber 11/15 Evans Bryant

2016 CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATION

Christmas dedications are $20 each

Please complete this form with your check made payable to: Nativity Flower Guild
Mailing address: Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville AL 35801

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...

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION, If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 256.539.2673 THANK YOU
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:
gsommer@nativity-hsv.org
The deadline for the next issue is Noon, Monday November 14th

CLERGY & STAFF
The Rev. Dr. Andy Anderson
Rector
The Rev. Rusty McCown
Associate
The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard
Associate
Christian Crocker
Choirmaster and Organist
Lane Tutt
Adult Christian Formation
Sarah Watts
Coordinator of Youth Ministry
Youth Ministry Assistant
Mary Coe
Children's Formation
Amanda Goeke
Children's Formation Assistant
Audrey Clayton
Nursery Coordinator
John Buyse
Property Manager
Martin Wilder
Sexton
Regina Milton
Weekend Sexton
Sally Stockton
Kitchen Coordinator
Beverly Franklin
Bookkeeper/Business Mgr
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Worship & Ministry Assistant
Amy Baxter
Assistant to the Rector
Glenn Sommer
Communications
Prentice White
Verger/Wedding Coordinator
WARDENS' COUNCIL
Bill Starnes - Senior Warden
Allen Daniels - Junior Warden
Robert Dunn - Finance Chair
Brandon Smith - Treasurer
Margaret Devenish - Clerk
Brenda Chynoweth - Adult Formation
Beverly Farrington - 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 priest on call will respond to your message.
The number to call In Case of an Emergency Only is 256.533.7007
All other calls should be directed to the main phone 256.533.2455 to leave a message for a priest to respond.

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal
208 Eustis Ave, SE  Huntsville  AL  35801
256.533.2455 Fax: 256.533.2374
nativity-hsv.org

Upcoming Events at a Glance

November
6  **All Saints’ Sunday**  Daylight Saving Time Ends
  HAP Sunday
  Nativity Choir All Saints’ Evensong  5:00pm
8  Simple Eucharist (Bibb Chapel)
  Men’s Breakfast w/guest speaker  7:00am
10  A Taste of Nativity (off-site)  6:00pm
13  Annual Parish Meeting, (No adult Sunday School)  10:00am
17  Nativity’s Annual Bazaar
18  Friends of Music Organ Duet Recital:
  Elizabeth LaJeunesse & Christian Crocker  7:30pm
20  Youth and Children’s Sunday
  Chalice Bearer & Lay Eucharistic Minister Training  12:30pm
23  Thanksgiving Holy Eucharist  Noon
24-25 Church office closed (Thanksgiving holiday)
27  **The Season of Advent begins**
30  Family Spaghetti “Gratitude Dinner”  5:30pm
Advent Wreath Party

December
4  Lessons & Carols at Sewanee

November 2, 2016