

THE STEEPLE

Church of the Nativity

August 2018



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The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard

Associate Rector

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

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey

Spiritual Direction

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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. Leave a message for a priest to respond.

The STEEPLE is published monthly.
To submit events or articles email:

vhinton@nativity-hsv.org

**The deadline for the next issue is
Monday, August 27, 2018**

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 STEEPLE

THE MONTHLY NEWSLETTER OF CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



On the cover: Lane Tutt as Francis Jones during Vacation Bible School.



Nativity youth at Young People Paint Birmingham



Having fun at Sarah Watts going away reception!

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Keep us in the know!

Do you have a change in address, email, phone or perhaps major life event? Contact Emily Rodgers at erodgers@nativity-hsv.org or by calling the Church office 256-533-2455 ext.204 and let us know.

Welcome Back

By Vicky Hinton

It is no secret in the Episcopal Church that many congregations see a dip in attendance during the summer. Many of us, myself included, tend to take a small vacation from Church in the summer. The abbreviated summer schedule, pause from church school and absence of hot biscuits baked by the men's ministry team seem to give us plenty of reasons to "skip this week". Summer travel plans, trips to the lake, out of town visitor's and lack of the school routine also make it easy for us to miss a Sunday or two. So the question for many might be why would we ever take a vacation from church?

As someone who has worked in the Episcopal Church most of my adult life, I have observed summer as a time when things quiet down. Priests often go on sabbatical or take their vacation, christian formation classes take a break and service offerings are limited, so naturally it is a good time for a break. For me, the break in responsibility of teaching Sunday school or getting to church on time, offers something much more than a chance to sleep in. It offers me the opportunity to take a step back, recharge my battery and adjust my perspective so that I stop treating church like an obligation. By Mother's Day each spring I often find myself in obligation mode at church. Hectic end of school schedules often leave me overwhelmed and exhausted, and in turn getting to church, youth choir performances, Sunday school parties and spaghetti suppers become items on a check list or obligations instead of opportunities for fellowship. This is not to say that I just pack my bags and say "see you in September Nativity", it just means that some Sunday mornings I take a vacation from church. I don't go far, usually no further than my front porch swing in my PJ's with my family, taking in God's creation that is all around us while enjoying a cup of coffee. I do this knowing that my brothers and sisters in Christ are still breaking bread together inside our beautiful church, and it offers me a feeling of community and gives me something to look forward to

when I am ready to return.

At Nativity, Rally Day is when we end our summer vacation and begin a new season. Fried chicken, watermelon and a table full of side dishes and desserts draw us in to spend time with one another as we prepare for new beginnings. As a child Rally Day was the day that assured me in just one short week I would get to see all of my church friends again at church school and youth group. As an adult, it is the day that marks the end to my church vacation days and the beginning of a new and exciting adventure. On Rally Day I feel as though I am being welcomed back into the open arms of God and the church with a new energy and new purpose. That feeling of welcome without grumbling or judgment from my church family allows me to look forward to, and embrace the opportunities for fellowship that lie ahead, instead of just checking them off my list. That feeling of welcome and renewal is a good one.

This year during Rally Day we will not only kick-off the new church school year, we will begin the celebration of our 175th Anniversary. Opportunities and events to take a look back at some of the moments that define us, some of the people who inspire us and some of the events that ignite our love for this communion of saints will be offered at Rally Day and during the month of September. We will have the opportunity to rally together, form new friendships, celebrate our past and welcome each other into a conversations that will lead us on a new journey of fellowship and spiritual growth together. I hope that as we return from summer and rally, that we will all embrace the chance to feel welcome at Nativity.



Rally Day

Sunday, August 26

Celebrating 175 years of Nativity

Join us following the 10:00 service for an afternoon of fun! Visit the Nativity time capsule booth and record a memory, go on a Portrait Parade to meet some of Nativity's most memorable parishioners and enjoy lunch together on the lawn!

Fried Chicken and lemonade will be provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share!

Celebrating 175 Years

Shortly before Nancy Lacy died she and two of her contemporaries, Betty McCaleb and Anna Ruth Sparks, presented a special program for the Episcopal Church Women's luncheon, entitled "Nativity As I Remember It." Included in these recollections one can find an in-depth summary of the twenty-nine year ministry of Emile Joffrion as he lived and worked with his parish family in "The Master's Garden" at the Church of the Nativity.

"NATIVITY AS I REMEMBER IT"

In the beginning, not of creation but of my relationship with Nativity parish, God had created Saint Frances, better known to the thousands of us whom she raised as 'Miss Frances.' There are very few things about childhood that I can remember, but Miss Frances has always been and will always be the source of my first encounter with God, because He truly worked through her. Who of us can ever forget the old parish house where- from the toddling age through the primary years- we froze to death all winter. But, come we did, each and every Sunday. Our chairs were always prearranged in a large circle. I was sure at the time that it was a throne. We took our chairs quietly and when she gave the signal, we began. Each girl had the privilege of coming to her throne and doing a curtsy. I must have done 5,000 over the years. Following the frills and lace of the lovely handmade dresses the girls wore; it was the boys' turn. Like perfect gentlemen they came, one after the other, to greet Miss Frances with a bow.

I shall never forget the birthday cake and the birthday bank. In retrospect, it was the ugliest, dirtiest cake you can imagine. Made of cardboard and trimmed in pink, covered with torn doilies, used for years and years. At the time, it was the most beautiful cake in the world and the 'birthday boy' or the 'birthday girl' was made to think that he or she was the most important person in the whole world as she lit the candles and the whole room counted in unison as she dropped the pennies into the birthday bank. One of the greatest thrills of the birthday girl was the

honor of taking up the collection. Only boys were permitted to carry the cross, and each Sunday of my life we processed around the room singing 'Onward Christian Soldiers.'



Nancy & Lawrence Lacy on there wedding day at Nativity

I don't remember a single Sunday school lesson. I don't even remember if we had them way back then, But I do remember that in that very cold room I was warm all over, God loved me, Miss Frances loved me (I must admit that back then I would have put Miss Frances first) and this was a great place to be. Love permeated every person and corner of that room.

When Miss Frances retired, God in his infinite mercy already had provided us with another saint, known to us all as Miss Katherine Jones – our ever-present, visible sign of love.

As a young child, going to church meant one primary thing- the voices of Miss Neida Pratt and Carroll Hay coming from the choir. They truly led us for years in making a joyful noise unto the Lord. I am continually amazed that the choir continues to function without them.

The dolls that were made by the Saints for the annual

JIVE HIVE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

5:00 PM

RIDLEY HALL

Join us for a dinner & dance party that the whole family will enjoy!

SPECIAL PRESENTATION OF
Nativity Through the Ages

This one night only performance promises to be a smash hit!

Nursery available for children up to 4 years old



Bazaar were the most magnificent creations you could ever imagine. They made Madame Alexander's dolls look cheap. I can remember my mother and Ruth White and others working for 12 months on only two dresses. By then, every member of the guild worked for 12 months on the clothes. When the day of the Bazaar finally came, the Dilworth family was near exhaustion. Traditionally, they were in charge of carving the turkeys, and when you have carved turkeys for the entire city of Huntsville you have done good days and nights work. The carving took place in what is now the Rector's study. The luncheon and dinner tables were set properly in those days. Linen cloths and linen napkins. The menu was always the same---turkey, dressing, gravy, vegetable, beautifully carved orange peels filled with sweet potatoes whipped with real butter and full of pecans, pickles, hot rolls and always Charlotte Russe. If anyone were to tell all the ladies who prepared these meals that we now use margarine, paper napkins and paper placemats, they would each thank God that they were no longer here.

Much of this nostalgia, but much of it has been passed on to us today. Even today, when we say that Bess Pratt Wallace is cooking, the place fills up. And Anna Ruth White Sparks' handwork at the bazaar is a sight to behold.

While I reminisce, there are two people I must mention, for I well remember that they were as inspiration to all the young people of this parish. And back there, I was one, so I can speak to the heart. All of us looked at Rosemarie Burgess and Julia White as the examples of what a Christian was. I can't remember any great thing that they did, but they were always there, and in a quiet loving way living out the Christian Gospel. It was evident in their faces then, it still is.

My nostalgia trip must bring Bishop Carpenter into the picture. He confirmed us all, and there was never any doubt about whether or not it took. When he laid both of his hands on your head you had truly received the 'Laying on of hands.' For those hands covered not only your head, but your face and neck also. I often thought as a child when I heard that booming voice and felt those hands on my head that this must be what God is like.

To complete the circle, today must be a part of thoughts about this parish. Over the past few years, we have had many joyous moments together. By more importantly, we have hurt and suffered through many tragedies. I say that the tragedies are more important because it has been through them that we have so

many times become bound together and have grown together. We have come to know that God can and does work through when we let Him. He has healed our wounds and guided us to greater things. From where I sit, I see today a parish that is moving, that is being filled with the kind of love that accepts human beings as they are and where they are. This kind of love is contagious and can't be stopped. It seeps into the depths of men's souls, spreads throughout their bodies, and influences everything they do in relationships with other people. One of the main reasons this has happened is because we are being led by a man who has always been open to let it happen and never tried to force it upon us. Our rector, Emile Joffrion, is that man. We are free in this parish to proclaim the gospel each in our own way, and that is GOOD.

CELEBRATING 175 YEARS GUEST PREACHER SERIES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9

THE REV. RUSTY GOLDSMITH

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16

THE REV. JOHN H. BONNER, III

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

THE REV. MARY ANN AKIN

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30

THE REV. HENRY HUDSON

GUEST PREACHERS WILL OFFER THE SERMON AT THE 8:45 AND 11:00 SERVICE, AND WILL BE IN RIDLEY HALL DURING THE 10:00 SUNDAY SCHOOL HOUR TO SHARE THEIR MEMORIES OF NATIVITY.



Ready or not here comes fall!

We are winding down our summer fun and preparing for a new school year. With that new school year we also have many new beginnings here at Nativity. We kick-off a new year of Sunday school, Children's Chapel will soon resume and our youth group will be in full swing. We hope that you will help us start off this new school year in a very special way on Sunday, August 12 at the 10:00 service. We will give a blessing



for children and their backpacks, offer prayers for educators and parents, and collect much needed school supplies for our friends at the Inner City Learning Center. It is sure to be a wonderful

morning, so come and join us start the new school year off right!

Here are some important dates to remember:

August 5, 10:00 Children's Chapel resumes. Chapel will continue on the playground through September 2. During the summer we have a relaxed chapel, enjoying a few minutes of play after reading the gospel and a story. There are a few leader spots open in August. If you would like to help, please email mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.

August 12, 10:00 Back to School blessings during service.

August 19, 11:30 Sunday school teacher training. Teachers, look for more information to come via email.

August 26, 10:00 Sunday school teacher commissioning.

August 26 following 10:00 service Rally day picnic, 175th anniversary kick off and children's Sunday school open house.

For more information about these or any of our children's offerings at Nativity please visit nativity-hsv.org or contact Mary Coe, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455 ext. 211

Back to School Blessings



Preferred by Teachers!

AUGUST 12, 10.00

STUDENTS
EDUCATORS
PARENTS

**Sunday,
August 12
during
10.00
service**

**Start the new
school year
off right!**

Backpack Blessing

Children and youth are invited to bring backpacks and school bags to church to be blessed during the service.

Prayers for educators and parents.

Loose leaf paper and pencil drive for Inner City Learning Center.



**Made to
last the
whole
year!**

Young People Paint Birmingham

By Thea Sommer & Vivian Hinton

Recently, I went to Birmingham for the Young People Paint Birmingham project. I was nervous because I had never met most of the people there. The first day, my group drove out to Mr. Anderson's house. When we got there he was so excited and ready for us to paint. We began to paint the house. After a while, we were hot and cranky. We all wanted to go take a shower. The next two days weren't so bad, because they were shorter and it was cooler outside. Every night, at the end of compline, we would sing the song "May the Work That I've Done" from Camp McDowell. It was a reminder that we had helped someone in need, and God had helped us. Even though it was hard and tiring and there were a lot of rough times, I'm happy that I went and got to experience what it was like to help someone in a major way. I recommend YPPB to any rising 7th-9th grader. It was a wonderful experience. - Thea Sommer



Thea Sommer (5th from left) with her group after completing their house



From left: Sadie Anglin & Vivian Hinton

Young people paint Birmingham was truly an amazing experience! I met so many new people and saw old friends! During this week you got to forget everything and just focus on this one house that you want to get done so badly. Every morning we went to Mr. Crawford's house he would come outside he smile and tell everyone good morning, and how thankful he was for us. This experience made me realize that the little things in life matter, like saying good morning and thank you. When we finished he came out and he looked so happy. The feeling of knowing you helped someone, and the satisfaction of finishing a project is amazing and I can't wait to go back to YPPB next year! -Vivian Hinton

JYC/EYC Kickoff

AUGUST 12

4PM-6PM IN THE LOFT

All 5th-12th graders and their parents are invited!

Come learn about all we have planned for the coming year!

See you there!

THE LOFT

LIVING OUR FAITH TOGETHER

Reflections Bible Study

By Amy Brooks

Nativity had been my church home for six years, but I had not found my place in the church. I received an email that a Bible study for mothers of young children was going to start up in the Fall. I was intimidated by the words “Bible study”. I had a toddler at the time, and my time was not my own. Studying anything felt like a daunting task. I decided that I would give it a chance for just a couple of weeks.

After all, there was a nursery, and the idea of adult interaction was definitely appealing. I had no idea at the time that Reflections bible study would become my lifeline. Reflections brought some wonderful women together. Bonds were formed that will last a lifetime! Shirley Hale and Mel Ford became surrogate mothers to all of us. We learned so much from them. We studied the bible of course, but we also shared our stories, making connections that would help us all through times of joy and sorrow.

Over the years, schedules became hectic, children got older, and many of us have been unable to attend. But the bond is still there. There are five wonderful women who are willing to lead this ministry. I plan to be there...will you join me?

Reflections begins on Thursday September 6th in Club 56, located on the second floor of Ridley Hall. We meet from 9:30 to 11:00 and nursery is available from 9:00 to 11:00. Instructors for Reflections are Lisa Caprio, Shelley Whitney, Kim Hartley, Debbie Collette, and Connie Stephenson. Please note: the class will not meet the week of fall break and the last class is November 8th. Contact Lane Tutt : 256-653-7200 or any of the teachers for more information.



Sign up for Education for Ministry (EfM)

By Ted Briggs

Would you like to deepen your understanding of the church and the roots of Christianity? Are you ready to take the next step, beyond attending church, to examine the underpinnings of your faith? Or perhaps you would like to take a refresher class with the new EfM materials. Join us weekly for an evening of learning, discussion, and fellowship.

Come explore the foundations of the Episcopal three-legged stool (scripture, history, and reason). The University of the South's School of Theology is again offering Education for Ministry (EfM) at the Church of the Nativity. It is a four-year course covering Old Testament, New Testament, church history, and theology. We meet weekly starting from September to May. Tuition is \$375, which includes books.

For further information contact:

Ron Hogan 256.679.5786, ronhuntsville@yahoo.com

or Ted Briggs 256.457.1188, tedlbriggs@gmail.com

For more information and frequently asked questions visit the EfM website efm.sewanee.edu



What a Privilege It Has Been

By Sarah Watts

As I sit down a week after my final Sunday, I am filled with gratitude for the time I spent at Nativity, particularly with our young people. While it seems as if the time flew by so quickly, I am thankful for every minute of it and will carry all of the grace, joy, laughs, and blessings with me as I journey forward to seminary.

It was truly an honor and privilege to become a part of the lives of Nativity's young people and their families. I am continuously in amazement of their faithfulness, insight, questions, humor, and welcome. One of the most important and transformational lessons I learned during my time at Nativity was that we CAN create the community we long for together. This time last year, I was unsure of what the year would bring only to find myself in complete awe one month later when this group of young people came together and made the program

everything they hoped it would be. Their faithfulness and creativity reminded me that what we do at church is never about just one person, or due to the effort of one person, but rather what we do at church is about and because of what we do together. I was reminded over and over again that Christ is present in all we do – in our fellowship, fun, worship, ice cream sundaes, lock-ins, and, yes, even in GROG (if you don't know what that is, ask a young person)!



To all of our youth and their families –

thank you for letting me into your lives. For showing me a new and holy part of God's Kingdom here on earth. And thank you for changing my life for the better. You all will always be in my heart and in my prayers, and I look forward to seeing you sometime soon!

Sincerely,
Sarah

Stephen Ministry

By Nancy Colin

I hope you were in church the end of June to see the commissioning of our new Stephen Ministers. Lee Ann Barnett, Lisa Hardy, Laura Pierce, Lee Hicklin and Hanns Billmeyer have spent hours training and preparing to offer this ministry to you. It is truly a blessed ministry involving the Stephen Minister (care giver) and a parishioner (care receiver).

The hope is to offer parishioners, who may be struggling through a difficult time, a one-to-one caring relationship that is held in strictest confidence. This ministry is offered to those experiencing grief, divorce, job loss, chronic or terminal illness, or some other life crisis. The extensive training that the Stephen Ministers have received equips them to provide high quality, confidential, Christ centered care to people who are hurting. This is usually done by meeting one-on-one once a week for about an hour.

There are benefits to the entire parish. We have a way to follow the commandment: "Love one another as I have loved you". The ministers grow spiritually as they serve and the care receivers have a compassionate companion who provides emotional and spiritual support.

If you or someone you know would benefit from this ministry, please speak with the clergy.

Special thanks to Tom Devenish, Margaret Devenish, Sharon Darty and Linda Martin who are my fellow, slowly retiring Stephen Ministers.



2019 Vestry Nominations

WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU!

The Vestry Nominating 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 retiring Vestry. According the Nativity By-laws, the Vestry Nominating Committee submits a slate of proposed new Vestry members to the congregation for approval at the Annual Parish Meeting scheduled for Sunday, November 18th. 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.

NOMINATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED THROUGH SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9, 2018

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 Interim Rector serves ex-officio in a non-voting role. Please reach out to a member of the committee if you have any questions!

This year's committee includes:

Lou Durnya	Co-Chair	LDurn@aol.com
Margaret Devenish	Co-Chair	mdevenish100@gmail.com
Bill Starnes	Senior Warden, 2015 & 2016	abcstarnes@comcast.net
Donald Christian	Senior Warden, 2018	lawdlc@gmail.com
Holly Ellis	Member at Large	hollyellis804@gmail.com
Alice Lanier	Member at Large	amlanier@knology.net
David Collette	Member at Large	david.collette@hhsys.org
The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe	Interim Rector	vmonroe@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 Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801



Members of the Vestry at Camp McDowell for 2018 Vestry Retreat



Members of the Vestry enjoying lunch with Bishop Sloan following Confirmation

Making a Difference

By Dot Millirons

Looking for a fun ministry that only takes about two hours on Friday afternoon? I recommend passing out Snack Packs at Blossomwood School. I have had the pleasure of being a part of the team that does this for two years and it is great way to start the weekend. It is very satisfying to know that I am a part of Nativity's effort to see that students who might not have much to eat on Saturday and Sunday are receiving a bag full of snacks.



Friday Volunteers at Blossomwood

Nativity volunteers with the Blossomwood Snack Pack Program packed 160 bags a week this past school year. That's more than 5,440 times that a child in our neighborhood school didn't have to go hungry on the weekend! The Blossomwood Snack Pack Ministry will begin soon and we have volunteer opportunities to fit every schedule! Opportunities include:

1. FOOD PICK UP

Time Commitment: approximately one hour 1-2 Wednesdays a month. It can be done solo but is fun with a friend! **Description:** volunteer picks up food from Manna House (near the South Parkway/Governor's Drive intersection) around noon and delivers it to the church by 2:30 pm., and unloads it at Nativity in the lobby area of Joffrion Hall. An SUV or pickup truck is needed, or if two people do it together it could be delivered with two hatchback cars.

2. FOOD PACKING

Time Commitment: approximately one hour on Wednesdays from 4-5pm. **Description:** volunteers meet in the library in Joffrion Hall and fill 160 snack packs in assembly line fashion. This is a great volunteer opportunity for young children and their adults or for tweens and teens.

3. SNACK PACK DELIVERY

Time Commitment: approximately one hour on Thursdays or Fridays once or twice a month. It can be done solo but fun to do with a friend! Deliveries to the school can be made Thursdays from 8:30-2:00 and 3:30-4:30 or Fridays 8:30-2:00pm. **Description:** using a

hand truck, the volunteers load their vehicle with approximately 16 large totes and then drive them to Blossomwood Elementary school where the bins are unloaded into the cafeteria. An SUV or pickup truck is needed.



Drew Tutt delivering food

4. SNACK PACK DISTRIBUTION

Time Commitment: approximately 30-45 minutes on Fridays (sometimes Thursdays if there is no school on Fridays). **Description:** meet at Blossomwood Elementary School at 2:45 pm on Friday afternoons and distribute snack packs to students before they leave school for the weekend.

Contact Lee Anne Bryant to get involved lbryant@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455.

Out in the Community

Kid's to Love

Kids To Love has served over 125,000 foster children since 2004. Nativity has been able to give scholarship money to 5 deserving kids each year for the past few years. Many of these children have gone on to become nurses, teachers, and one is currently enrolled at George Washington University Law School.



Michael Shipley at Kids to Love Center

But college is not the only way Kids To Love can help. The KTech program has provided specialized workforce training and credentialing for high demand occupations to a targeted, underserved and under-resourced population thereby addressing the following three areas: industry's need for skilled workers, community's need for increased employment rates and the individuals need to be a productive, contributing member of society. The KTech program offers Mechatronics Lab, Life Lab, Robotics Lab, and now a new Soldering Lab.

If you want to know more about Kids To Love visit www.kidstolove.org or call 256-880-3455. Volunteer opportunities are also available.

Nativity Chorister

By Christian Crocker

Do you know a child who loves to sing?

Nativity has a vibrant chorister program that offers balanced education in music and liturgy. Our choristers sing for the 8:45am service and our oldest choristers sing for services of Choral Evensong. Please contact Director of Music, Christian Crocker for more information on how to sign your child up for our chorister program at ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-245 x216.



Nativity Choirs in Tallahassee this summer

REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Led by Mrs. Barbara Bonner

Cherub Choir (ages 3-4): Wednesdays, 4:00p.m.-4:40p.m.

Novice Choir (K-2nd grade): Wednesdays, 4:45p.m.-5:30p.m.

Led by Mr. Christian Crocker

Junior Choristers (3rd-5th grades): Wednesdays, 4:00p.m.-5:15p.m.

Senior Choristers (6th-12th grades): Wednesdays, 4:45p.m.-6:15p.m.



CHORAL EVENSONG

Preces and Responses-Philip Radcliffe
Psalm 19, Thomas Attwood Walmisley
Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in F-Harold Friedell
For lo I raise up-Charles V. Stanford

Sunday, September 30th, 2018
5:00pm
Nativity Choir and Choristers
Kenneth Miller, Organist
Christian Crocker, Director of Music

What are you Reading?

By Sabol Payne Rodgers

Belonging: A Culture of Place by bell hooks

With more than a little help from my community, I am doing the work of self-healing, of earth healing, of reveling in this piecing together of my world in such a way that I can be whole and holy. (hooks 68)

bell hooks' *Belonging: A Culture of Place* first jumped out at me off the shelves of a locally owned bookstore in Hawai'i. I had been interested in place-based studies for a while, and in the preface it seemed like hooks was wrestling with the same questions I was: how do you make a home for yourself? What does belonging look like? smell, feel, and taste like?

At that point in my personal journey, I couldn't believe that hooks would begin her book with the chapter "Kentucky Is My Fate" and then go on to write nineteen more chapters including "Touching the Earth," "Segregation Must End," "Habits of the Heart," and more. She begins with what I thought would be the answer or the conclusion. If knowing where you belong isn't enough, then what else would I need to consider?


I went on to read, laugh, cry, and agonize with hooks while she discusses the empowerment she felt as an African-American girl in the hills of Kentucky, the traumatic transition from the safe space of the hills to the racist and segregated nearby town, seeking to escape her "working class, southern, country" identity in a "geographically neutral" Californian college town, and more. This book continues to keep me company, to challenge me, and to offer me respite.

bell hooks is as sharp as she is humble when recounting with all honesty her experiences and articulating her cultural critics.

hooks, bell. *Belonging: A Culture of Place*. New York, Routledge, 2009.

*bell hooks does not capitalize the first letter of her name.

Spirituality



at Nativity

Would you like more information about Spiritual growth opportunities?

[Click here](#) for the Spiritual Development newsletter, where you will find information about local and regional retreats, classes and conferences designed to enhance your Spiritual Journey.

Centering prayer at Nativity presents

The annual Summer of...

CENTERING PRAYER, DINNER & A MOVIE

Meet at 5:30 pm Ridley Hall for Centering Prayer sit, followed by dinner and movie.

After the movie we will have a brief discussion.



TUESDAY, AUGUST 28

Chocolate 2000 Rated PG-13

A single mother and her young daughter move into a peaceful French village and open a chocolate shop during the height of Lent. At first, the shop's rich, sensuous desserts scandalize the town. But the villagers soon learn to savor the sweetness.

Cast: Juliette Binoche, Lena Olin, Johnny Depp.

**Please bring a dish to share and join us for an evening of
spiritual connection and sharing!**

Please contact Benda Chynoweth if you have any questions: 256-464-9457 or brendacc@knology.net.

This Month at the Market

By Marilyn Lands

This month at the market we had some very special visitors! Children from the Huntsville Inner City Learning Center's summer camp visited the Greene Street Market on Thursday, July 19th. Twenty-eight 3rd-5th grade students and their chaperones visited with vendors, sampled goat cheese and other summer treats and enjoyed the hula hoops. A generous donor provided each child with \$5 in Greene Street Market bucks for the children to buy cookies, popsicles and other treats. As is typical for these kids, though, fresh flowers and tomatoes to take home to mom were tops on the list.

Parishioners from Nativity have continued our relationship with the Center that began with "Be the Change Alabama" and it has continued to blossom. If you would like to help with after school tutoring or other Learning Center programs, please call Marilyn Lands at 256.527.8197 or email, marilynlands@gmail.com.



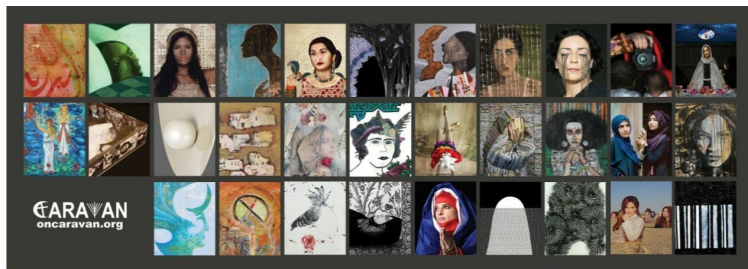
Nativity trip to Vanderbilt for Exhibit Opening

Thursday, August 30, 2018

The Spiritual Development Committee at Nativity invites you to Vanderbilt Fine Arts Gallery for the opening of I AM: Middle Eastern Women Artists and the Quest for Peace, with special guest Paul Gordon Chandler.

We will depart mid-afternoon by charter bus and enjoy a light meal in route to Nashville. Following the opening reception and tour of the exhibit we will return to Huntsville.

\$50 per person. Register by July 31.
Questions: thomasflydon@aol.com



I AM
WORLD TOUR
2017/2018

Featuring 31 premier Middle Eastern women contemporary artists from 12 countries visually celebrating the pivotal contributions that women make to the global quest for peace.

CURATED BY JANET RADY

May 3 - June 14, 2017
AMMAN, JORDAN
National Gallery of Fine Arts

July 2 - August 20, 2017
LONDON, UNITED KINGDOM
St Martin-in-the-Fields

September 8 - October 22, 2017
WASHINGTON, DC
American Univ Museum at the Katzen Arts Center

January 12 - February 25, 2018
JACKSON HOLE, WY
Center for the Arts

April 1 - May 28, 2018
CINCINNATI, OH
Christ Church Cathedral

June 10 - August 7, 2018
SEATTLE, WA
St. Mark's Cathedral

Sept 1 - Oct 14, 2018
NASHVILLE, TN
Vanderbilt University

Oct 21 - Nov 25, 2018
BURLINGTON, VT
The Cathedral Church of St. Paul

www.oncaravan.org/i-am-exhibition

Stewardship of Creation

This Stewardship of Creation article was originally submitted by Freya Neely and published in the February 2017 Steeple.

Here are thoughts and words about stewardship of God's creation to take into your heart and to guide your actions as you go about your daily activities:

"As the stewards of creation, what account will the Human Race be able to give of our stewardship?" D. Denise Dianaty

Marcia Bunge writes, in a Web of Creation article:

"All of the biblical passages that command us to love our neighbor also have strong implications for environmental responsibility ... As we better understand the dimensions of our environmental problems, it is clear that they are often connected to social injustices. We cannot adequately show love to our neighbors, therefore, without taking into account the environmental problems that affect them."

"Do all the good you can. By all the means you can. In all the ways you can. In all the places you can. At all the times you can. To all the people you can. As long as ever you can." — John Wesley

We Are Called "to Serve and to Preserve"

...the Bible contains insights that can help form the basis of a sound environmental ethic.

...Genesis 1:28 and 2:15 call human beings to preserve and protect the earth and its creatures.

... the biblical texts emphasize a humane and compassionate rule that displays responsibility for others and that results in peace and prosperity.

... Genesis 1:28 does not advocate tyrannical exploitation of nature but rather responsible care of it.

The Hebrew word for "keep" means to preserve for future generations. Hence, the mandate "to serve and to preserve" the land places human beings not in a hierarchical position over creation but in a position of service to it.

Just as the later Christian message (in the New Testament) depicts Jesus as a servant-king, so humans are challenged in this creation story to assume a similar role: "Whoever wants to be first must be last of all and servant of all" (Mark 9:35).

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

Take the GreenFaith Pledge! Join thousands of others throughout the world in taking this pledge:

"I pledge to make my life a blessing for the Earth."

What will you do today to live out the Golden Rule that Jesus gave us, "Do unto others as you would have them do unto you." How will you be a good Steward of Creation? How will you be "a blessing for the Earth?"

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



GARDEN GUILD WORK DAY

THURSDAY, AUGUST 2

8:30 AM

BRING YOUR GARDEN GLOVES!

Upcoming Events



HAP Sunday is August 5th Items needed include canned fruit, cereal, soup, toilet paper, spaghetti, boxed potatoes, coffee and boxed meal kits. Place items in HAP bins located in Ridley Hall and the breezeway.

Centering Prayer, Dinner and a Movie.

Ridley Hall at 5:30pm August 28. Enjoy a Centering Prayer session followed by dinner and movie. After the movie, we have a brief discussion. Please bring a dish to share!

Questions, Brenda Chynoweth

brendacc@knology.net or (256)464-9457. (More information page 13)

Rally Day Sunday, August 26 Following the 10:00 service we will have our annual Rally Day picnic! Fried chicken and lemonade will be provided, please bring a side dish or dessert to share. There will be fun activities focused on our 175th Anniversary celebration so come and join the fun!

Sunday, September 9th Regular Church schedule resumes:

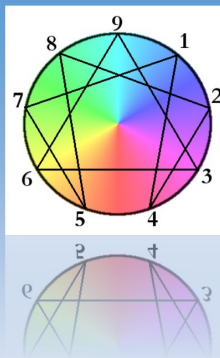
7:45 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I (Bibb Chapel)

8:45 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II with Children's Chapel *

10:00 am Church school for all ages

11:00 am Holy Eucharist, Rite II *

* indicates nursery provided



SOUL WORK: the ENNEAGRAM as a SPIRITUAL PATH to WHOLENESS

WORKSHOP with The Rev. Susan Sloan

September 28 & 29, 2018

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

"So many people walk around with a meaningless life. They seem half-asleep, even when they're busy doing things they think are important. This is because they're chasing the wrong things..." Tuesdays with Morrie by Mitch Albom

WORKSHOP SCHEDULE

Friday, September 28 6:00 pm CHECK-IN (no dinner)

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm WORKSHOP

Saturday, September 29 9:00 am – 4:00 pm WORKSHOP (includes lunch)

Register online at nativity-hsv.org or by calling the church office 256-533-2455.

The cost for this workshop is \$60.

For many years I have been studying and using the enneagram, an ancient means of self-examination and reflection. I began to see the enneagram's wisdom as a way to enlarge what is inside me so that I could cope with the distractions and distortions of life around me. This process is called *becoming conscious*, and I believe its worth is immeasurable. In truth, it is both a personal and relational life saver, as well as hope for the future.

While many may see the enneagram as a personality typing test, it is far more than that! The soul is living on a much deeper level than personality and expresses the essential nature (or essence) of a human being. The Spirit reveals more and more of our essence while we grow spiritually with every encounter. This retreat emphasizes the *spiritual path of awareness* – one which sets us on a lifelong journey in fulfillment. I invite you to join the adventure from wherever you are as we explore together the path to wholeness.

The Rev. Susan Sloan

Affiliate of Turning Point



The Rev. Susan Sloan is the retired Rector of St. Stephen's Episcopal Church in Huntsville, AL and is closely associated with Church of the Nativity.

ENNEAGRAM TYPE - If you do not know your ENNEAGRAM TYPE #, contact SUSAN SLOAN (ssloanpr@comcast.net) prior to the Workshop to complete a short, simple inventory before attending the event.

Church of the Nativity

208 Eustis Avenue

Huntsville, AL 35801



2018 Altar Flower Dedications

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Dates Available: September 30, Oct. 21 Nov. 18, 25, Dec. 2, 9, 16, 23, 30

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* and mail your check along with this form to:

Andrea Vandervoort 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801

Questions Call Andrea: 256-539-2673



Prayer Requests & Parish News

PRAYERS FOR HEALING IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT:

Rachel Armstrong (Hofus)

Doris Wesley

Joe East

Alex Fague

Gay Money

Bill Nettles

Leigh Wahl

Kevin Wahl

Ron Cook

Kitty Simmons

Beth McCormick

Bob Anderson

Charles Smith

Shirley Cobun

Tom Booth

Phyllis Beck

Margaret Lichty

Jody Mowrer

Ted Bledsoe

Heidi Foreman

FOR THE DEPARTED:

Susan Riddle

Charlie Lyle

FOR THOSE DEPLOYED WITH THE MILITARY:

US Navy, Kenneth Vandervoort

US Navy, Wyatt Perry

TRANSFERS OUT:

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:7

Judy Yarbrough to St. James Episcopal Church, Fairhope, Alabama

TRANSFERS IN:

"Therefore welcome one another as Christ has welcomed you, for the glory of God."

Romans 15:7

Virginia (Ginny) McCleod

WE GIVE THANKS FOR AUGUST BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CHILDREN:

8/2 Caroline Cooper

8/2 Caroline Brooks

8/2 Sean Berman

8/4 Evan McCarty

8/5 Drew Dodgen

8/6 Henry Keener

8/6 Noah Huskey

8/6 Anna Post

8/8 Beau Cline

8/8 Hunter Ray

8/9 Moss Fleming

8/9 Wil Clardy

8/12 James FitzGerald

8/13 Sarah Huskey

8/15 Pierce Anderson

8/16 Charlotte Klos

8/16 Read Klos

8/16 Kathryn Kelly

8/18 Warren Towry

8/19 Frances Fortner

8/19 Wren Guffey

8/22 Eleanor Nicely

8/22 Quintin Maddox

8/22 Alice Burson

8/23 Ford Whitfield

8/26 Elizabeth Evans

8/27 John Cowan

8/27 Atkins Connelly

8/27 Nathaniel Swillie

8/29 Lucy Ellis

8/29 Sam Hartley

8/30 Anna Abney

PARKING DECALS

Please remember to get a parking decal for your vehicle so that you can park in the Nativity parking lot when visiting the church during the week.

Decals are available in the Church office from Amy Kennedy.

PARISHIONER UPDATES:

Look in your mailbox for our new Guide Book & Directory! Please familiarize yourself with the ministries and organizations at our church located in the front of the book. Questions,

erodgers@nativity-hsv.org

Please note the following changes in your new directory:

Melva and James Ochoa

571-926-3027-James

571-205-5066-Melva

Jim Payne

3711 Cooper Street SE

Huntsville, AL 35801

941-993-5603

Connie and Rusty Stephenson

Please see Ernest Wynn & Mary Connie in the directory

PRAYER REQUESTS &

PASTORAL SUPPORT: In order to ensure that our clergy and staff are meeting the pastoral and prayer needs of the parish, we ask that all requests for pastoral care and prayer be made by phone. Please do not attempt to make a request through social media, as it is not possible for our clergy and staff to monitor those outlets at all times. You can call the church office 256-533-2455 during normal business hours or in the event of a pastoral emergency after business hours please call 256-533-7007. Thank you.

Acolyte Schedule August 2018

The August 2018 schedule will be available at nativity.dioala.org/Resources/schedules.html later this week.

ACOLYTE TRAINING

SUNDAY, AUGUST 12

FOLLOWING THE 10:00 SERVICE

All 7th-12th grade students who currently serve as acolytes or who are interested in becoming an acolyte are invited to attend this training session. For more information please contact Dorrie Nutt dorrie.nutt@gmail.com.



Parish Financial Report

Parish Financial Report Period Ending 06/30/2018

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 59,997.86	\$ 93,260.12	\$ 537,536.00	\$ 559,560.52
Plate	\$ 6,859.50	\$ 17,083.37	\$ 48,017.52	\$ 102,500.02
Other Revenues	\$ 3,113.29	\$ 9,083.26	\$ 32,621.02	\$ 54,499.96
TOTAL	\$ 69,970.65	\$ 119,426.75	\$ 618,174.54	\$ 716,560.50
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 23,072.83	\$ 24,827.26	\$ 121,082.58	\$ 148,963.44
Personnel	\$ 51,462.14	\$ 69,381.08	\$ 341,575.21	\$ 416,286.52
Other Expenses	\$ 27,236.74	\$ 25,218.43	\$ 134,739.63	\$ 151,310.42
TOTAL	\$ 101,771.71	\$ 119,426.77	\$ 597,397.42	\$ 716,560.38
NET	\$ (31,801.06)	\$ (0.02)	\$ 20,777.12	\$ 0.12

Worship Schedule

WORSHIP SCHEDULE August 2018 - AEK (updated 7/19/18)

Wednesday, August 1 st					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
8:00am	McCrickard		Mary Hendricks		
Thursday, August 2 nd					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Monroe		Sally Ann Culver		
Sunday, August 5 th (11 th Sunday after Pentecost)					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
8:00am	Monroe	Monroe	John Hendricks	Lee Hicklen	Mary Hendricks
10:00am	McCrickard	Monroe	Linda Watts, Hanns Billmayer, John Conover	Stacy Moon, Camille Sommer	Buddy Moon
Wednesday, August 8 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Sloan		Cheryl Watts		
Thursday, August 9 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Foreman		Lewie Bates		
Sunday, August 12 th (12 th Sunday after Pentecost)					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
8:00am	McCrickard		Sue Johnson	Allen Daniels	Steve Johnson
10:00am	Monroe	McCrickard	Fred Beck, Robert Dunn, Kaaren Dunn	Jennifer Dill, Sally Ann Culver	Shirley Hale Stucky
Wednesday, August 15 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	McCrickard		Joan East		
Thursday, August 16 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Foreman		Susan Brown		
Sunday, August 19 th (13 th Sunday after Pentecost)					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
8:00am	Monroe	Collette	Allen Daniels	Joan East	Melissa Kirkindall
10:00am	McCrickard	Collette	Pat Sampson, Peter Cobun, Hanns Billmayer	Elaine Hamner, Marcia Cobun	Rhonwyn Watson
Wednesday, August 22 nd					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Sloan		Lea Ann Barnett		
Thursday, August 23 rd					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Monroe		Lewie Bates		
Sunday, August 26 th (14 th Sunday after Pentecost)					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
8:00am	Monroe		Lea Ann Barnett	John Hendricks	Clay Sherrill
10:00am	McCrickard	Monroe	Lee Hicklen, Lane Mickle, Laura Pierce	Ronnie Rogers, Martha Joffrion	Aubrey Tycer
Wednesday, August 29 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM		
12 noon	Monroe		Joan East		
Thursday, August 30 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM		
6:00 pm	McCrickard	Serio	Sally Ann Culver		
USHERS					
8:00am	Peter Barber				
10:00am	Steve Brouse, Sherman Dailey, Marina Prucha, Stephen Prucha, Teague Smith				
ALTAR GUILD					
5 th	Peggy Serio, Jill Chadwick, Wanda Cobb, Beth Pugh				
12 th	Sara Little, Sue Johnson, Linda Watts, Mary Johnson				
19 th	Alice Lanier, Debbie Joyner, Emily Moody, Nancy Colin				
26 th	Sophia Rowe, Caffey Litkenhous, Judy Heacock, Kaaren Dunn				
CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE					
July 29 th - August 5 th		August 6 th - 12 th		August 13 th - 19 th	
Serio		Monroe		McCrickard	
August 20 th - 26 th					
Serio		McCrickard		August 27 th - September 2 nd	
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August 27 th					

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

WARDENS' COUNCIL

Senior Warden-Donald Christian
Junior Warden-Grant Thomson
Treasurer-Paul Bonner
Assistant Treasurer-Don Evans
Finance Chair-Jason Angelichio
Clerk of the Vestry-Dottie Crawford
Member at Large-Wendy Wilson

VESTRY LIAISONS

Adult Christian Formation & Spiritual Development-
Margaret Gleason
Building & Grounds- Bob Thompson
Children's Christian Formation-Teresa Pinson
Communications and Technology-Shirley Hale Stucky
Hospitality and Welcoming-Jeff Johnson
Ministry of Worship and Music-Dorrie Nutt

2018 VESTRY

Outreach-Don Evans
Parish Entities-Don Lambert
Parish Life-Fisher Hutchens
Pastoral Care-Kim Huskey
Stewardship-Michael Shipley
Trust and Endowments-Wendy Wilson
Youth Christian Formation-Shari Williams
Youth Representative-Sara Hutchens



Vestry member Don Evans
playing at the Greene Street
Market

Almighty God, giver of every good gift: look graciously on your Church, and so guide the minds of those who shall choose a rector for Nativity that we may receive a faithful pastor who will care for your people and equip us for our ministries; through Jesus Christ our Lord, Amen