

THE

STEEPLE

Church of the Nativity

September 2018



•CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL•

•HUNTSVILLE, AL•

•NATIVITY-HSV.ORG•

CLERGY & STAFF

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Interim Rector

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

Deacon

The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey

Spiritual Direction

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Adult Christian Formation

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Children's Formation

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Regina Milton

Weekend Sexton

Sally Stockton

Kitchen Coordinator

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, September 24, 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



Rally Day fun!



EYC Kick-off this August in the LOFT



More fun at Rally Day!

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Keep us in the know!

Do you have a change of address, email, phone or perhaps major life event?

Contact Emily Rodgers by calling the Church office 256-533-2455 ext.204 or erodgers@nativity-hsv.org and let us know.

The Next Chapter

By The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard

Almighty God, you have so linked our lives one with another that all we do affects, for good or ill, all other lives: So guide us in the work we do, that we may do it not for self alone, but for the common good...

(from the Collect for Labor Day, BCP p. 261)

Like ripples in the surface of a pond, our actions and our prayers affect all those around us. And we, in turn, are affected in the same way by others.

Though our paths now diverge, we will continue to have an impact on each other, through our prayers, through what we have learned from each other. Now we move further into the next chapter, which for me is a new parish, a new role, a new diocese, state, home, bishop, etc. And Nativity moves forward into a time when a new rector will be drawn to you and you to them, and a unique course will be charted toward growth in grace. (And we all know that the Episcopal Church is really not so big – our paths will surely cross again.)

I am deeply grateful you have allowed me to be part of your joys and sorrows over the past four years. I will have many stories to tell, much to draw on for sermons and teaching, and even for my continued studies. We share those stories. We affect each other for the long haul.

This parish has so much to give, so many ripple effects to generate, and I rejoice in witnessing those gifts! Nativity has a strong and growing Youth and Children's program – go downstairs or upstairs to witness these kids and teachers in action! Nativity has a Young Adults group, open to anyone who considers themselves a young adult, and sharing in regular fellowship. Nativity has an energetic Outreach Committee which seek to translate "respecting the dignity of every human being" in how parish funds are distributed in the community.

Our lives are closely linked, and always will be. My prayers for you continue.

God's Peace,

Bonnie



Please join us for a reception

honoring

The Rev. Bonnie McCrickard

Sunday, September 2, 2018

Following the 10:00 am service

Ridley Hall



Celebrating 175 Years

A Snapshot of Huntsville from 1907

Rev. Pace Kennedy
Revenwood, W.VA

My Dear Mr. Kennedy,

January, 17, 1907

This letter, as I stated in my letter or call, may be considered a continuation thereof. I will endeavor to give you plain facts without any roseate commentary.

First: Huntsville is a city of about 10,000 inhabitants, but including the Cotton Mill districts the estimate is about 15,000, or more. It is situated in the extreme northern part of the State in a valley at the base of the southern range of the Cumberland Mountains, and at an elevation of about 750 above sea level. We think we have the finest climate and water to be found anywhere. No serious epidemic of any kind has ever effected the city, and I believe the Government report on health of soldiers quartered in the South in 1889, placed Huntsville second; this fact should settle the matter of climate.

Second: There are about 325 communicants in this parish. We think we have one of the most beautiful church buildings in the south for its size, and we believe that right here in Huntsville your field of work would satisfy the most ardent Disciple of Christ.

Third: A little Church history: This parish was first presided over by Bishop Lay, succeeded by Rev. John Monroe Banister, who was elected Rector Emeritus August 5th, 1905, after forty-five years active service, he is now Rector Emeritus-88 years of age, in full possession of his faculties, but too feeble from the infirmities of age to continue his long and Godly given service.

In August, 1904, Dr. Banister requested an assistant. We called Rev. W.W. Claybrook, then of Tyler, Texas. He came. Dr. Banister on account of the increasing infirmities of age, resigned the active rectorship August 5th, 1905. Mr. Claybrook was then made Rector, during his term just ended on the 15th, inst., he gave us splendid service and did magnificent work. We were very much devoted to him and regretted that he could not be persuaded to continue with us but he accepted a call from the the Bishop as General Missionary of the Diocese, after declining a call to St. Paul's Church, New Orleans, La. at a very much larger salary. In justice to the Bishop I will say that having heard of the call to St. Paul's he persuaded Mr. Claybrook to remain in the diocese.

Fourth: Now as to the individuality of the parish, of course we have our faults, but Christianity, refinement and culture find lodgment in the majority of our homes. I am sure if you can find yourself free to come to Huntsville you will find friends who will be your friends for life. Our reverence and love for Dear Old Dr. Banister should be abundant proof.

Fifth: The Rectory is a very neat, one story cottage standing just across the street from the Church, containing three bedrooms, study or parlor, dining-room, kitchen and bath, with city water, sewer, gas, and electric light connections. It is partly furnished and is a very nice little home for any couple.

If there is any further information desired I will be glad to have you command me.

Sincerely yours,
Samuel R. Cruse
Secretary



CELEBRATING
175 YEARS
GUEST PREACHER SERIES

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 9
THE REV. RUSTY GOLDSMITH
SERVED AS CURATE AT NATIVITY 1981-1983

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 16
THE REV. JOHN H. BONNER, III
SON OF THE REV. JOHN H. BONNER, JR. WHO SERVED AS RECTOR OF
NATIVITY 1950-1956

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23
THE REV. MARY ANN AKIN
SERVED AS ASSOCIATE RECTOR AT NATIVITY FROM 2007-2012

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 30
THE REV. HENRY HUDSON
SERVED AS CURATE AT NATIVITY FROM 1977-1979

**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.**



The following is an excerpt from Augusta B. Martin's report on the House of Happiness to the 99th Diocesan Council:
"The most difficult part of the work is house-keeping and cooking. Just as long as the human family eats three times a day, just so long will the greater part of the day be spent in the preparation and serving of meals.

Lord of all pots and pans and things; since I've not time to be
A Saint by doing lovely things, or watching late with Thee
Or dreaming in the dawn light, or storming heaven's gates,
Make me a saint by getting meals, and washing up the plates.

Altho I must have Martha's hands, I have a Mary mind;
And when I black the boots and shoes, Thy sandals, Lord, I find.
I think of how they trod the earth, what time I scrub the floor;
Accept this meditation, Lord, I haven't time for more.

Warm all the kitchen with Thy love, and light it with Thy peace;
Forgive me all my worrying, and make all grumbling cease.
Thou who didst love to give men food, in room or by the sea,
Accept this service that I do –I do it unto Thee.

I append hereto my financial statement."

Respectfully submitted,
AUGUSTA B. MARTIN



On Good Friday, March 29, 1907, John Monroe Banister died at the age of eighty-nine, sixty-one years of which had been spent as an Episcopal priest. Bishop Beckwith arrived the next day to conduct Banister's funeral services at Nativity on the afternoon of Easter Eve.

JIVE HIVE

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 23

5:00 PM

RIDLEY HALL

Dress in 50's attire and 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!

Purchase \$5 tickets in advance Sundays between services or online at

nativity-hsv.org

Children 4 & under are free. Nursery is available **BY RESERVATION ONLY.**



Rally Day Fun

By Vicky Hinton

Thank you Nativity! Rally Day was such a joyful day, and it was wonderful to see so many of you here. My daughter asked me why we call it Rally Day, which is a great question, but a question for which I do not know the answer. If you look to Merriam-Webster, to rally is: to muster for a common purpose; to recall to order; to come together again to renew an effort; to join in a common cause. I think it is safe to say we did all of those things Sunday. We came together to renew ourselves through worship, share a meal, celebrate our past and prepare for the opportunities that lie ahead. Beginning Sunday, September 9th we will return to 3 services, Sunday School classes will begin and there will be hot biscuits on Sunday mornings once again. Choirs will be practicing on Wednesday nights, Bible study groups will resume during the week and every Sunday we will come together again to renew our effort to learn and grow in relationship with one another.



The Rev. Bob Serio portraying
The Rev. Banister

Many thanks to our volunteers in the Portrait Parade who helped make our rich history come alive! Mary Kate Brooks, John Cline, Lydia Fassett, Pat Goodson, Mike Knight, Buddy Moon, Jewell Reynolds, Robert Rodgers, The Rev. Deacon Bob Serio and Lane Tutt. Special thanks to our Vestry and Sally Stockton, who organized a delicious picnic lunch that we all enjoyed and thank you to our Children's Ministry team who welcomed visitors on Angel Lane during the open house. Finally, thanks to Pride Sherrill, who created a very special display in the Banister Room representing the impact of the hands and feet of our church family on our community and in the world.



Clockwise from top left: Buddy Moon, Lydia Fassett and Mike Knight dressed as characters from Nativity's past in the Portrait Parade.

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
LIVE GREENERY SALE

PRE-ORDER YOUR HOLIDAY GREENERY THROUGH SEPTEMBER 30TH

ITEMS FOR SALE INCLUDE:

FRASER FIR AND BOXWOOD WREATHS: 20"-36"
FRASER FIR AND BOXWOOD GARLAND: 25' & 75'

PICK UP DATE SATURDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO PLACE AN ORDER CALL
256-533-2455 OR VISIT NATIVITY-HSV.ORG
CLICK HERE TO ORDER ONLINE TODAY!

Learn Pray Play

2018-19 Nativity Sunday School

Upcoming dates:

Sunday September 2

No Sunday school, JYC or EYC

Sunday September 9

Schedule change

8:45 Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel*

10:00 to 10:50 Sunday School for All Ages

11:00 Holy Eucharist*

*nursery available

Sunday, September 16

Club 56 Senior Visits

Here we go....

Children's Sunday School Registration Now Open!

We can't wait to see all our friends back on Angel Lane! Please remember Sunday school is from 10:00 to 10:50 and children 4th grade and younger need a grown up or older sibling to pick them up from class. Children from 3 years old through 6th grade can be registered online at tinyurl.com/nativityformation or on Sunday mornings. Questions, email Mary Coe at mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

Our classes this year:

Angel Lane, downstairs Ridley Hall

3 & 4 years olds Godly Play

Kindergarten & 1st grade Godly Play

2nd grade Godly Play

3rd & 4th grades Whirl Lectionary

5th & 6th grades Club 56: Connect

Meet in Club 56, upstairs Ridley Hall

Register at tinyurl.com/nativityformation

Children's Chapel

With the change in schedule, children's chapel returns to our inside home on Angel Lane. All children age 4 through 4th grade are invited to join us for chapel during the 8.45 service. Children follow the cross out of the church during the sequence hymn before the Gospel reading and return at the Peace. In chapel, we read a children's gospel and storybook, sing and actively pray—following the same sequence as big church but in a kid-friendly form. This a great time of spiritual growth and community for our children. Parents are welcome to visit! Questions or sign up to help, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.



Special thanks to all who took part in the teacher training event in August.



EYC in Full Swing

By Amy Brooks

The 2018-2019 school year is off to a great start!

We began the year with an evening at Camp Agape and rafting down the Ocoee. Lots of fun memories were made...and no one fell out of the rafts! EYC/JYC officially kicked off on August 12th in The LOFT. It was fun to see the excited faces of the kids who have finally reached youth group age, a definite rite of passage! Youth group is such a fun and important way to connect with your church family. I am honored to be able to carry on and build upon this program that has grown tremendously over the last few years. The calendar is packed full of fun options for youth this year! If you are interested in helping with or attending EYC/JYC, please contact Amy Brooks at abrooks@nativity-hsv.org or 256-509-7783.



UPCOMING DATES

September 2nd! No JYC/EYC Happy Labor Day!

September 16th Senior Visit Day for Club 56! Meet in Club 56 following Sunday School. We will have pizza at Pan e Vino and then go visit some of our homebound parishioners. Please let us know if you are coming to ensure that we have enough drivers. If you are willing to help drive, please contact Amy Brooks 256-509-7783 or abrooks@nativity-hsv.org.

September 16th 2:00-4:00 pm District Day at Good Shepherd in Decatur. All 7th-12th graders welcome! Meet at the church at 1:00 and we will travel together to Decatur. Questions? Contact Amy Brooks 256-509-7783 or abrooks@nativity-hsv.org.

FALL FLING

October 26-28, 2018

CAMP-STYLE RETREAT FOR 5TH & 6TH GRADERS

It's all the fun of SUMMER CAMP...in the fall! Join us in Clear Creek ("Lower Camp") for group games, hiking, singing, and friends! Halloween costumes are encouraged for the Pasture Party and friends are ALWAYS welcome! The Rev. Jeff Evans will be our chaplain for this awesome weekend at wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell!

**\$125 PER PERSON
REGISTRATION
OPENS AUGUST 1ST**

Register online at
www.campmcdowell.com
205-387-1806

Adult Christian Formation

By Lane Tutt

During the month of September we will have a special 175th Forum for adults during the 10:00 hour in Ridley Hall where we will hear from our guest preachers. This means that our regular Sunday morning classes for adults will begin **Sunday, October 7th**. We have several wonderful classes for you to choose from! Please contact Lane Tutt if you have any questions ltutt@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455.

Social Justice Class (Banister Room) The Social Justice Sunday school class is focused on looking at today's events through the principles of our faith: seeking for the service lessons each Sunday to guide attention, advocacy and action as we engage with the world. In Parker Palmer's *Healing the Heart of Democracy*, we will be examining today's politics from the perspective "better to be in right relationship than to be right." Led by Jennifer Dill, Jackie Sheldon, and Bill Starnes and coordinated by Freya Neely.

Zimmerman Bible Study (Joffrion Hall Library) This year we will study Romans 12 -16 and Philippians 1 & 2. Led by Elise Taylor, The Rev. Basye Holland-Shuey and The Rev. Deacon Bob Serio.

The Book Class (Ridley Hall) Led by Ted Briggs, Lynne Vallely, Walter Thames, Buddy Moon, Rick Wilhoite, Darlene Ehinger. More information coming soon!

The Breakfast Club – (Joffrion Hall, 2nd floor west) This class will use the book *The Eight Habits Of Love* by Ed Bacon, as their guide for casual discussion each Sunday morning. Led by Emily Rodgers and Amy Creech.

NEW! Chat and Chew (Children's Library on Angel Lane, formerly Bible Improv) A drop in Sunday school class for parents of younger children, located right on Angel Lane. Chat and Chew has no ongoing curriculum, but each week an article or idea on parenting, faith in families or modern struggles will be presented for discussion, or bring your own topic to the table! Coordinated by Iana Ham.



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

Mission Opportunity

By Debbie Collette



We are in the process of planning our next medical mission to Haiti. We are looking for both

medical and non-medical people who are willing to spend May 4-11, 2019 sharing the love of Jesus by providing medical care and enjoying Christian fellowship with adults and children in mostly rural areas of Haiti. We will work side by side with a Haitian medical team of doctors, nurses, and pharmacy and auxiliary personnel. If you would like more information please contact Debbie Collette at 256-527-5050 or The Rev. Deacon Deacon Bob Serio 256-533-2455.

Curious About Cursillo?

Are you considering attending a Cursillo weekend? Cursillo is a community of faith that is dedicated to exploring the love of God and sharing God's love with each other. Cursillo in the Diocese of Alabama begins with a three-day weekend at

Camp McDowell. During these three days, lay people and clergy share their experiences and perspective on a variety of topics related to the love of God, the Christian life, and Christian community. Through Cursillo, we seek a deeper understanding of the teachings of Jesus and how we can serve Him. We work together to share God's love and encourage each other to persevere in carrying out our Baptismal vows. Cursillo starts with a three day weekend, but the best is yet to come! [CLICK HERE](#) to watch several Alabama Episcopalians talk about how Cursillo enhanced their spiritual lives or visit alabamacursillo.org. For more information about attending a Cursillo weekend, contact David Collette 256-527-2560 or Debbie Collette 256-527-5050.

THE SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT COMMITTEE

PRESENTS

2018 FALL SPEAKER SERIES

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN OCTOBER

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

5:00 pm Dinner 6:00 pm Speaker

OCTOBER 3 – *“Teaching Medical Students to think Ethically”*

Mike Caruso M.D., Ph.D. and The Rev. Stephen McWhorter

Teachers of Medical Ethics at UAB School of Medicine

OCTOBER 10 – *“What it means to be the Hands and Feet of Jesus in Huntsville”*

Art Leslie

Director of the Inner City Learning Center- Huntsville, AL

OCTOBER 17 – *“Science & Religion: What happens when you take both seriously?”*

The Rev. Dr. Henry Everitt

Associate Pastor at First United Methodist Church

Army Research Scientist at Redstone Arsenal

OCTOBER 24 – *“Life as a Chaplain at the Atlanta Airport”*

The Rev. Dr. Donna Mote

Airport Chaplain at Hartsfield-Jackson Atlanta International Airport

Asst. Prof. of World Religions - School of Theology: The University of the South



Dinner \$7 per person, reservation appreciated. Nursery available, reservation required.

Call 256-533-2455 to make your reservation or visit nativity-hsv.org

Church of the Nativity • 208 Eustis Avenue • Huntsville, AL



Outreach in Action

By Lee Hicklen

The Community Free Dental Clinic was organized in 2013 by a group of local dentists and non-profit organizations. Alabama is the sixth poorest state in America. The poverty level in Madison county is 13.9% of the population, about 45,000 people. This population is largely undereducated,



Lou Durnya (left) and Lee Hicklen (right) presenting The Free Dental Clinic with a donation from Nativity Outreach committee.

working paycheck to paycheck with no money left for dental care, elderly on fixed incomes in need of dentures, but unable to afford to have teeth pulled, and some homeless veterans. All have broken, painful teeth and they can get infected gums or abscesses which are life threatening. The bacteria can go to the heart and brain and in some cases precipitate a heart attack or stroke. The volunteer dentists can pull the teeth to relieve the pain and give antibiotics for infections all free to the patients. Since 2013, when the clinic opened over 6,500 people have been helped, and as of July 2018 and over \$ 1,700,00.00 in free services has been provided.

The Community Free Dental Clinic (DBA) The Free Dental Clinic is a certified 501© 3 non-profit. Funding comes from individuals, local businesses, grants, and churches. In addition to monetary donations, they receive office supplies, tooth brushes, tooth paste and dental supplies. Their mission is to provide quality free dental care, and education to low income, uninsured adult residents of Madison County. This mission is accomplished by licensed volunteer dentists from the local community, licensed nurses who evaluate and help educate the patients in their care,

chairside assistants who assist the dentists, and the office staff who register the patients and make appointments. They do extractions and a limited number of cleanings. Low cost Dentures are now offered and can be financed with a “0” interest loan through the Huntsville Assistance Program. HAP also screens applicants and schedules appointments for individuals who meet the following qualifications:

- Adult, 19 years or older
- Have a picture ID
- Resident of Madison County
- NO DENTAL INSURANCE
- Less than 150% of the poverty level

Nativity Outreach has supported the clinic since 2014. Your generous support of the Nativity Budget allowed Outreach to present the Clinic with a check for \$4000!

For more information about The Free Dental Clinic or to find out how you can help visit

<http://hsvfreedental.org/>.



FURNISHINGS NEEDED

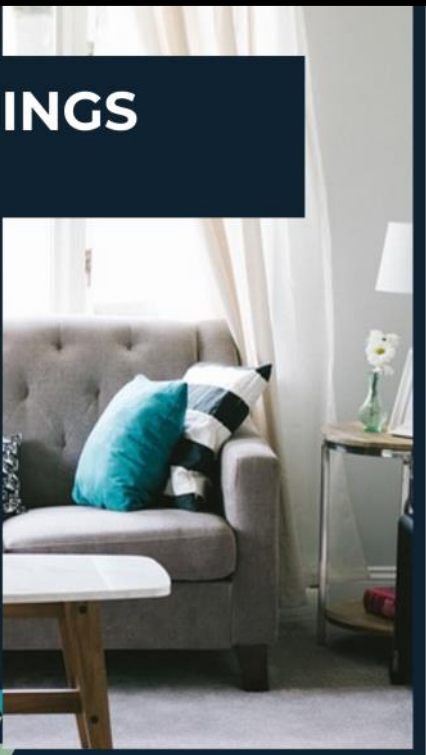
Do you have furniture, linens, or dishes you aren't using anymore,

or do you drive a large vehicle?

Would you like to help a formerly homeless person furnish a new home?

Email Rebecca Brothers at rebecca.m.brothers@gmail.com to get your items or moving help listed on the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless's furnishings database. We'll call you when we need your items – or when we need your help moving items.

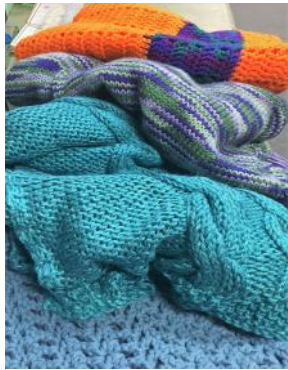




The Prayer Shawl Ministry

By Gail Brown

The Nativity Prayer Shawl ministry began in 2007. We meet from 1:00-3:00 pm each Tuesday afternoon in the Joffrion Hall Library. During our time together, we crochet and knit prayer shawls or lap robes (wheel chair use) for our priests to distribute as they see a need. Shawls are delivered to members of our congregation for occasions such as: grief, prolonged



Just a sample of the shawls that have been made

sickness, celebrations, and "just because." Our priests still deliver shawls to parishioners, but we also offer

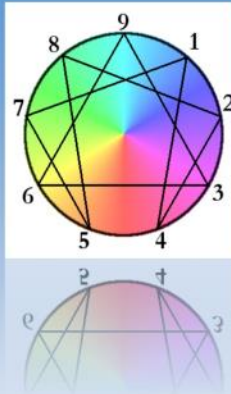
them to anyone who wants one, whether in our

congregation or not. We have helped start 5 other prayer shawl groups in other states.

We buy our own yarn, and have had many, many yarn donations from friends and families of recipients.

When yarn supplies get low, somehow more appears! (Sort of like the fish and loaves of bread!) One of our members says this group is her favorite: no roll call, no fees, no fines! You don't have to know how to crochet or knit, we can teach you! Making a shawl or lap robe is a very simple project. Everyone is welcome, we even have a few men who

are NASA engineers who make shawls for us and put them in the work room when complete. They do them while watching TV and say it is a stress buster for them! Each shawl is blessed by us in a hands-on prayer before giving to a priest or put in the work room. We invite you to join us. It is a very rewarding activity. Just show up; no reservation needed! Questions? Contact Gail Brown, 256.508.1561 or neptu96@aol.com.



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.

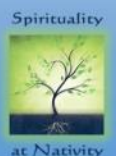
The Rev. Susan Sloan
Affiliate of Turning Point



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



What are you Reading?

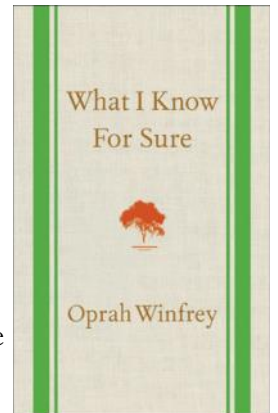
By Camille Sommers

What I Know for Sure by Oprah Winfrey

In her farewell letter, Mother Bonnie expressed her joy of worshiping at Nativity “within the tension of a rapidly changing world.” Her phrase reminded me of a line from the theme song from the 1970s television show, *Good Times*: “keeping your head above water, making a wave when you can.” We all face life challenges of some sort each day. Reading the Bible, and a practice of prayer and meditation, bring moments of peace in our chaotic lives. Yet sometimes we want insight from contemporary writers to uplift our spirits and help us cope.

I found such words of wisdom in Oprah Winfrey’s “What I Know for Sure” while browsing audiobooks on the local library’s Digital Media Zone. I wanted to listen to stories I hoped would encourage me, and Winfrey’s book fit the bill. It is a collection of articles from Oprah magazine, in which the author shares her own trials and how she handled them, the outcome, and what she learned. The articles are classified into topics: joy, resilience, connection, gratitude, possibility, awe, clarity, and power.

A common theme is listening to your inner wisdom and staying authentic to yourself. True happiness is achieved when we honor our individual guidance system. Then we can present to the world our best selves, and then we are equipped to serve our communities. Winfrey recalls moments when she prayed for God’s help, only to find that God waited on her to come to terms with a relationship and to resolve her problem. And she shares Maya Angelou’s simple prayer for all situations: “Say thank you.”



Do you have a book that you would like to tell us about? We are looking for contributors for *What are you Reading*, and we would love to hear from you! Please contact Laura Malone, lpmalonepi@gmail.com if you would like to write a book review for than upcoming issue of the Steeple.

Want to learn more about the Huntsville Madison County Public Library’s Digital Media Zone? Visit this link for more details: <https://dmz.overdrive.com/>

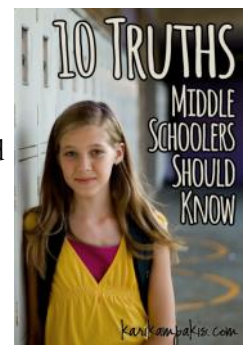
What Are Nativity Youth Reading?

Hey Nativity youth... are you an avid reader? Do you love to write? Do you have a favorite book or article you would like to share your thoughts on? If you answered yes then this new section is for you! Any youth interested in writing a 1-2 paragraph summary or review should contact vhinton@nativity-hsv for more details. We can’t wait to see what you write!

Something you might be interested in...

10 Truths Middle Schoolers Should Know by Kari Kampakis. Kari’s blog and books are a good resource for middle schoolers, especially girls. Check it out here:

<http://www.karikampakis.com/2015/08/10-truths-middle-schoolers-should-know/>



Get Involved This Fall

There are so many wonderful ways that you can become involved at Nativity this fall outside of Sunday morning. Whether you are looking for a Bible Study, outreach opportunity or quiet reflection there is a place for you at Nativity!

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING



We meet monthly, every third Tuesday September-May in Ridley Hall at 11:30.

Our first meeting will be Tuesday, September 18. Marilyn Lands, DOK

Program Support will present *The Fourth Commandment: Keeping Sabbath*, and we will examine the origins and history of this practice from both Jewish and Christian perspectives. The Sabbath is a gift to us from our Creator and should be a pause from our busy schedules and to-do lists and a time of rest and renewal. Participants will create a personalized Sabbath-Keeping Plan and receive a packet of resources. Cost for lunch is \$7. For more information please contact Joan East at 804-731-3429.

MISSION GUILD



The Mission Guild is a group of diverse women who meet monthly, September through May, the third Monday, at 10:00 AM in Joffrion Library. Our next meeting is Monday,

September 17. We welcome parishioners in ALL age groups! Our programs are led by a guest speaker and generally focus on outreach opportunities in our community, country or world. An ongoing project is providing inexpensive bingo prizes for the Aquarius Club, a weekly gathering of mentally challenged adults. Prizes are collected at each meeting. We have refreshments, and near Christmas have an off site luncheon. For more information contact Joan East at 804-731-3429.

MEN'S WEEKLY MORNING BIBLE STUDY

Come for coffee, fellowship and great discussions! Wednesdays at 7:15 beginning September 12th in Joffrion Hall Library. For more information contact John Hendricks at 256-539-4915.

MEN'S MONTHLY BREAKFAST



Beginning Tuesday, September 11 you are invited to join the men of Nativity (and friends) the second Tuesday of every month for a delicious breakfast and a guest speaker.

We meet in Ridley Hall at 7:00 am. For those interested, Morning Prayer is offered at 6:30 am in Bibb Chapel. This month we welcome Julia Nabors, Executive Director of the Community Free Dental Clinic as our guest speaker. Questions, please contact Allen Daniels allen.daniels@me.com, Robert Mullins rmullins@premierbankofthesouth.com or Bill Starnes abcstarnes@comcast.net.

REFLECTIONS BIBLE STUDY FOR WOMEN

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 9:15 to 11:15. Please let us know as soon as possible if you need nursery to ensure we have enough workers. Instructors for Reflections are Lisa Caprio, Shelley Whitney, Kim Hartley, Debbie Collette, and Connie Stephenson. Contact Lane Tutt for more information, 256-653-7200.

YOUNG ADULTS MARRIED OR SINGLE (YAMS)

The YAMS are a group of young adults at Nativity who meet on a monthly basis for fellowship and fun. Meeting dates and time vary, look for upcoming event notices in the Nativity Notes and Weekly Steeple.

MEN'S EVENING BIBLE STUDY

Led by Charles Morley. Wednesdays, September 26, October 3 and October 10 in Joffrion Library from 6:00 to 7:00 pm. More information about the topic coming soon!

GOOD BOOK BIBLE STUDY

Our study this fall will begin on Wednesday, September 5th in Joffrion Library from 1 until 2:30. Leaders: Susan Morley, Susan Sloan, Jeannie Robison and Pattie Cline. We are using *Making Sense of the Bible, Rediscovering the Power of Scripture* by Adam Hamilton. Questions, contact Carole Sue Goodwin wgood35801@aol.com.

Stewardship of Creation

What is the Diocese of Alabama Stewardship of Creation Task Force and what does it contribute to our diocese and local parishes?

Mission Statement:

The Stewardship of Creation Task Force exists to educate the people of the diocese, to promote eco-justice, and to provide opportunities for service in the stewardship of God's creation.

What we do:

The Task Force has approximately 12 members who are appointed by the Bishop to serve for three-year terms. The Task Force meets quarterly to plan events, prepare educational and liturgical materials, and coordinate activities. This group recruits parish Liaisons. The Task Force has produced curriculum materials for adult formation classes and has a website and a Facebook group to facilitate communication.

The Liaisons provide the function of linking the Task Force to the parishes in the diocese. Ideally, each parish will have at least one liaison. The liaisons are welcome to attend Task Force meetings but are non-voting participants. Liaisons keep abreast of materials and activities provided by the Task Force and communicate opportunities with their parishes. In turn, Liaisons communicate back to the Task Force about activities and projects in their parishes in order to share ideas and inspire other parishes to undertake Stewardship of Creation activities.

Over the years at Diocesan Conventions, the Task Force has:

- provided Stewardship of Creation messaging throughout the convention site
- had a booth to share Care of Creation information and to raise awareness of Diocesan Task Force projects
- presented workshops for convention delegates
- worked with Diocesan staff and Convention venue staff to encourage adherence to responsible Care of Creation practices



Important Note: Stewardship of Creation Sunday in the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama is the fourth Sunday in April. "At our 2008 Convention, we adopted the last Sunday in April each year as Stewardship of Creation Sunday in our diocese. This is a very important observance in our environmentally-challenged time," said the Rt. Rev. Kee Sloan, Bishop of Alabama. The last Sunday in April falls close to Earth Day and can be a time to appreciate God's beautiful and bountiful creation in church.

The Task Force has a newly updated website which now features a collection of bible verses about stewardship of creation and our new Theology Statement. Here is the website: <http://www.dioala.org/creation>. Do check us out!

CREATION...Let's Take Care of It!

Caring for God's Creation



GARDEN GUILD WORK DAY

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 6TH

8:30 AM

BRING YOUR GARDEN GLOVES!

Upcoming Events

HAP Sunday is September 2nd

Items needed include spaghetti sauce, canned fruit, cereal, soup, boxed meal kits, 1 pound bags of beans. Place items in HAP bins located in Ridley Hall and the breezeway.



American Guild of Organists presents Andrew Risinger

Sunday, September 9 This free concert at 4:00 pm in the church is open to all.

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

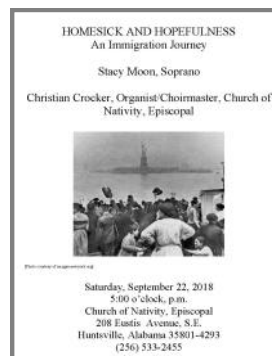
Stations of the Cross Thursday,

September 13 Meet outside Bibb

Chapel following the 6:00 pm

service. All are welcome! Questions

contact Joan East 804-731-3429.



Voice Recital

Saturday,

September 22

Stacy Moon, soprano, will present a voice recital, *Homesick and Hopefulness, An Immigration*

Journey at 5:00 pm in the Church. All are welcome to attend.

ALL SAINTS' MEMORIAL DEDICATIONS

All Saints' Sunday is November 4, 2018. Dedications for the garden guild are a wonderful way to support the work done by the garden guild members. These gifts help with the purchase of annual and perennial flowers, shrubbery, trees, and mulch. This is a splendid time to make a dedication in memory of a loved one. These gifts help to enhance the memorial garden and all other areas of the Nativity grounds.



PLEASE MAKE YOUR DONATION BY SUNDAY, OCTOBER 21ST TO BE INCLUDED IN THE SPECIAL ALL SAINTS SUNDAY MEMORIAL SERVICE INSERT.

Checks should be made to Church of Nativity with annotation, Garden Guild. If you have questions, please contact Lane Tutt 256-653-7200 or ltutt@nativity-hsv.org.

2018 Altar Flower Dedications

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____

Dates Available: 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:

Alex Fague
Cheryl Carter
Prentice White
John Lewis
Joe East
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 THOSE DEPLOYED WITH THE MILITARY:

US Navy, Kenneth Vandervoort
US Navy, Wyatt Perry

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CHILDREN:

9/1 Caroline Baugher
9/2 Emma Angelichio
9/3 Ashley Ortel
9/3 Courtney Ortel
9/3 Jed Rainey, III
9/6 Patrick Ahearn, Jr.
9/8 Rhett FitzGerald
9/8 Tate Dollman
9/9 Mary Ceil McClung
9/9 Samantha Rowe
9/11 James Mauldin
9/12 Micah Watts
9/13 Park Ellis
9/14 Sara Hutchens
9/15 Grace Twitty
9/15 Lillian Retzke
9/16 Reed Peters
9/19 Jefferson Retzke
9/23 Sarah Cote
9/25 Molly Manning
9/29 Oliver FitzGerald
9/29 Emily Rowe
9/30 Lillian Ritchie

PARISHIONER UPDATES:

Please note the following changes in your directory:

The Rev. Susan & Mr. Dwight Sloan
700 Owens Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801
Contact Emily Rodgers to update your information,
erodgers@nativity-hsv.org

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. Call the church office 256-533-2455 during normal business hours. In the event of a pastoral emergency after business hours, please call 256-533-7007. Thank you.

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.

VESTRY NOMINATION REMINDER

Vestry nominations will be accepted through **September 9, 2018**. There are several ways to submit your nominations:

- [Click or tap here](#) for the electronic nomination form.
- Forms & drop boxes are located on the Hospitality table in Ridley Hall and in the hallway by the Banister Room.
- Mail your nomination to:

The Church of the Nativity
Attn: Vestry Nominating Committee
208 Eustis Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801

Acolyte Schedule September 2018

Sunday September 2

8:00 C Sadie Anglin

10:00 A/M Nutt

C Ella Jane Duncan

T O O'Halloran, Macy Baker

T Phoebe Duncan,

T Caroline Brooks

S Mary Maddox Creech

AS Caroline Brooks

Sunday September 9

NOTE NEW SERVICE TIMES

8:45 A/M Ward

C Parker Sanders, E Warren

T Caroline Ayers, C Warren

T Drew Dodgen, Maggie Sanders

S Anna Katherine Ayers

AS Alana Boyce

11:00 A/M Nutt

C Margaret Foster, Luke Alison

T Madelyn Alison

T Mary Ellis Alison

S Catherine Hendricks

AS Emery Windham

Sunday September 16

8:45 A/M Putt

C Cam Pinson, Clay Walker

T Jacks McClung, Ellie Webber

T Thomas Aldag, Britt Webber

S Will Pinson, AS Alton Hudson

Sunday, September 16

11:00 A/M Sherrill

C JB Stockton, Dylan Chenoweth

T Betsy Bryant, Carter Watson

S Carter Watson, AS Evans Bryant

Sunday September 23

8:45 A/M Ward

C SW Hall, Joshua Huskey

T Ty Voisine, Daniel Starnes

T Alec Huskey, David Young

S Cooper Gunter

AS Thea Sommer

11:00 A/M Nutt

C R Kamelchuk, Patrick Ahearn

T L Kamelchuk, SC Hornsby

S L Kamelchuk

AS Caroline Hornsby

Sunday September 30

8:45 A/M Putt

C Sam Hartley, Eliz Evans

T Clara Keener, Vivian Hinton

S RJ Ragland, AS Anna Mullins

11:00 A/M Sherrill

C Betsy Bryant, Park Ellis

T Lucy Ellis, Evans Bryant

S Park Ellis, AS Evans Bryant

Sunday, September 30 Evensong

Arrive no later than 4:45 PM

A/M Nutt

C Alice Malone

T SC Hornsby, C Hornsby

Thurifer Tess Lambert

Please look over this schedule carefully, as you might be assigned two Sundays. Some of you are listed for multiple positions that can be done concurrently in a service. Some of you older folks are scheduled as torches so you can guide novices on their first Sunday. Thanks for helping, as I'm sure you were thankful for someone to guide you along!

Parish Financial Report

Parish Financial Report

Period Ending 07/30/2018

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 72,773.02	\$ 93,260.12	\$ 610,309.02	\$ 652,820.60
Plate	\$ 6,639.75	\$ 17,083.37	\$ 54,657.27	\$ 119,583.35
Other Revenues	\$ 1,020.44	\$ 9,083.26	\$ 33,641.46	\$ 63,583.30
TOTAL	\$ 80,433.21	\$ 119,426.75	\$ 698,607.75	\$ 835,987.25
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 16,258.60	\$ 24,827.26	\$ 137,341.18	\$ 173,790.70
Personnel	\$ 59,408.17	\$ 69,381.08	\$ 400,983.38	\$ 485,667.60
Other Expenses	\$ 22,188.01	\$ 25,218.43	\$ 156,927.64	\$ 176,528.85
TOTAL	\$ 97,854.78	\$ 119,426.77	\$ 695,252.20	\$ 835,987.15
NET	\$ (17,421.57)	\$ (0.02)	\$ 3,355.55	\$ 0.10

Worship Schedule

WORSHIP SCHEDULE September 2018 - AEK (updated 8/22/18aek)

Sunday, September 2nd (15th Sunday after Pentecost)

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
8:00 am	McCrickard		Joan East	Mary Hendricks	Lee Hicklen
10:00 am	McCrickard	McCrickard	Tom Devenish, Mike Ward, Virginia Kobler	Mickey Ellis, Robbie Shafer	Clay Sherrill

Wednesday, September 5th

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Sloan		Cheryl Watts

Thursday, September 6th

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
6:00 pm	Monroe	Serio	Lewie Bates

Sunday, September 9th (16th Sunday after Pentecost)

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Monroe	Serio	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Monroe	Goldsmith	Lane Mickle, Lee Hicklen, Mike Ward	Lynn Sparks-Lewis	Aubrey Tycer
11:00 am	Monroe	Goldsmith	Sally Ann Culver, Laura Pierce, Walter Thames	Elaine Hamner, Liza Q. Wirtz	Ronnie Rogers

Wednesday, September 12th

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Monroe		Joan East

Thursday, September 13th

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
6:00 pm	Holland-Shuey		Sally Ann Culver

Sunday, September 16th (17th Sunday after Pentecost)

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Monroe		John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
8:45 am	Holland-Shuey	Bonner	Ralph Shuey, Charles Warren, Pat Sampson	Camille Sommer	Shirley Hale Stucky
11:00 am	Foreman	Bonner	Deborah Baker, Hanns Billmeyer, Joan East	Stacy Moon, Buddy Moon	Rhonwyn Watson

Wednesday, September 19th

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Holland-Shuey		Mary Hendricks

Thursday, September 20th

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
6:00 pm	Sloan		Charles Morley

Sunday, September 23rd (18th Sunday after Pentecost)

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45am	Sloan	Sloan	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
8:45am	Monroe	Akin	Lee Hicklen, Mike Ward, Lane Mickle	John Nelson	Joan East
11:00am	Sloan	Akin	Virginia Kobler, Walter Thames, Peter Cobun	Pam Briggs, Ted Briggs	Melissa Kirkindall

Wednesday, September 26th

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
12 noon	Holland-Shuey		Mary Hendricks

Thursday, September 27th

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM
6:00 pm	Foreman		Sally Ann Culver

Sunday, September 30th (19th Sunday after Pentecost)

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45am	Monroe	Serio	Don Lambert	Don Lambert	Don Lambert
8:45am	Sloan	Hudson	Robert Dunn, Kaaren Dunn, Linda Watts	Jennifer Dill	Fred Beck
11:00am	Foreman	Hudson	Deborah Baker, Tom Devenish, Richard Spera	Mary Johnson, Ron Hogan	Adalene Bledsoe

USHERS

7:45am	Peter Barber
8:45am	Josh Kelly, Jeff Ellis, Tom Ford, Melissa Helton, Bill Joyner, Gripp Luther, Grant Thomson
11:00am	Jim Douthit, Bobbie Graham, Cheryl Watts

ALTAR GUILD

2 nd	Judy Vann, Rebecca Brothers, Jill Chadwick, Linda Watts
9 th	Connie Stephenson, Jewell Reynolds, Wanda Cobb, Sara Little, Peggy Serio
16 th	Nancy Colin, Emily Moody, Anne Carter, Sue Johnson, Beth Pugh
23 rd	Debbie Joyner, Caffey Litkenhous, Kaaren Dunn, Sophia Rowe, Alice Lanier
30 th	Mary Johnson, Peggy Serio, Sue Johnson, Linda Watts, Jill Chadwick

CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE

August 27 th - September 2 nd	September 3 rd - 9 th	September 10 th - 16 th	September 17 th - 23 rd	September 24 th - 30 th
McCrickard	Serio	Monroe	Sloan	Holland-Shuey

VESTRY Member Of The Day

September 2 nd	September 9 th	September 16 th	September 23 rd	September 30 th
Shari Williams	Jason Angelichio	Donald Christian	Don Evans	Margaret Gleason
Dottie Crawford	Wendy Wilson	Dorrie Nutt	Michael Shipley	Kim Huskey

VERGER SCHEDULE

September 2 nd	September 9 th	September 16 th	September 23 rd	September 30 th
	Prentice White	Prentice White	Prentice White	Prentice White
Prentice White	Lea Ann Barnett	Robert Dunn	Don Lambert	Terry Clevenger
Terry Clevenger	Terry Clevenger	Terry Clevenger	Lea Ann Barnett	Hud Heaton

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



Vestry member Wendy Wilson
& husband Curt Benzle helping
out at Rally Day

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

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