

THE STEEPLE

Church of the Nativity

April 2019



FELLOWSHIP



FUN



SERVICE



MEN'S RETREAT



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Associate Priest

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

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Communications

Amy Kennedy

Worship & Ministry Assistant

Regina Milton

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Sally Stockton

Kitchen Coordinator

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Adult Christian Formation

Prentice White

Verger/ Wedding Coordinator

Marlin Wilder

Sexton

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, April 22, 2019

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.



YAMS having fun together on St. Patrick's Day!



From left: Charlotte Olson & Tim Tolar working hard at the Mardi Gras dinner .



From left: Elizabeth LaJeunesse and Christian Crocker rehearse for their Organ Benefit Recital.

Keep us in the know!

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

Contact Emily Rodgers 256-533-2455 ext.204 or erodgers@nativity-hsv.org.

THE STEEPLE

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On the cover...

More than 40 men attended the annual Nativity Men's Retreat at Camp McDowell.

Send your pictures from Nativity activities and events to: vhinton@nativity-hsv.org.

HOLY WEEK & EASTER

Palm Sunday, April 14

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

8:45 am Procession of Palms, The Passion Narrative, Holy Eucharist
with Children's Chapel*

11:00 am Procession of the Palms, The Passion Narrative, Holy Eucharist*
(gather in the courtyard 15 minutes prior to the service for the Procession of Palms)

Monday, April 15

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

Tuesday, April 16

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

Wednesday, April 17

12:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

6:00 pm Stations of the Cross, Church

Maundy Thursday , April 18

6:00 pm Foot washing and Holy Eucharist, Church (incense used during this service)

Following the service, there will be a prayer vigil in Bibb Chapel until 11:00 pm. The Vigil will resume
at 6:00 am on Good Friday and conclude at 11:00 am.

Good Friday, April 19

12:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy, Church

6:00 pm Good Friday Liturgy, Church*

The Church will remain open for quiet reflection and prayer between services.

Holy Saturday, April 20

7:30 pm Great Vigil of Easter with Holy Baptism and Holy Eucharist*
(incense used during this service)

Remember to bring a bell for the Great Noise! Reception following the service in Ridley Hall.

Easter Day, April 21

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

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

Children's Easter Egg Hunt following 8:45 am service in the courtyard

11:00 am Holy Eucharist* (incense used during this service)

*Indicates nursery available during service.

THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, EPISCOPAL ~ 208 EUSTIS AVENUE ~ HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

A History of Centering Prayer at Church of the Nativity

Compiled by Lora Arnold and Jim Payne

Centering Prayer is a contemporary form of prayer of the heart, a method of reducing the obstacles to the gift of contemplative prayer and of facilitating the development of habits conducive to responding to the inspirations of the spirit. Since 1984 Contemplative Outreach International's primary goal has been to assist churches and places of prayer establish an on-going contemplative prayer ministry. It provides Introductory Workshops in Centering Prayer, silent retreats, and trains teachers of Centering Prayer and facilitators for the Centering Prayer groups.

Centering Prayer at Nativity had its beginnings in the Spiritual Development Committee and with Martha Joffrion. In the early 90s, while visiting in Nashville with her daughter Rebecca and son-in-law, Joe, Joe told Martha about his prayer group at Christ Church Cathedral and invited her to go with him to a meeting. This turned out to be a centering prayer support group led by Rev. Tom Ward, then Rector at Christ Church. Martha was impressed with the prayer and the meeting. She talked with Tom about the prayer practice, borrowed some of his tapes by Contemplative Outreach, and ordered copies of Fr. Thomas Keating's book, *Open Mind, Open Heart* to share with the Spiritual Development Committee at Nativity. Three people on that Committee, Lou Nerren, Betty Giardini and Mari Zimmerman, reviewed the book and wanted to learn more about the practice. They contacted Tom Ward who referred them to Sister Mary McGehee at Sacred Heart Monastery in Cullman. Sr. Mary and Tom were both presenting introductory centering prayer workshops at that time in their respective areas, he in Tennessee and she in Alabama. Accordingly, a workshop was scheduled for March 1995 at the Church of the Nativity. The workshop included a weekly follow-up meeting for six weeks to view the videos of Fr. Thomas Keating, founder of Contemplative Outreach International. In these videos, Fr. Keating talks in depth about the centering prayer practice, its origins, method, and difficulties that might be encountered along the way, as well as the fruits of an established prayer practice. At the end of this introductory program, those who remained chose to continue meeting once a week on Tuesdays at 5:30 as a centering prayer support group.

Lou Nerren and Jim Payne were the first facilitators. Since that time, five others have served as facilitators for the Tuesday group: Lora Arnold, Sue and Jerry Miller, Betty Giardini, and Brenda Chynoweth. While this group is a Church of the Nativity offering, word of it spread quickly and soon people from several area churches and denominations participating regularly. The format called for a gathering time where each one was encouraged to offer a comment about their experience of the prayer in the previous week. This provided both support and accountability which was especially helpful since we were all new to the practice of silent prayer. Our aim as individuals was to develop a practice of two 20-minute sessions each day. We then had a brief reading from the *Psalms for Praying: An Invitation to Wholeness* by Nan Merrill, which was followed by 20-minutes of silent prayer ending with a slow recitation of the Lord's Prayer. Next, we read aloud for about 30 minutes, pausing frequently for comments and discussion. Our first book study was *Open Mind, Open Heart* by Thomas Keating. This is the same basic prayer group meeting format that we use today with a few minor changes. The group early on recognized that while the Guidelines for Centering Prayer were simple, maintaining a daily practice was not necessarily easy. We recognized that new people coming

into the group would need training in the basics of the prayer. Thus, the aim of the group was not to become an advanced group, but to remain open to all regardless of prior knowledge or experience of the prayer. This was and still is an open group that will never be too experienced not to return to the basics.

In 1996, Lou Nerren was the first in the group to attend Formation Training at a monastery in Beech Grove, Indiana. Lou returned energized and eager for others in the group to also have this experience, a week of intense training in presenting the talks for an introductory workshop. An offering box was put out at each meeting for donations that would assist with the cost of training. It was also in 1996 that a second group was initiated by Betty Giardini. This second group met on Friday mornings and would continue through September 1997. August 27, 1996 marked our first Annual Evening with Sister Mary. This evening, open to all, consists of a prayer, dinner, and a presentation by Sr. Mary. The date for this has since moved to January, but the event continues to be popular in the community and well attended.

By 1998 the group was financially able, with assistance from the Spiritual Development Committee, to sponsor seven of its participants (Maggie Little, Jim Payne, Betty Giardini, Louise Marty, Basye Holland Shuey, Pearline Gilpin, and Lora Arnold) in attending Formation Training in Cullman. This gave us a core of trained presenters who could lead 3-day retreats and offer Introductory Workshops at Sacred Heart Monastery and St. Mary's Retreat Center in Sewanee, as well as offer workshops elsewhere in the North Alabama area as requested. Since that time four others have gone through the Formation Training: Sue Miller, Jerry Miller, Brenda Chynoweth, and Linda Lou Hardison. In August 1999, Betty Giardini started a Thursday noon Lectio Divina group. Lectio Divina is an ancient method of developing the friendship of Christ by using scriptural texts (usually a Gospel) as topics of conversation with Christ. Thus, we had two established prayer groups that would remain stable as ongoing offerings: one group meeting on Tuesday afternoons at 5:30 with a focus on a prayer, accountability, with book study and a second meeting (cont. page 6)

TUESDAYS AT NOON

LENT 2019

The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal

“LENT— a season of Spiritual Growth”

30 minute service of Noonday Prayer – Sermons by visiting clergy



SERIES PREACHERS

April 2

The Rev. Katherine Harper

Curate, St. Thomas Episcopal Church, Huntsville, AL

April 9

The Rev. Tom Crittenden

Interim Rector, St. John's Episcopal Church, Decatur, AL

Box Lunches (\$7.00 each) will be available in Ridley Hall following the services. Reservations for the lunches are requested by Monday noon, (256)533-2455 or you may register online at nativity-hsv.org.

The Church of the Nativity, Episcopal ~ 208 Eustis Avenue ~ Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Thursdays at noon with a focus on Lectio Divina based on the gospel reading for the coming Sunday and leading into 20 minutes of silent prayer.

Just as individuals are known not only by their words, but also by their actions, so too are groups. In the summer of 2002, Brenda Chynoweth, Lora Arnold, Maggie Little, Betty Giardini, and Jim Payne, at the request of Sr. Mary, prepared and presented a 9-month program, “The Art of Contemplative Living,” at Sacred Heart Monastery under the auspices of Contemplative Outreach, Birmingham. This group met one Saturday a month for a day-long program that included prayer, a talk with a focus on one or more aspects of contemplative living, yoga, and sharing our experiences of the prayer and its effects in everyday life.

In 2004, Lora Arnold offered a Thursday night group meeting at 6:00 in the Chapel. This was offered to provide a second evening meeting time for those who wanted to participate in a support group but could not get to the Tuesday 5:30 meeting. This group continued until August, 2008.

The Centering Prayer group has been and continues to be active in a number of areas: group projects have included helping with the construction of an indoor labyrinth, and being present at the church on Friday evenings and Saturday mornings for anyone who wanted to walk the labyrinth. For the Maundy Thursday vigil in the chapel, we light the votives and make sure that at least one of us is present at all times. It is also our job to see that the chapel is locked at midnight and the votives extinguished, cleaned up and put away. A member of our group from St. Thomas Episcopal, Linda Lou Hardison, worked diligently for several years to establish a prayer group at her church. This group meets on Thursdays and many of them also remain active in the Nativity prayer groups. The St. Thomas prayer group works closely with us in providing an Advent Quiet Day. Hosting this event is rotated annually between St. Thomas and Nativity. In the Summer of 2014, the Tuesday group began offering “Dinner and a Movie” once a month in June, July and August. This consists of prayer, dinner, and a movie followed by a brief discussion. This is open to all, and many who do not participate in the group enjoy this summer program. In January of this year, Jim Payne began offering a once a month mini-intensive with 3 periods of back-to-back sits with a contemplative walk between the first two prayer

WEDNESDAY NIGHTS IN LENT

Grace strikes us when we are in great pain...Sometimes at that moment a wave of light breaks into our darkness, and it is as though a voice were saying, You are accepted. -Paul Tillich

5:30 pm Dinner

6:00 pm Presentation

Ridley Hall

April 3rd

The Rev. T. Michael Goldsmith

Rector, Church of the Nativity, Huntsville, AL

April 10th

The Rev. Geoffrey Evans

Rector, Holy Trinity Episcopal Church, Auburn, AL

Dinner reservations requested, nursery reservations required by noon on Tuesday. Reservations can be made by calling the Church office, 256-533-2455 or online at nativity-hsv.org

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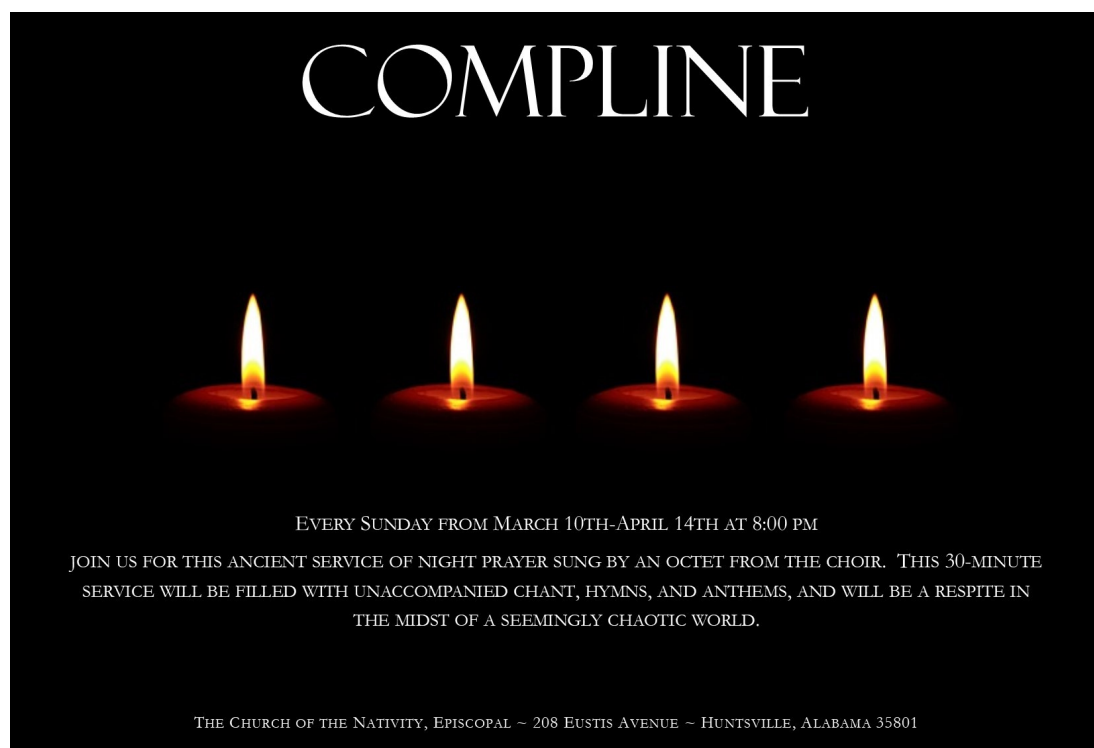
periods. This is intended for those who have a Centering Prayer practice and feel invited to deepen their experience. This group meets on the second Saturday of each month from 8:00 am to 9:15 in the Chapel. Participants enter in silence, remain in silence, and leave in silence. Those who wish to get together afterward meet at a local restaurant for “Coffee and Conversation.”

Sue Miller has received training from Contemplative Outreach in teaching the Welcoming Prayer. The Welcoming Prayer is a method of consenting to God’s presence and action in our physical and emotional reactions to events and situations in daily life. The Welcoming Prayer helps to heal the wounds of a lifetime by addressing them where they are stored – in the body, and as they occur throughout one’s daily life. It contributes to the process of transformation in Christ initiated in Centering Prayer. The Welcoming Prayer is generally offered as a 3-day retreat in Cullman. This year, Sue was invited to present this prayer at a prison in Florida. The inmates there were already practicing Centering Prayer, and were very grateful to her for coming and spending time with them.

So why is this group still going strong at Nativity twenty-three years after being formed? Betty Giardini summed up very concisely the things that have helped us thrive all these years as follows:

- Strong leadership, early on
- Support of the rector and staff
- Financial commitment from the group and the church
- Core of committed leaders who are faithful to the practice
- Most importantly, the invitation of the Holy Spirit

We especially want to thank Bobbie Graham, Nativity Archivist, for granting us full access to the Nativity Archives, the source of much of the above information.



Learn Pray Play

2018-19 Nativity Sunday School

Easter at Nativity

We look forward to celebrating Easter with your family! On Easter morning, children are invited to bring their mite boxes and flowers to church for the flowering of the cross (mite boxes are available in the children's Sunday school rooms). At the 8:45 service, plan to come a few minutes early. Children meet in Ridley Hall before the service and process into church together with flowers in their mite boxes to fill a special cross at the front of the church. Following the 8:45 service, the annual Easter Egg hunt will be in the courtyard. Children collect empty eggs (like the tomb) then trade them for an Easter treat. Four and unders have their own hunting area. Kids can search for golden eggs containing special prizes. Remember to bring your baskets! If you have any questions, contact Mary Coe, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.

WEDNESDAYS IN LENT FOR KIDS

Goodness Gracious

Discovering God's grace through story and play

Two more meetings: April 3 and 10

Children 4 years old through 6th grade, please join us Wednesday evenings in Lent as we unravel what grace means using books, art, legos, games and more.

5:30 supper in Ridley hall

6:00 children's program on Angel Lane

Dinner reservations requested; 256.533.2455 or nativity-hsv.org

Nursery reservations required by noon on Tuesday

EASTER EGG HUNT

EASTER SUNDAY

- ⦿ FOLLOWING 8.45 SERVICE IN THE COURTYARD
- ⦿ BRING YOUR BASKET TO CHURCH
- ⦿ COLLECT EMPTY EGGS AND TRADE THEM FOR AN EASTER TREAT!
- ⦿ FIND THE GOLDEN EGG FOR A SPECIAL PRIZE!

QUESTIONS, CONTACT MARY COE, MCOE@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG OR 256.533.2455



Vacation Bible School

Have fun in your PJ's! Please join us for The Great (un)Slumber Party VBS: God Has A Dream For You. VBS will be June 24-26 from 1 to 4 in the afternoon. All children age 4 years through rising 6th grade are invited for three afternoons of exploring the night: the night sky, night animals, night workers. We'll also hear Bible stories about God's dream for each us, play games, make crafts and have fun being together. Fifth and sixth graders will have their own mission-based program meeting in the LOFT. The night before VBS starts (June 23), we'll kick off with PJ's and movie. Pajamas welcome but not required all week! VBS is easy and fun with lots of help. Adults and youth 7th grade and up are welcome to sign up.

Questions, Email Mary Coe mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.

Can't wait for VBS!

[Register Here](#)

To volunteer: parents, sign up during registration; other adults and youth, **[Sign-up Here](#)**

THE GREAT (UN)SLUMBER PARTY VBS ★
God has a dream for you

Dates:
June 24-26
1.00 to 4.00 pm

Register:
tinyurl.com/2019NativityVBS

Three afternoons of sleepover fun. PJ's welcome!

We love help! Parents, sign up during registration.

Teens and other adults, volunteer at tinyurl.com/2019VBSvolunteer

VBS is free for all children ages 4 years through rising 6th grade

Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org



Mark your calendar!!

April 7 4:00-5:30 pm JYC
 5:00-6:30 pm EYC

April 14 4:00-5:30 pm JYC
 5:00-6:30 pm EYC

April 21 NO EYC Happy Easter!

April 28 4:00-5:30 pm JYC
 5:00-6:30 pm EYC

For more information about upcoming youth activities and events please contact Amy Brooks, abrooks@nativity-hsv.org.



April 28th at 12:15
Panera Bread Whitesburg
May-Senior Celebration TBD

Wednesdays in Lent Youth Study

The Creed: What Christians Believe and Why?

Wednesday April 3rd & 10th

(we will not meet the week of Spring Break)

5:30 pm in the LOFT

Join us to explore and discover why we say the same thing every week, what it means and how we are called to live out the words we say.

Questions, Amy Brooks abrooks@nativity-hsv.org 256-533-2455

Spiritual Development Trip to Montgomery

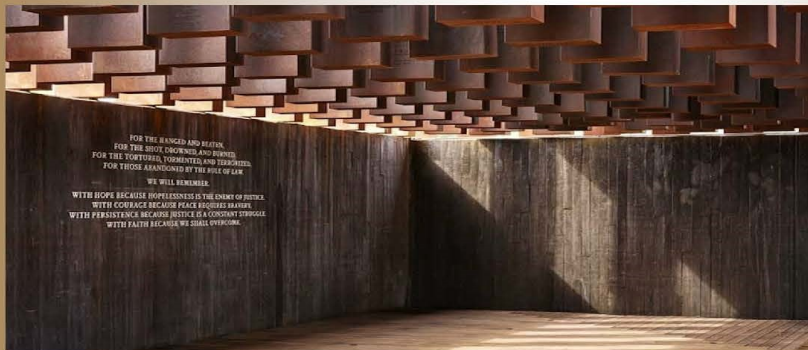
By Tom Lydon

Make Reservations for Trip to Montgomery!

On Wednesday, April 24 we will travel to the Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice in Montgomery. We have reserved a bus that can carry 55 people. We presently have 23 people who have made a reservation, so there is still plenty of room. We must finalize our reservation at the Museum and Memorial and confirm the size of the bus in the next week, so if you have been considering going it is important that you make your reservation now!

We will leave Church of the Nativity at 8:00 am, arriving at the Museum for an 11:00 am reservation. Following the tour of the Museum, you may go to one of the numerous restaurants in the area. Restaurant choices include Central Restaurant, SaZi Italian restaurant, a Mexican restaurant, Japanese restaurant and several others are within a block or two of the Museum. After lunch, we can board the bus or walk (15 to 20 minutes) to the Memorial. We expect to leave the Memorial around 4:00 pm, getting back to the Church by 7:00 pm. Snacks will be served on the bus.

This is a wonderful opportunity, and we hope you will consider joining us. If you have any questions about the trip, please contact Tom Lydon, thomasflydon@aol.com. To register, call the church office 256-533-2455 or visit nativity-dioala.org.



NATIVITY
TRIP TO
THE LEGACY
MUSEUM &

NATIONAL MEMORIAL
FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 24, 2019

\$65 PER PERSON

The Spiritual Development Committee at Nativity invites you to Montgomery, AL to visit The Legacy Museum and the National Memorial for Peace and Justice. We will depart from Nativity at 8:00 am by charter bus and return to Huntsville by 8:00 pm. Cost of the trip includes bus transportation, entry into the museum, and snacks on the bus. Attendees will be responsible for purchasing their own lunch at one of the restaurants located near the museum.

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

Questions: thomasflydon@aol.com

YAMS at Nativity

This past year the YAMS, Young Adults Married and Single Group, has been growing and meeting regularly on the first Monday night at the Green Bus for fellowship and community. The group has begun to get involved with the larger community this past fall by organizing a diaper drive to great success.

During this Lent, the group will be meeting in a Sunday School class led by Rose Veal. They will be reading and discussing the daily Lenten devotional book, *Lent is not Rocket Science*. All who are interested are welcome to attend. The class meets upstairs in Joffrion Hall at 10:00.

Rose Veal will be leading and organizing the Monday night YAMS events and helping to plan other events for the group. On Saint Patrick's Day, the group enjoyed meeting at the Green Bus after services for some Irish Soda bread and green beer!

Other upcoming events that are in the works are more community outreach projects, Pub Theology Evangelism, possible field Trip to the Abbey Coffee House Church in Birmingham and pool party!

YAMS will be meet Monday, April 1st at 5:30 pm at the Green Bus. Join us and feel free to bring your best Bible jokes for some good April Fools day humor, and if the spirit moves you a snack to share with the group.

If you have any questions, feel free to email Rose at rosieveal76@gmail.com or call her at 404-579-8738!



The YAMS at Green Bus celebrating St. Patrick's Day.

Meet Rosie Veal

Greetings! What a joy to officially be a part of the Nativity family. I have been visiting the church since last spring with my fiancé, Justin Eby and his daughter Annabelle. This past December, I was finally able to make the move to Huntsville and now call it my home.

I moved here from Douglas, Georgia; a small South Georgia town where I was a postulant for holy orders in the Diocese of Georgia. After several meetings with Bishops and Commissions on Ministries, I was able to transfer to the Diocese of Alabama. I am a seminarian at Sewanee and part of the Bi-Vocational Priesthood program. The ACTS program, Alternative Clergy Training at Sewanee, allows people to attend seminary for two weeks twice a year and study at home as well as participate in online learning modules. I am over halfway through this two year program.

I have two children who you may see visiting from time to time. Molly, 19, is studying cosmetology at the Aveda Institute in Atlanta, and Henry, 21, attends art school in Portland, Oregon at The Pacific Northwest College of Art. I am originally from Savannah, Georgia, so if anyone is going to visit my hometown, I would be happy to give you good recommendations of the best places to eat!

My background is in education and I hold a Masters in Special Education. Before I moved here, I taught GED classes at the technical college. I am passionate about community outreach which transfers to my ministry and evangelism. I appreciate the warm welcome I have received at Nativity, and I look forward to being a part of the mission of Nativity and the Gospel as I grow in my calling.

Right:
Rosie Veal

Below: Henry,
Rosie, Justin, Molly
and Annabelle



Flower Dedications

There are available dates for Sunday morning flower dedications for 2019. It is also time to get in your Easter Flower Dedications! Forms for Easter dedications should be turned in by Friday, April 12. Easter dedications are \$20 each. If you have any questions, or would like more information please contact Andrea Vandervort, 256-539-2673.

Beautiful Easter
flowers from 2018
arranged by the
Flower Guild.



2019 Altar Flower Dedications

Your Name: _____ Phone #: _____
Dates requested: _____ (Available dates September 1,8,22, October 20 & November 2)
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



2019 Easter Flower Dedications

Easter dedications are \$20 each

Your name as it is to be listed in the service leaflet: _____

Phone #: _____

Name for dedication: _____

Please choose one:

___ in loving memory of... ___in thanksgiving for... ___in celebration of... ___in honor of...

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION. Please complete this form in full with your check made payable to:

Nativity Flower Guild and mail :

Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801

If you have questions you may call Andrea: 256-539-2673. The dedication deadline is Friday, April 12.



Stewardship of Creation

By Freya Neely

Let's look at the theme of the Diocesan Convention held a few weeks ago, and reflect on Bishop Kee Sloan's address as an encouraging spiritual aid in our Lenten journey.

"On February 8-10, the 188th Convention of the Diocese of Alabama gathered at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell... The theme of the convention was "The earth is the Lord's for he made it: come let us adore him" and was the final year of a three-year cycle based on Presiding Bishop Michael Curry's three foundations of the Jesus Movement. This year, the convention was invited to consider how we are called to be stewards of God's creation." (-from The Alabama Episcopalian coverage of the recent Diocesan Convention)

Bishop Sloan stated, "It is a privilege for us to gather here at wonderful Camp McDowell to strengthen this community that holds us up and holds us together, as we address our theme of the Stewardship of Creation. We are more mindful of Creation while we are here, I think, and so we are called to be more mindful of our responsibility as stewards.

I think we see our role as God's stewards in different ways: as a duty, as a joy, as an obligation, as a habit, as a burden sometimes, as a way to make a living for some of us. It is all of those things, but *that's not the whole story.*"

See Convention coverage on Diocesan website dioala.org for "the whole story" and Kee's complete address with all of his wonderful stories. Text is in the Alabama Episcopalian, and video on the Diocesan convention website.

Kee continues: "It is my privilege to serve in this part of God's Church. And it is your privilege, too. So here's my idea...if we persist in thinking of our work in the Church as a chore, as a burden, as an obligation, as something somebody else is making us do, we are doomed to fail. It's not my church. It's not yours, either, in case you're confused – it's God's Church. We are stewards of our part of God's holy Church, that wonderful and sacred mystery; that is our privilege.

"...It's not our world, either – it's God's world. We are God's stewards of this fragile earth, our island home. Our focus in this Convention is on this part of our stewardship, this part of our privilege. If we think of our being stewards of this part of God's Creation as a burdensome chore, we will not serve the Lord as well as we should. We will sit by and watch the ecosystem spoil, and the gift God has given us will be corrupted. I hope the Episcopal Church will continue to take a lead in this effort, to recognize the peril our world is in, and be faithful in our role as stewards of God's Earth. I am proud of the work we do at Camp McDowell to raise awareness of this growing problem, but we need to do more: we need to do everything we can....

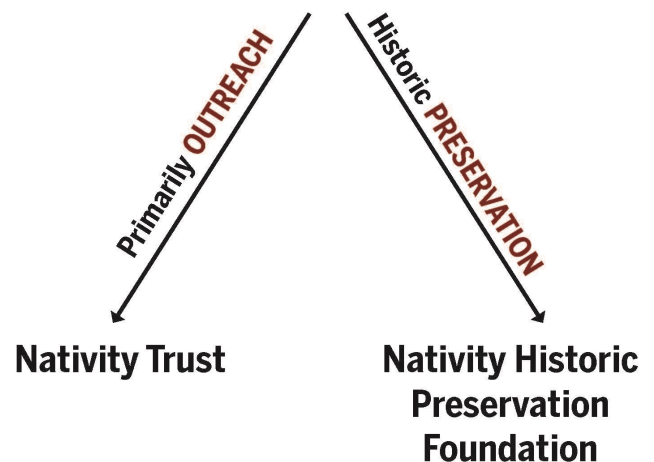
"Being good stewards of God's Creation is not an economic choice, not a political choice, but a faithful response to the love and grace of God. Even our lives are

not our own, but gifts we have received: the Spirit of God puts life in us; and we are stewards of God's life in us. This is a privilege we share: to be the stewards of God's holy Church, stewards of God's fantastic Creation, stewards of the lives God gives us."



Two Significant Ways to Remember Nativity in Your Will

Designation in Your Will for Nativity



These are both **endowments**.

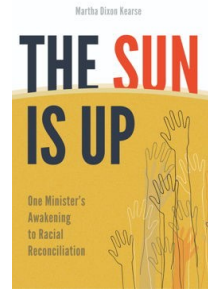
Endowments are investment vehicles that allow the **principal to grow** while yielding annual income for further investment and/or designated expenditures. **It is a gift that keeps on giving.**

What Are You Reading?

By Barbara Bonner

The Sun Is Up! Reverend Martha Dixon Kears

The Sun Is Up! A new book by the Reverend Martha Dixon Kears, is a truly honest and humble account of one woman's journey toward bridging the gap between races. I am especially excited to share this book with you in part because of its thought-provoking message, but also because Martha is a dear friend. We have known each other since our children were small and life was hectic. Her book is an easy read and at times, I felt like I was back in Martha's old office at St. John's Baptist Church in Charlotte, indulging in, what at that time was a rare moment of adult conversation.



Martha proposes the idea of hospitality as “good theology”. Using her own life story, she not only shares her awakening to circumstances of “others” (those who look different on the outside), but invites us as Christians to join the venture toward a community not only of welcome, but of reconciliation and acceptance. The sun is indeed up! It is a new day. How will we answer God's call?

The Sun Is Up! Can be purchased through Smyth and Helwys books www.helwys.com or 800-747-3016.

Greene Street Market

The 9th year of the Greene Street Market at Nativity opens Thursday, May 2 at 4:00pm. We hope you will be there for the fun and the fresh local vegetables, meats, cheeses, breads, flowers, popsicles, and prepared foods. For all these years, Nativity parishioners have supported the market generously with their time and talents. If you would like to volunteer at the outdoor market or the store, please e mail us at greenestreetmarket@gmail.com. We'd love for you to join us.



the
Greene
Street
Market
at Nativity

All of the proceeds from the market help fund outreach programs of Nativity. In 2018, Greene Street gave \$20,000 to Nativity's Outreach.

You can help with this important mission. For a gift of \$500, you (or your business) can sponsor your own day at the market. You will get back \$250 of the money in \$5 Market Bucks (50 vouchers) which you can use at the market or give to family, friends, customers, whoever.

You can also become a member of the Friends of Greene Street, by sending a donation in any amount to Greene Street Market 208 Eustis Ave Huntsville, AL 35801. We can also put your donation on your card through the store.

Greene Street Market is a 501 (c)(3), so all donations are tax deductible.

Hope to see you in the store or in the market.

Making An Impact

The following is a letter received from Village of Promise regarding the donation given by Church of the Nativity Bazaar Committee.

Dear Reverend Michael Goldsmith,

We were honored to have received \$19,070.00 from the proceeds of your Bazaar. Words cannot express our most sincere appreciation!

Your donation has allowed us to enhance several of our programs to include, our weekend meals and snacks program. When Village of Promise is closed, some of our young scholars do not eat 3 nutritious meals a day. We now send weekend back-packs filled with pre-wrapped snacks and small meals to support their nutritional needs over the weekend. Thank you for ensuring that none of our young scholars are hungry over the weekend.

Many of our scholars have not had the opportunity to engage with our Huntsville and Madison County Community beyond a few small blocks of their neighborhood. Now, because of your gift, we are able to expose our scholars and their families to our broader community through field trips and other hands on experiences. Safety is our number one priority at Village of Promise. Many of our young scholars have experienced several traumas early in their life. We work diligently to ensure that the learning environment is safe for each scholar physically and emotionally. Your donation has allowed us to purchase additional safety and video surveillance equipment. This new equipment is assisting to ensure appropriate safety measures are implemented proactively versus reactively.

Lastly, we are extremely proud of receiving our first national award by Toyota and the National Center for Families Learning as a Toyota Learning Model Partner (2015-2018). Now, the National Center for Families Learning has identified Village of Promise as a Model Demonstration Program! This is only possible because of the prayers and support of our village partners such as The Church of Nativity.

Again, we appreciate the investment The Church of Nativity is making in this important work.

Rachel Ballard, PhD
Executive Director



Upcoming Events

YAMS Monday, April 1st we will gather at 5:30 at Green Bus Brewery, next door to Nativity. It's a good time to breathe a little and get centered. See you there, and bring a friend!

HAP Sunday is April 7 Items needed include rice, dry beans, canned fruit, boxed potatoes and meals, mixed vegetables -spaghetti sauce and spaghetti noodles. Place items in HAP bins located in Ridley Hall and the breezeway. Thank you!



Men's Monthly Breakfast Tuesday, April 9th at 7:00 am in Ridley Hall for breakfast and a presentation. Simple Eucharist at 6:30 in Bibb Chapel.



The Mission Guild We will meet on Monday April



15, 2019, in Joffrion Hall at 10:00 am. Our speaker will be Julia Neighbors, Director, Huntsville Community Dental Clinic. Vera Allen, Martha Sue Hutchens, and Ann Moses will bring refreshments. Please bring Bingo prizes to donate to the Huntsville Aquarius Club. If you have questions call Jimmy Lou Horton, 256-883-0175.

SAVE THE DATE! The Nativity Trust and Historic Preservation Foundation will host a Lunch and Learn on **Sunday, May 5th** following the 11:00 service in Ridley Hall. More information coming soon!

Acolyte Schedule

SUNDAY APRIL 7

8:45 A/M M Ward

C Britt Webber, Cameron Pinson

T Ellie Webber, Daniel Starnes*

S Will Pinson

AS Alana Boyce

11:00 A/M C Sherrill

C Margaret Foster*, Luke Alison

T Madeline Alison, Mary Ellis Alison

S Carter Watson

AS Luke Alison

SUNDAY APRIL 14 PALM SUNDAY

8:45 A/M N Putt

C Josh Huskey, Park Ellis

T Alec Huskey, Lucy Ellis

T Macy Baker, Phoebe Duncan

S Ella Jane Duncan

AS Thea Sommer

Nativity Banner: Ella Jane Duncan

11:00 A/M C Sherrill

C Betsy Bryant Thur: Tess Lambert

T SC Hornsby, Caroline Hornsb

S Dylan Chenoweth

AS Evans Bryant

Nativity Banner: Evans Bryant

WEDNESDAY, APRIL 17

Stations of the Cross A/M Sherrill

6 pm **Arrive by 5:45 for instruction

C Elizabeth Evans*

T Caroline Brooks, Olivia O'Halloran

MAUNDY THURSDAY APRIL 18

A/M M Ward

6 pm ** Arrive by 5:40 for instruction

C JB Stockton

Thurifer David Young

T Caroline Ayres, Anna Mullins

S Anna Katherine Ayres

AS Clara Keener

EASTER VIGIL SATURDAY APRIL 20

A/M Nutt

7:30 pm ** Arrive no later than 7:10

C Cameron Pinson

Thurifer Sam Hartley

T Vivian Hinton, Olivia O'Halloran

S Alice Malone*

AS Will Pinson

SUNDAY APRIL 21 EASTER SUNDAY

****Arrive 20 min prior for instruction**

8:45 A/M Putt

C Elizabeth Evans*, Parker Sanders

T Daniel Starnes, Drew Dodgen

S Cooper Gunter

AS RJ Ragland

Banner M Sanders, P Ahearn, A Ahearn

11:00 A/M Nutt

C JB Stockton, Emery Windham

T Anne Limbo, Carter Watson

S Alice Malone*

AS Carter Watson

Banners D Chenoweth, Malone

Thurifer Margaret Foster*

SUNDAY APRIL 28

8:45 A/M C Sherrill

C Sarah Whelden Hall, Evelyn Warren

T Alton Hudson, Jacks McClung

S Sadie Anglin

AS Charles Warren

11:00 A/M D Nutt

C Thomas Aldag, Riley Kamelchuk

T Mary Ellis Alison*, Madelyn Alison*

S Laura Kamelchuk

AS Thomas Aldag

This month contains many extra services—several of you are scheduled more than once.* We are in a time of transition, learning new service procedures right along with our clergy, so thank you for your patience! If you find yourself unable to serve, please find a substitute and let us know who will be taking your place. Thank you all for your part in this important ministry at Nativity!

Clay, Dorrie, Mike & Nina
Acolyte Masters

Financial Report

Parish Financial Report Period Ending 02/28/2019

	CURRENT MONTH	BUDGET for PERIOD	ACTUAL YTD	BUDGET YTD
Pledges Received	\$ 94,666.59	\$ 97,509.83	\$ 240,722.62	\$ 195,019.70
Plate	\$ 10,927.60	\$ 9,746.37	\$ 19,008.85	\$ 19,492.70
Other Revenues	\$ 2,594.37	\$ 8,791.63	\$ 4,250.06	\$ 17,583.30
TOTAL	\$ 108,188.56	\$ 116,047.83	\$ 263,981.53	\$ 232,095.70
Diocesan, School of Theology, & Outreach	\$ 23,463.38	\$ 22,255.58	\$ 42,415.14	\$ 44,511.20
Personnel	\$ 59,552.54	\$ 68,223.37	\$ 126,634.99	\$ 136,446.80
Other Expenses	\$ 27,638.92	\$ 25,568.75	\$ 52,742.45	\$ 51,137.50
TOTAL	\$ 110,654.84	\$ 116,047.70	\$ 221,792.58	\$ 232,095.50
NET \$	(2,466.28)	\$ 0.13	\$ 42,188.95	\$ 0.20

Prayer Requests & Parish News

PRAYERS FOR HEALING IN BODY, MIND OR SPIRIT:

Bud Allen
Gideon Hargraves
Susan Marenka
Alyce Smith
Caroline Bevel
Fred Stucky
Ed Litkenhous
Nancy Haile
Ed Rush
Asta von Tiesenhausen
Nancy Davis
Roger Brown
Gaye McCoy
Maureen Cooper
Rose Anne Shearer
Betty Gerlach
Ashley Lindley
Prentice White
Leigh Wahl
Ron Cook
Beth McCormick
Margaret Lichty
Jody Mowrer
Ted Bledsoe

FOR THE DEPARTED:

Nannette Stockton Yarn
Ronald Dahl

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE BIRTH OF:

Jack Ryerson Epps, grandson of Donna & Stephen Epps and Great grandson of Ann Epps

WE WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Shauna Schafer
3513 Wildwood Drive
Huntsville, AL 35801
256-651-9332

Rie Allen Linton
13004 Astalot Drive
Huntsville, AL 35803
256-457-6048

Kay Tate
1914 Colice Road SE
Huntsville, AL 35801
423-903-3275

WE GIVE THANKS FOR THE APRIL BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CHILDREN:

4/1 Brayden Durnya
4/4 Sarah Laughlin Fleming
4/4 Maggie Jones
4/4 Nannette Aboudonia
4/6 Harry Cantey
4/7 Carter Watson
4/8 Sarah Catherine Miller
4/9 Mary Kate Brooks
4/10 Caroline Steigner
4/10 Trey Schiber, III
4/10 Ralph Hornsby, III
4/14 Abby Ham
4/14 Jack Ham
4/14 Luke Ham
4/14 Sam Rice
4/14 Sadie Anglin
4/14 Foster Fleming
4/16 Austill Baker
4/17 Hill Angelichio
4/17 Ava Allen
4/18 Bradford Hall
4/18 Alex Ahearn

4/18 Mary Ellis Alison
4/18 Madelyn Alison
4/19 Luke McClendon
4/19 Fenway Goeke
4/19 Cate White
4/22 Emme Roderick
4/22 Mark Scheidker
4/22 Lily Cantey
4/23 Clara Williams
4/24 Isabella Panico
4/26 Kylie Meyer
4/27 Eliza Hendrickson
4/28 Arianna Gunnar
4/29 Brooks Whitehead
4/30 Thomas Aldag

PARISHIONER UPDATES:

Heather & Justin Stroud
3200 Hastings Road
Huntsville, AL 35801

SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT:

The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI Huntsville) Invites you to a fundraiser celebrating the contributions of Nativity parishioner William H. (Bill) Goodson, Jr. MD and The Mental Health Center Founders on Saturday, April 13 from 6:00-9:00 pm at the Jackson Center. All proceeds will benefit NAMI. Please call 256-417-3830 or visit www.namihuntsville.org for more information.

April Worship Schedule

Worship Schedule April 2019 - updated 3/25/19 Amy E. Kennedy

Wednesday, April 3 rd					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Goldsmith		Cheryl Watts		
Thursday, April 4 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Sloan		Susan Brown		
SUNDAY, April 7 th - The Fifth Sunday in Lent					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Goldsmith		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Sloan	Goldsmith	Lewie Bates, Charles Warren, Mike Ward	Camille Sommer, Jennifer Dill	Fred Beck
11:00 am	Sloan	Goldsmith	Hanns Billmayer, Virginia Kobler, Laura Pierce	Pamela Briggs, Ted Briggs	Lee Hicklen
Wednesday, April 10 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Sloan		Joan East		
Thursday, April 11 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Goldsmith		Sally Ann Culver		
SUNDAY, April 14 th - <i>Sunday of the Passion</i> - PALM SUNDAY					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Sloan		Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
8:45 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Lane Mickle, Polly Blalock, Allen Daniels	Melissa Kirkindall, Lynn Lewis	Aubrey Tyser
11:00 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Sally Ann Culver, Peter Cobun, Tom Devenish	Stacy Moon, John Nelson	Buddy Moon
Monday, April 15 th - <i>Holy Week</i>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 Noon	Sloan	Sloan	Lee Hicklen		
Tuesday, April 16 th - <i>Holy Week</i>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 Noon	Goldsmith	Goldsmith	Darlene Ehinger		
Wednesday, April 17 th - <i>Holy Week</i>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 Noon	Sloan	Sloan	Susan Brown		
Thursday, April 18 th - <i>Maundy Thursday</i>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lectors	
6:00pm		Serio	Linda Watts, Mike Ward	Mary Johnson, Lee Hicklen	
Friday, April 19 th - <i>Good Friday</i>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lectors	
12 Noon		Goldsmith	Hanns Billmayer, Pat Sampson	Darlene Ehinger, Susan Brown	
6:00pm		Goldsmith	Tom Devenish, Peter Cobun	Liza Q. Wirtz, Marcia Cobun	
Saturday, April 20 th <i>Holy Saturday, The Great Vigil of Easter</i>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lectors	Intercessor
7:30pm	Goldsmith	Sloan	Linda Watts, Polly Blalock	Buddy Moon, Robbie Shafer	Susan Brown
SUNDAY, April 21 st - Easter Sunday					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Goldsmith	Goldsmith	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 am	Sloan	Goldsmith	Lewie Bates, Darlene Ehinger, Charlie Warren	Amy Creech, Caroline Brooks	Melissa Kirkindall
11:00 am	Sloan	Goldsmith	Peter Cobun, Pat Sampson, Lee Hicklen	Marcia Cobun, Liza Q. Wirtz	Rhonwyn Watson
Wednesday, April 24 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 Noon	Goldsmith	Goldsmith	Susan Brown		
Thursday, April 25 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00pm	Foreman	Foreman	Sally Ann Culver		
SUNDAY, April 28 th The Second Sunday of Easter					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:45 am	Sloan	Sloan	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Lane Mickle, Joan East, Laura Pierce	Darlene Ehinger, Susan Brown	Clay Sherrill
11:00 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Hanns Billmayer, Deborah Baker, Walter Thames	John Conover, Elaine Hamner	Adalene Bledsoe
Usher					
7:45am	Peter Barber				
8:45am	Pat Goodson, Larry Gunter, Rich Spera, Drew Tutt, Anna Warren				
11:00am	Michael Shipley, Lou Durnya, Benita Hayes, Tom Lydon, Ronny Crawford, Rebecca Brothers				
Altar Guild					
7 th	Mary Johnson, Gail Brown, Nancy Colin, Sophia Rowe, Anne Carter				
14 th	Sara Little, Alice Lanier, Beth Pugh, Jewell Reynolds, Wanda Cobb, Caffey Litkenhous, Melva Ochoa				
21 st	Linda Watts, Rebecca Brothers, Peggy Serio, Emily Moody, Judy Heacock, Judy Vann, Debbie Joyner				
28 th	Nancy Colin, Mary Johnson, Sara Little, Gail Brown, Anne Carter, Melva Ochoa				
Clergy On Call Schedule					
April 1 st - 7 th		April 8 th - 14 th		April 15 th - 21 st	
Goldsmith		Sloan		Sloan	
				Serio	
				Goldsmith	
Vestry Member of the Day					
April 7 th		April 14 th		April 21 st	
April 28 th					
Jason Angelichio		Paul Bonner		All Available	
Wendy Wilson		Michael Shipley		All Available	
Verger Schedule					
April 7 th		April 14 th (Palm Sunday)		April 21 st (Easter Sunday)	
April 28 th					
Lea Ann Barnett		Don Lambert		Lea Ann Barnett	
Hud Heaton		Hud Heaton		Terry Clevenger	

Holy Week Vergers Schedule:

Maundy Thursday: April 18th - 6:00pm: Hud Heaton
 Good Friday: April 19th - Noon & 6:00pm: Terry Clevenger
 Easter Vigil: April 20th - 7:30pm Robert Dunn

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

2019 VESTRY

WARDENS' COUNCIL

Senior Warden-Grant Thomson

Junior Warden-Wendy Wilson

Treasurer-Jason Angelichio

Assistant Treasurer-Don Evans

Finance Chair-Greg Whitehead

Clerk of the Vestry-Shari Williams

Member at Large-Paul Bonner

VESTRY LIAISONS

Adult Christian Formation -Nick Pate

Building & Grounds– Don Evans

Children's Christian Formation-Teresa Pinson

Communications and Technology-

Shirley Hale Stucky

Hospitality and Welcoming-Jeff Johnson

Ministry of Worship and Music-Don Lambert

Outreach-Virginia Kobler

Stop by the new Vestry Bulletin Board, located outside the kitchen door. In addition to pictures of your vestry members and their focus of ministry, each month's financial report and meeting minutes are posted.

Parish Entities-Michael Shipley

Special Events Ministry-Virginia Caruso

Spirituality & Pastoral Care-Margaret Gleason

Stewardship-Darren Malone

Trust and Endowments-Paul Bonner

Youth Christian Formation– Elizabeth Foster

Youth Representative-Sara Hutchens