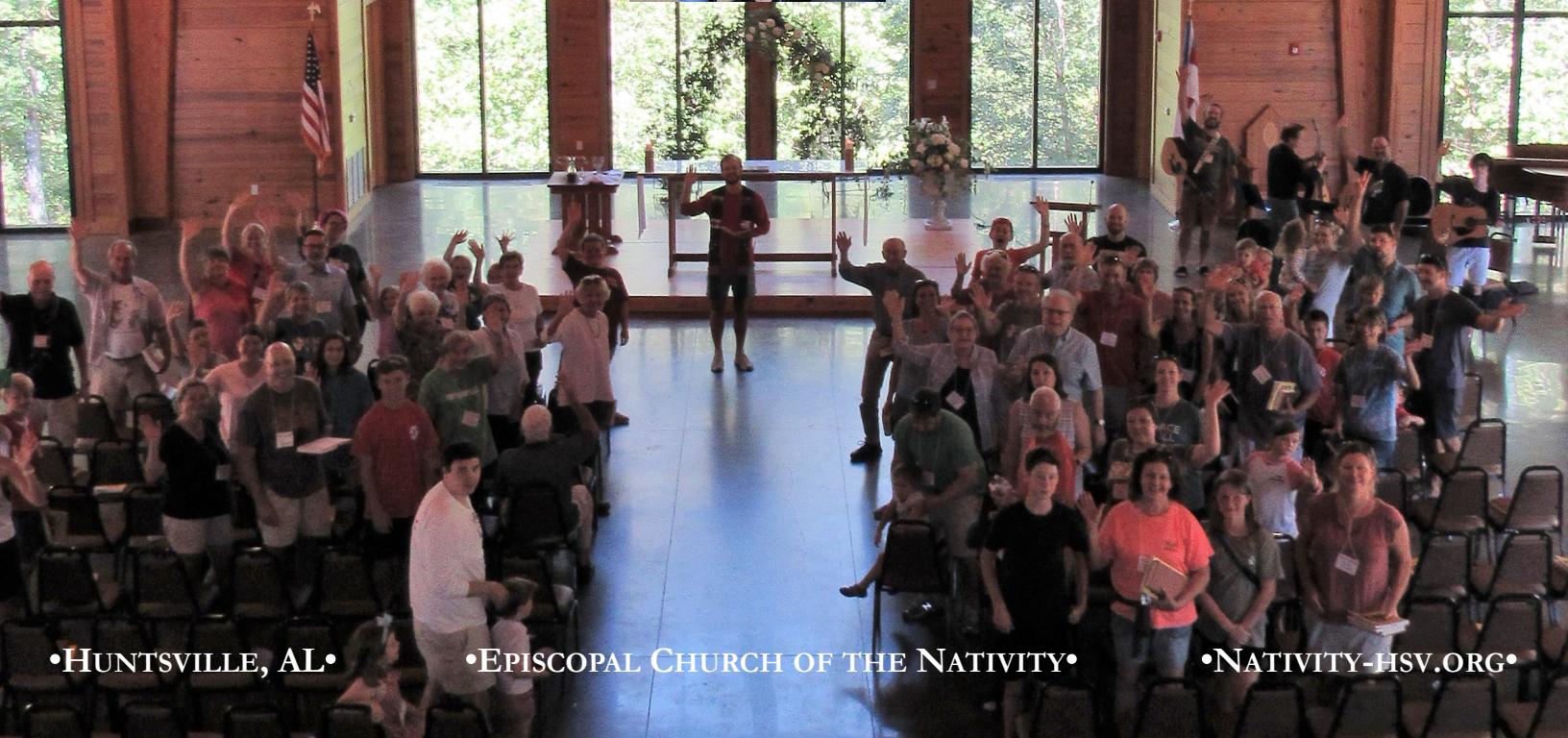


# THE STEEPLE

Church of the Nativity

October 2019





## **CLERGY & STAFF**

**The Rev. T. Michael Goldsmith**

Rector

**The Rev. Susan Sloan**

Priest Associate

**The Rev. Worth Stuart**

Priest Associate

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

Deacon

**Amy Brooks**

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

**Lee Anne Bryant**

Assistant Children & Youth Ministries  
Coordinator

**John Buyse**

Property Manager

**Mary Coe**

Children's Formation

**Austin Cook**

Finance Manager

**Christian Crocker**

Choirmaster and Organist

**Vicky Hinton**

Communications

**Amy Kennedy**

Worship & Ministry Assistant

**Regina Milton**

Weekend Sexton

**Emily Rodgers**

Administrative Office Assistant

**Sally Stockton**

Kitchen Coordinator

**Lane Tutt**

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](mailto:vhinton@nativity-hsv.org)

The deadline for the next issue is

**Monday, October 28, 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.*



JYC having a little Wednesday night fun!



The Rector's Bible Study class on Sunday mornings in September was a hit!



District Day at Nativity hosted by the Diocese of Alabama Youth Department.

## **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](mailto:erodgers@nativity-hsv.org).

## **THE STEEPLE**

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### **On the cover...**

Pictures from Parish Weekend at Camp McDowell courtesy of Tom Lydon.

Send your pictures from Nativity activities and events to: [vhinton@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:vhinton@nativity-hsv.org).

# VESTRY NOMINATING PROCESS

Your Vestry Nominating Committee (Grant Thomson, Bill Starnes, Margaret Devenish, Donald Christian, Alice Lanier, David Collette, and Camille Sommer) will be forming this year's slate of 6 recommendations for election at our parish meeting on January 5, 2020. We are excited about the changes in process this year – to better acknowledge the role of spiritual leadership of the Vestry and to improve communication about and during the process.

In past years, nominations would consist of a sheet of paper with a name and a few identifying details (Bill Starnes; usher, cooks biscuits, something to do with men's ministry) and a phone call from the committee asking about their interest. This year, each potential candidate will spend a few minutes completing an application that sets forth the expectations for Vestry participation and talks about the spiritual development and leadership that are so important to that role; including questions asking them to consider their own spiritual gifts.

Instead of secretly dropping a name in a box as in years past, we are asking parish members to talk to those you think would make good Vestry members, share the gifts you see in them and encourage them to participate. Even if they choose not to apply, these conversations considering and discussing their spiritual gifts will be a blessing. And whether it is another parishioner encouraging you or that small voice within yourself that says you should do this, we look forward to your participation.

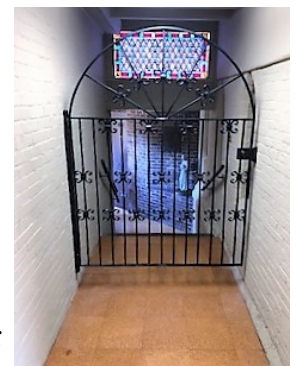
Vestry nominations will be accepted through November 1st. Interested individuals should complete the applicant questionnaire. Questionnaires will be available in the church office and in the entryway of Ridley Hall. An electronic version is available on the church website. The questionnaire describes the responsibilities of serving on the vestry. All responses will be confidential and only used by the Vestry Nominating Committee to form this year's slate of candidates. Questionnaires will be treated confidentially by the nominating committee. Please contact our current senior warden, Grant Thomson (256-468-8611), Committee Chair, Bill Starnes (256-656-1189) or committee member, Margaret Devenish (256-683-1028) for additional information. Again, your prayers and participation are greatly appreciated.

[CLICK HERE](#) to downloadable PDF Questionnaire   [CLICK HERE](#) to complete online Questionnaire

## Opening The Door

By The Rev. Michael Goldsmith

Throughout the centuries, churches have offered a place of respite for all people in need of peace and comfort. Churches do not exist for their parishioners alone, but also for the communities in which they are a part. Throughout history sanctuaries have been just that, a sanctuary, a place of refuge and safety. Beginning Monday, Oct. 7<sup>th</sup> Bibb Chapel will be open during regular business hours as a place of prayer for our community. As you may have noticed, we have installed a beautiful iron gate at the Ambulatory stairs (where the acolyte lockers are) so that our visitors will only have access to the chapel. Thank you to the Vestry and Staff for their leadership, vision, and faithfulness to the words of Jesus who said, "Come to me, all you that are weary and are carrying heavy burdens, and I will give you rest." (Matthew 11:28)



Pictured above: the new gate at Bibb Chapel

# Stewardship 2020

It's exciting to see how you and your fellow parishioners at the Church of the Nativity can engage in developing clear, visionary goals for our future at this year's listening sessions, Parish Retreat, and in conversation with each other from day to day. This vision will guide our church as it nurtures life-giving, joyful ministries focused both inside and outside of our parish walls. This year's pledging theme is *2020 Vision: Supporting the Vision*, reminding us that our financial support in the form of a pledge to the Operating Budget not only enables the current mission and ministries of Nativity, but also lays the foundation for future work in our church. For our vision to become a plan, and then reality, we commit our first fruits to the task.

It might seem like our use of money has little bearing on our spiritual life, but Jesus teaches that the way we spend our money is actually a window into our heart. In Matthew 6:21, Jesus stunningly said: "For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also." We can look to our spending to show what we truly value.

We ask that you prayerfully consider pledging, and make your pledge by In-Gathering Sunday, October 27th. To make your 2020 pledge, please use one of the following options:

- Complete the pledge card you will receive in the mail this week and return by mail or place in the collection plate during any service.
- Use the Shelby Next Membership on your desktop or smartphone and Select CREATE NEW PLEDGE in the Giving menu.
- Visit [nativity-hsv.org](http://nativity-hsv.org) and click on [GIVING](#).

Please pledge your support in our church, to established ministries and new ones, to securing the future we envision together. Prayerfully consider making your financial pledge before or on In-Gathering Sunday, which is October 27, then plan to join us Sunday, November 24 at 5:00 pm in Ridley Hall for our annual Thanks for Giving celebration!

If you have any questions, or would like to further discuss making a financial pledge to Nativity, please don't hesitate to get in touch with our Financial Administrator, Austin Cook [acook@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:acook@nativity-hsv.org) or 256-533-2455 ext. 219.

Faithfully,

Your Stewardship Committee

Fred Beck, Walt Bradford, Sandy Brown, Catherine Courtney, David Hardy, Ron Hogan, Andrew Hyche, Darren Malone, Elizabeth Pate and Nicholas Pate



## Your pledge in action at Nativity...Pledging vs Plate

Non-pledge funds collected in the plate each week do significantly support Nativity's life and mission and are greatly appreciated. However, pledges are critical because they enable our Vestry, the parish's lay governing board, to plan responsibly and to establish a parish operating budget for the coming year, just as you might establish a personal budget based on your expected income. We also believe pledging is an important Christian spiritual practice, enabling us to grow intentionally in gratitude and generosity in every part of our lives.



# All Saints Memorial Donations

By Lane Tutt

All Saints' Sunday is November 3, 2019. 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 FRIDAY, OCTOBER 25th 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](mailto:ltutt@nativity-hsv.org).

## CHORAL EVENSONG FOR ALL SAINTS' SUNDAY



Preces and Responses-Kenneth Leighton

Magnificat and Nunc dimittis "St. Paul's"-Herbert Howells

Justorum animae-Gabriel Jackson

Psalm 148-Herbert Howells

November 3rd, 2019 5:00pm

Church of the Nativity

Christian Crocker, Organist and Choirmaster

Kenneth Miller, Organist

Church of the Nativity

208 Eustis Ave., Huntsville, AL 35801

256-533-2455



# CHILDREN & YOUTH MINISTRIES

## News from the



**O**ur staff of trained, loving caregivers are ready to welcome your children to the nursery. Several of our staff have worked in the nursery for over 10 years. They love being with the children each week and seeing them grow up. They also ensure that the highest standards of cleanliness and care are upheld. The nursery is available on Sunday mornings for children from 6 weeks through 4 years old. Along with time to play, each week the toddlers and preschoolers hear a Bible story and the preschoolers enjoy a response activity. Nursery is available during Wednesday night suppers and programs and at other times as indicated by an asterisk on the calendar.

Please take a moment to register your nursery age child. We ask that children are re-registered every fall to make sure we have up to date information on file.



## Fall Break

## Sunday School Classes

**D**uring the Sunday school hour (10:00 to 10:50) on October 6, all children 3 years old through 6th grade will meet together in the Crafts room on Angel Lane for a one room school house. Young people in 7th-12th grades will meet in the LOFT for a game of Stump the Priest!

## Fall Fling at McDowell

**I**t's all the fun of SUMMER CAMP...in the fall! Missing camp and need a break from busy weekends? Never been to camp, but would like an easy way to check it out? FALL FLING is for you! Join us in Clear Creek ("Lower Camp") for group games, hiking, singing, s'mores and friends! Halloween costumes are encouraged for the Pasture Party and friends are ALWAYS welcome! Come enjoy for this awesome weekend at wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell!



**Ages:** 5th - 6th Graders

**Cost:** \$135 per person. Financial assistance available.

**Check In:** Friday, October 25 - 27, 2019 at 5pm  
(Dinner is at 6:30)

**Check Out:** closing worship service with Eucharist, Sunday, October 27 at 9:00 am. All family members and guardians are welcome to attend. If you are unable to attend, checkout is at 10:30 am

[REGISTER HERE!](#)

## EYC Breakfast

**C**alling all 11th and 12th graders! Let's do breakfast! Meet Amy and Alec at Little Rosie's on October 18th at 7:30 am for food and fellowship. No money needed!



learn pray play

2019-20 Church of the Nativity Children's Formation



## Happening #75

**H**appening #75 will take place at Nativity November 8th-10th! Happening is a spiritual retreat (much like Cursillo) for teenagers in 10th-12th grades. There will be approximately 100 teens and staff staying at Nativity throughout the weekend. As the host parish, we are responsible for meals, snacks, and finding host houses for showers. Please look for signups in the upcoming Weekly Steeples to help with this important ministry. We will need participation from the whole parish to make this event successful!

Questions? Please contact Amy Brooks,  
[abrooks@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:abrooks@nativity-hsv.org)

## Corn Maze Fun

**O**ctober 20th—Annual JYC/EYC trip to the Corn Maze at Lyon Family Farms. Meet at the church at 1pm. We will return at approximately 6:30pm. Drivers Needed! Contact Amy 256-509-7783



Marcia Coburn (pictured in middle) with the JYC group after they enjoyed the wonderful dinner she made for them!

## Family Supper & FUN

Our monthly parish supper in Ridley Hall will be on Wednesday, October 30 at 5:30. Hot dogs and Halloween fun for all ages provided by the YAMS! Registration requested by noon on Tuesday but not required.

\$5.00/person; \$20.00 max per family.

[Register HERE](#) or call 256-533-2455.


# HALLOWEEN FUN


## 5.30 - OCTOBER 30

**Q:** What do YAMS\* plus Family Dinner Night the day before Halloween equal?

**A:** A very YAMS Halloween Carnival! Wear your costume, play games, win prizes! Fun for all ages.

\* Young Adults Married and Single

5.30 Family dinner with hotdogs & fixings	Dinner reservations requested <a href="mailto:Nativity.diola.org">Nativity.diola.org</a> , 256.533.2455
6.00 Halloween fun with the YAMS	Nursery available
Family dinner \$5.00 a plate; \$20.00 max per family	 help us collect Halloween candy & small game prizes. Donation bins on the stage in Ridley Hall



## YOUTH GROUP MEETING TIMES

JYC : 5th-6th grades Wednesdays 5:30-7pm in THE LOFT

EYC: 7th-8th grades Sundays 5-6:30pm in THE LOFT

Senior EYC: 9th-12th grades Sundays 6-7:30pm in THE LOFT

The **LOFT** is located on the 3rd floor of Joffrion Hall.

Not getting the Youth Weekly Updates? Questions? Contact Amy Brooks, [abrooks@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:abrooks@nativity-hsv.org).

**Looking for a way to help with the youth program at Nativity?** We can help! Volunteers are needed to provide meals each week for JYC & EYC. Please click on the links below and sign up today!

<https://tinyurl.com/JYCdinner2019> <https://tinyurl.com/EYCdinner2019>

NO EYC OCTBER 6th or JYC the 9th  
due to Fall Break!





# NATIVITY OUTREACH IN ACTION

## Haiti Mission Team Update

By Bob Serio

**W**e have not been able to support the Haiti Medical Mission with people due to the unstable political environment in Haiti, but we have been able to support them financially.

Your Outreach donations have paid for a local Haitian medical team to visit 2 remote villages and provide basic medical care. The director of the Lespwa Timoun Clinic, Dr. Donald Delva, reported that the team visited Boukan Boyer, a small village 24 miles from Port au Prince and provided care to 150 patients, 82 of whom were under the age of 14 including 14 infants as well as 21 pregnant women. The following week, the team visited the remote mountain village of Crochu and saw 172 patients and provided pre-natal care to 18 women. These are all patients that would not otherwise be seeing a physician or midwife to help with the pregnancy.

This coming year, the Outreach Committee has agreed to help fund the Krik Krak program which provides meals to school children twice a week (for some, this is the only meal for the week) and will help support about 500 kids.

Once it becomes safe to travel, we will try to resume our regular medical mission team support. We will keep the parish informed.

Thank you for your support.



## Habitat House: Volunteers Needed

By Bill Giardini

**W**ork is getting ready to begin on the new Habitat House and volunteers are needed. No construction experience required! We will work on Tuesdays, Thursdays and Saturdays (except for holidays) beginning sometime in October, through the end of the year. The house is located

at 6317 Maywick Avenue in Huntsville. Anyone who would like to volunteer to be part of this outreach ministry please contact Bill Giardini, 256 698-5307 or [giardiniw@bellsouth.net](mailto:giardiniw@bellsouth.net).



**Habitat**  
for Humanity®

# First Stop

By Rose Veal Eby

Within a month of moving to Huntsville, it became a near crisis situation when I started looking for a hairdresser. Thankfully, due to a recommendation from a fellow church member at Nativity, the crisis was averted and I scheduled an appointment at Terrabacio Salon. There I met Taylor. As Taylor and I began to get to know one another, I told her about the outreach activities in the tent community that I was involved with at First Stop. Taylor shared that she and her husband, a barber, used to be involved in giving haircuts to homeless people when they lived in Miami and asked if I could help them get involved here in Huntsville.

Following that conversation, we were able to coordinate schedules and arrange a morning for both of them to give haircuts at First Stop. The people were elated. Many had not had a professional haircut in years. They felt pampered and dotted on. Beyond that, both Taylor and her husband Cody posted on their social media ways to support the mission of First Stop and will be collecting items at their salons and barber shop. Within the span of 3 hours, the two of them gave 18 haircuts and showered the people with kindness. This is being the hands and feet of Christ in the world. This is using our gifts and talents to serve those who are in need. Let us never forget how blessed we are by what God has given us in what we can accomplish in our talents and how we can use those gifts to help others on their journey.



## Get Involved

By Michael Shipley

The mission of the North Alabama Coalition for the Homeless (NACH) is to educate the public regarding homelessness, and to coordinate and facilitate the efforts of agencies, communities and concerned citizens into a seamless Continuum of Care (CoC) to affect positive solutions to homelessness in Madison, Morgan and Limestone counties of North Alabama.

Each fall NACH holds its Annual Blanket & Cold Weather Gear Drive that runs from October through the cold weather season. New and gently used blankets, jackets, sweaters, gloves, toboggans, socks, thermal underwear, sleeping bags, anything that you would want to have outside during the winter season. The donations are distributed to First Stop, Inc., Grateful Life Community Church, and Manna House where they are given to our homeless neighbors.

Church of the Nativity will once again be collecting donations for this drive beginning next month, so while the weather is hot now, please be thinking about what is in your closet that could help someone in need stay warm this winter! Please bring items to Ridley Hall and place in the NACH bins.

Touching Lives.... Making a Difference





# The Incredibles, 2019

By Emily Rodgers

Parish Weekend began when folks arrived at Camp McDowell and were greeted by two superheroes wearing red capes and black masks on the side of Delong Road. Who knew there were superheroes in Winston County Alabama?

With over a thousand acres, Camp McDowell has something for everyone-porch sitting, chair rocking, hiking, canoeing Clear Creek, napping, swimming, riding bicycles and playing! Mary's House, Nativity Lodge and St. Luke's Lodge in Bethany Village were our home for the weekend. It is easy to worship God's creation at Camp McDowell. Ask some folks about finding snakes on Sloan Lake! Or seeing the pigs at the Farm School! Or swinging as high as a bird on the swing set!

The inaugural Nativity Kickball Championship game was held on Saturday afternoon. Father Michael led team 'Red' and Father Worth led team 'Yellow'. Ryan Roderick served as the masked umpire while Sally Ann Culver provided colorful commentary on the megaphone. The Devenishes served refreshing watermelon to the players and the fans. After a tight game, the 'Yellow' team pulled out four runs in the last inning to capture the Nativity Cup. Look for the Nativity Cup, along with photos of both teams, in the Banister room.



Everyone gathered in Hall Hall (that is the correct name) to create handmade ornaments. Jessie Lackey and her team of volunteers instructed participants to mold a disc of clay in their hands and use natural items to create an impression on the disc. The handmade ornaments will be sewn onto a banner and hung in Joffrion Hall.



The evening brought men together to build a fire and grill hamburgers, turkey burgers and hot dogs. Under their care, all were well fed. Many thanks to Catherine Courtney and her kitchen crew and to Skyler Courtney and Bill Starnes and the grilling crew! It is a toss-up which group had more fun! For the meal, Minda Alexander brought compostable plates and utensils which were collected and distributed to the Farm School and local farmers.



Father Worth Stuart served as Emcee of the Variety Show on Saturday night after dinner. Father Stuart seamlessly wove performers with songs from the Alleluia III song book. Music was graciously offered by Father Michael Goldsmith, Gus Goldsmith, Fred Beck, Justin Eby



and Trent Spencer. Everyone was highly entertained by the variety of ‘knock-knock’ jokes. Gus Goldsmith led us in Compline to end the night.

The fifth and final listening session for 2020 Vision was held in Hall Hall (again, that is the correct name) on Sunday morning after breakfast. Following a lively discussion on the future of Nativity, the passion and love people have for Nativity was apparent. Ideas and suggestions from the listening sessions will be compiled and presented to the congregation during the Annual Meeting on January 5, 2020.

Sack races and egg races were held before the worship service. Winners earned ribbons for their accomplishments. With time to spare, the kids organized another kickball game. Sally Ann Culver covered the action for everyone with the megaphone.

At 11:00am, folks gathered in the sanctuary of St. Francis Chapel for worship. Father Worth Stuart served as our Celebrant. Father Michael offered the sermon on Luke’s gospel account of the rich man and the manager. “It’s the little things that add up to the big things,” said Michael.

With Parish Weekend 2019, all the small, little things built on each other to create community and a fruitful church family.

Plans are underway for Parish Weekend 2020. Please mark your calendars for October 16-18, 2020. If you would like to help plan the weekend, please contact Emily Rodgers, [erodger@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:erodger@nativity-hsv.org).





# Stewardship of Creation: For the Love of Trees

By Harvey Cotten

With the temperatures finally beginning to break just a bit from the heat of the summer, our thoughts turn to the changing of the seasons. Personally, I love Fall and one of my favorite things about fall is the foliage changing colors from the bright green of summer to the spectacular reds, oranges and yellows of October and November. The countryside is painted with broad swaths of color that is magnificent to observe and enjoy.

Fall is also the very best time to plant trees. An old Chinese Proverb once stated that – “the best time to plant a tree was twenty years ago – the second best time is today”. For us in North Alabama, the very best time to plant is the fall of the year with the period between Halloween to Thanksgiving being right in the sweet spot. There are multiple reasons for this but from a plants perspective, planting at this time allows the plant to settle in and get established before the stress of summer comes along. Consider planting now for optimal success.

The reasons we should be planting trees are many – some we have known for many years and others are just being discovered. In the past, many of our plant selections



were based upon aesthetics. Would this plant provide flowers, interesting foliage, colorful fruits or a distinctive shape or form. Now we are looking at our plant selections, especially trees, as to the ecological services they will provide. These eco-system benefits are the truly functional aspects of trees in our landscapes and they are just as important (one could argue more important) than the aesthetic reasons for having trees in our landscapes. There are six major areas of eco-system benefits that trees provide: reduced air pollution, storm water run-off control, carbon sequestration, improved water quality, reduced energy consumption and habitat for pollinators. One could say that Trees are outstanding natural machines that do an incredible amount of work on our behalf. Most of these benefits have been touted before in differing ways, but only now are we truly seeing the magnitude of their benefit to the environment.

As we are dealing with a warming climate (regardless of how it has occurred) planting more trees is a natural solution. One well placed shade tree on the west side of a house can reduce energy consumption in the summer by as much as 25%. Trees thrive on carbon dioxide so they are a natural sponge for taking carbon emissions for the atmosphere and replacing with oxygen. An increased tree canopy helps negate the adverse effects of storm water run-off, something that is increasingly affecting our urban environments. Lastly, as all of us have become more aware of the plight of our pollinating insects, the planting of trees is an integral part of improving their health. It has been shown that a single oak tree could support as many as 500 different pollinating species of insects. Absolutely amazing! I have long

advocated the planting of pollinating gardens for our insects but they often revolve around beautiful plantings of flowering shrubs and perennials – trees are just as important in this equation of pollinator plantings.

On a final note, I want to share another very important reason for one to consider why planting trees is important – wellness. This past spring, the American Heart Association released a study entitled “Living in a green, leafy neighborhood could cut heart attack risk”. This study conducted in Miami with 250,000 Medicare recipients showed that those living in neighborhoods with an effective tree canopy are 25% less likely to have a heart attack. Other studies have shown the impact of trees or being in nature to have an incredible impact on improving mental health. I am much more in favor of prescribing tree planting for wellness than prescribing more pills.

I hope this will inspire you to consider planting trees this fall. Always remember to make sure you take into account the mature size of the tree you are considering to make sure it will be a good fit for your space. Lastly, take some time and get out and enjoy the changing of the seasons and see the incredible palette of color God has provided for us to enjoy.

## Dave Ramsey Class Coming Soon

By Bob Serio

Nativity will offer Dave Ramsey’s Financial Peace University in January 2020. This 9 week course teaches individuals and families how to start an emergency fund, budget your finances, pay off debt, invest for the future and build wealth. The course will be offered 9 consecutive Monday nights starting January 6th 5:45-7:15 in Ridley Hall. Childcare will be available. The cost for this course is \$109 per family, but if you sign up before the end of October, the cost will be reduced to \$83 per family. If you have questions, please contact Lane Tutt or Deacon Bob Serio. You can learn more about the course at <https://www.daveramsey.com>. [Click Here](#) to register online or call Lane Tutt, 256-533-2455.

### 8th Nativity Women’s Retreat

at Camp McDowell

February 21 & 22, 2020

### *Unnamed Women of the Bible*

With special guest

**The Rev. Monna Mayhall**

Associate Rector, St. Paul’s Franklin, TN

Register today at [nativity-hsv.org](http://nativity-hsv.org) or call the church office 256-533-2455.

Single Room \$145 Shared Room \$95

Financial assistance is available.

Questions? Contact Lane Tutt, [ltutt@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:ltutt@nativity-hsv.org)



Friends of Music at Nativity  
presents

**PATRICK KREEGER, ORGANIST**

Friday, October 11th 2019  
7:00pm  
The Episcopal Church of the Nativity  
208 Eustis Avenue  
Huntsville, AL 35801  
(256)-533-2455



# What Are You Reading:

*The Interior Castle* and *Book of My Life* by Saint Teresa of Avila

By The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey

Early in 2017 I felt the need to immerse myself in extended solitude and silence, sacred time for prayer and reflection. I was mysteriously led to the luminous writings of Teresa of Avila, and I began with Mirabai Starr's resplendent translation of *The Interior Castle*, next Teresa's spiritual biography, *The Book of My Life*, and finally her letters and lesser known works.

In these remarkable writings, Teresa offers a road map for seekers on the spiritual path. Her words overflow with spiritual and psychological wisdom, and with a profound understanding of human nature, and the mysteries of prayer and discernment of Holy Presence.

St. Teresa of Jesus,' as she was known by her religious name, remains near to me as teacher and spiritual guide. The two major books on her teachings and spiritual journey – *Interior Castle* and *My Life* - are never far from me as she guides my spiritual journey. She reached such depths of prayer and union with the Divine that I long to sip from, and she gives voice to the small baby steps in my faith journey.

I prayerfully offer my gratitude for the gifts of St. Teresa and the community of saints within our Christian Spiritual Tradition in the Reflection below that I wrote one early fall morning:

Prayer Time with St. Teresa of Avila

I'm on our sun porch this early morning, as is my usual way to begin the day. As I sit down, I turn on the old globed candlestick lamp on the table to warm the room with its glow. The double-hung windows are slightly open and a sweet gentle breeze wafts through the room. It's still night outside and the world is very quiet. I light a candle, sometimes three; smooth the white cotton scarf draped across the table, open my Prayer Book, Bible, and Teresa of Avila's *Interior Castle*.

A cup of steaming tea is next to me.

Darkness shrouds the garden and woods beyond. It's an early, cool, fall morning. Again this morning, I'm longing for solitude and quiet. I only desire to be with God... I am CRAVING silence to revive my barely breathing soul.

Slowly as I begin to breathe in the silence, an inner spring imperceptibly begins to flow. As I continue to breathe in and out, slowly my body stills, the thoughts of my mind and memories quieting down.

A subtle and intangible sense of peace begins to radiate from a mysterious center- core somewhere within me.

I am prayerfully reading Mirabai Starr's beautifully translated words of a 16th century Spanish Carmelite nun, mystic and renowned Teacher of Prayer, St. Teresa of Avila.

In some mysterious way we are transcending the distinctions of time and place, and are sharing an inner spiritual unity with one another.

Teresa describes the spiritual core of life, the soul, as a spiritual castle with many room, walls, and doors, like concentric circles that spiral around the sacred Dwelling Place of God: the radiant Center within each of us and present in all creation.

This is the Holy of Holies, the inner Temple of the most High, the True Self, the seat of the heart, the soul.

And she is a safe and true  
and faithful guide for me.  
I know this.

Almost daily for 10  
months I have returned to  
this same space of  
solitude and quiet. St.  
Teresa has been my  
spiritual guide, teacher,  
and mentor for this  
journey into the Presence  
of God.

Her understanding filling  
in my lack of words and  
my lack of understanding;  
her experiences clarifying  
what I cannot express as I  
prayerfully seek the Holy  
One; her stages and  
descriptions  
interconnecting with my  
experiences of fear,  
anxiety, consolation, and  
desolation: all that I have  
lived through and come to  
know as true but cannot  
express.

SOMETHING HAS  
HAPPENED....

Something has happened  
in these months of  
coming to this table...

Prayerfully sitting down in this chair... Turning on this light... Lighting this candle...

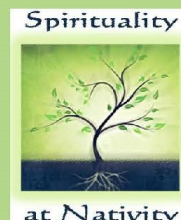
As I'm reading St. Teresa's words, there is no distance between us, and in some inexplicable way I am  
sharing cups of Holy Mystery with a long ago Carmelite nun. With deep humility and immense gratitude, the  
space between this prayer space and the Mystery of God is transcended!

All of which seems to my rational mind as absurd, impossible;

AND YET... I am being filled up ...With early morning cups of sweetness; dripping with springs of silence,  
something radiating within, stilling all thought and sensation, and enfolding me with peace.

## WHAT'S NEW ON WEDNESDAYS

### 2019 FALL SPEAKER SERIES



*Every scribe is like the master of the household who brings out of his treasure  
what is old and what is new* ~Matthew 13:2

#### OCTOBER 2

**The Rev. Corey Jones**- Executive Director of Camp McDowell  
*Camp McDowell: What is its role in the spiritual life of the Diocese?*



#### OCTOBER 9

**Loch Neely**- Retired Aerospace Engineer &  
Nativity Parishioner

*Nativity's historic buildings: How are we preserving them?*



#### OCTOBER 16

**Rose Veal Eby**- Nativity Seminarian at Sewanee

*How is the Church addressing new models of ordained ministry?*



#### OCTOBER 23

**The Rev. Annwn Myers**- Retired Associate Dean for  
Recruitment & Admissions-School of Theology-Sewanee, TN

*Thinking outside the box: What will the church look like over the next 10  
years?*



**5:30 pm Supper    6:00 pm Speaker**

**Meals: \$7 per person**

**Nursery provided**

Call 256-533-2455 to make your reservation or visit [nativity-hsv.org](http://nativity-hsv.org)

Sponsored by the Spiritual Development Committee

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



# The 2019 Nativity Bazaar

True, it is 100 degrees outside, but we are just over a month away from this Nativity's fabulous Bazaar! The delicious luncheon, bountiful bake sale, prize drawing and warm hospitality are a community tradition. This year, First Stop will be the beneficiary from the proceeds of our Bazaar. First Stop is a local non profit organization paving a continuous path from homelessness to independent, sustainable living. For more information regarding this worthy organization, please visit their website at [firststop.org](http://firststop.org).

We look forward to seeing you in November!

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 14<sup>TH</sup>

- **ANNUAL TASTE OF NATIVITY** Join us for the 7th Annual Taste of Nativity Thursday, November 14th from 6:00-8:00 pm at the home of Xan & Tim Curran on Adams Street. This will be a spirited evening of sweet and savory treats prepared by Nativity cooks & famous chefs. Proceeds from this event will benefit our Children & Youth Programs at the church and in the community. Casual dress, hors d'oeuvres, wine, beer. Online ticket sales begin soon!

## THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 21<sup>ST</sup> (BAZAAR DAY)

- **ANNUAL BAKE SALE** The bake sale will open at 10:30 am in Joffrion Hall. Items available for sale will include baked goods, frozen soups and casseroles, jams and jellies, pickles and more.
- **NEW! LOCAL ARTIST SHOW & SALE AND CHRISTMAS BOW SALE** The sale will begin in Bibb Chapel at 10:00. Unique works of art from some of your favorite local artists will be available for purchase, in addition to beautiful handmade bows perfect for your holiday decorating needs.
- **HOLIDAY LUNCHEON SEATINGS** Join us in Ridley Hall at 11:15 or 12:30 for a delicious holiday. Pre-ordered take-out lunches are also available.

**SEATING FOR LUNCHEON IS LIMITED MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!**

[CLICK HERE](#) to purchase tickets online or contact

Sherry Vemmer at 256-924-4950 or [sherryvemmer@gmail.com](mailto:sherryvemmer@gmail.com)



## ~CALLING ALL BAKERS~

Calling all bakers and chefs! It's time for the Nativity Bake Sale and Bazaar. Frozen Foods, homemade jellies & pickles and baked goods are needed. Please [SIGN-UP HERE](#) to donate items online or contact

Camille Sommer [cljsommer@yahoo.com](mailto:cljsommer@yahoo.com) or 256-881-2125.

Drive-by drop off times at Greene Street circle by Joffrion Hall:

Wednesday, November 20, 3:00-5:00 pm

Thursday, November 21, 7:00-9:00 am

Everybody be ready to bake and bring your BEST!!!

# October Acolyte Schedule

## October 6

### 8:45 A/M Clay Sherrill

C Thomas Aldag, Sadie Anglin  
T Eamonn O'Halloran, D Dodgen  
T Finola O'Halloran, David Young  
S Alton Hudson, AS Olivia O'Halloran

### 11:00 A/M Clay Sherrill

C Will Pinson, MM Creech  
T Raz Aboudonia, William Keener  
S Clara Keener, AS Catherine Hendricks

## October 13

### 8:45 A/M Mike Ward

C AK Ayres, Tess Lambert  
T Caroline Ayers, Colton Boyce  
T Daniel Starnes, Alana Boyce  
S Thea Sommer, AS Jacks McClung

### 11:00 A/M Clay Sherrill

C Carter Watson, E Windham  
T Erin Hannah, Raz Aboudonia  
S Carter Watson, AS Emery Windham

## October 20

### 8:45 A/M Nina Putt

C Patrick Ahearn, Evelyn Warren  
T Vanessa Vela, Luke Ham  
T Anna Mullins, Vivian Hinton  
S Alex Ahearn, AS Macy Baker

### 11:00 A/M Dorrie Nutt

C Laura Kamelchuk  
T Rowan Gafford, Morgan Gafford  
S Laura Kamelchuk, AS Maggie Sanders

## October 27

### 8:45 A/M Mike Ward

C Cooper Gunter, Alice Malone  
T Sam Rice, Clay Walker  
T Lillian Retzke, Phoebe Duncan  
S Ella Jane Duncan, AS Alec Huskey

### 11:00 A/M Dorrie Nutt

C Evans Bryant  
T Raz Aboudonia, Madelyn Alison  
S Madelyn Alison, AS Mary Ellis Alison

## Parish Financial Report August 2019

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>			
Pledges Received	\$97,509.83	\$106,366.02	\$780,078.68	\$787,590.88	-	-	-
Plate	\$9,746.33	\$17,839.44	\$77,970.68	\$113,282.56			
Other Revenues	\$8,791.67	\$3,120.00	\$70,333.32	\$31,296.07			
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$116,047.83</b>	<b>\$127,325.46</b>	<b>\$928,382.68</b>	<b>\$932,169.51</b>			
Diocese & Missions	\$11,655.00	\$13,352.09	\$93,240.00	\$96,004.51			
Outreach	\$10,600.58	\$8,092.64	\$84,804.68	\$74,706.27			
Personnel	\$68,223.37	\$58,869.97	\$545,787.02	\$505,563.63			
Other Expenses	\$25,568.75	\$19,169.76	\$204,550.00	\$192,418.81			
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$116,047.70</b>	<b>\$99,484.46</b>	<b>\$928,381.70</b>	<b>\$868,693.22</b>			
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$0.13)</b>	<b>\$27,841.00</b>	<b>\$0.98</b>	<b>\$63,476.29</b>			



## Parish News

### OCTOBER BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CHILDREN:

Tess Dollman  
Macie Meyer  
Aubrey Ritchie  
Laura Kate Evans  
Eliza DeFiore  
Louise Corley  
Carter Proud  
Anne Crosby Reddy  
Amelia Rosler  
Phoebe Duncan  
Beirne Spragins, V  
William Keener  
Sam Reddy  
James Overstreet  
Waring Cantey  
Evan Brown

Ethan Dawes  
Piper Smith  
Davis Manning  
Grace Molloy  
Charles Warren, II

### WE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:

Nancy McMahon  
Edward Charles Carey, III  
Timothy Cox Cheplen

### WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

**Tameka Slaughter**  
108 Autumn Wind Drive  
Madison, AL 35758

**Brynnan and Jim Reddy  
and their children, Sam and  
Anne Crosby**  
3036 Ginn Point Road SE  
Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763

### WE CELEBRATE THE MARRIAGE OF

Sophie Casimes and Everett Estes,  
August 31, 2019

**CURSILLO #220** Please pray for  
our Nativity parishioners  
participating in Cursillo #220 at  
Camp McDowell, October 24-27:  
PILGRIMS - Martha Hoelzer,  
Jessie Lackey, John Nelson,  
Brynnan Reddy, and Jim Reddy;  
STAFF: Rhett Meier, Shante  
Meier, Heather Stroud, Justin  
Stroud, Worth Stuart.

## Upcoming Events

**HAP (Huntsville Assistance Pantry) SUNDAY,  
OCTOBER 6** Items needed include cereal, canned  
fruit, soup, canned chicken (no tuna for now), small  
canned hams, Spam, mixed vegetables, boxed potato  
dishes and coffee. Place items in HAP bins located in  
Ridley Hall and the breezeway. Thank you!

**YAMS (Young Adults Married & Single)  
MONDAY, OCTOBER 7** We will gather at 5:30 at  
Green Bus Brewery. It's a good time to breathe a little  
and get centered. See you there, and bring a  
friend! Questions? Contact Rose Veal Eby,  
[rosieveal76@gmail.com](mailto:rosieveal76@gmail.com).

**MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST** Tuesday, October  
8th at 7:00 am in Ridley Hall. Join us for a delicious  
breakfast and brief presentation. Morning Prayer in  
Bibb Chapel at 6:30 am, all are welcome.

**DOK MONTHLY MEETING** Tuesday, October 15 at  
11:00 in Ridley Hall. Questions? Contact Miki Heaton  
(256-453-6434).

**MISSION GUILD** Monday, October 21 at 10:00 in  
Joffrion Library. Questions? Contact Joan East,  
(804-731-3429).

**LUNCH BUNCH** Tuesday, October 22 at 12:00 noon  
in Ridley Hall.

[Click Here](#) to  
make a  
reservation  
online or call  
256-533-2455.

# HALLOWEEN

at

## THE GREENE STREET MARKET



### THURSDAY, OCTOBER 31

### 3:00 PM UNTIL DARK

LIVE MUSIC ~ TRICK OR TREATING ~  
PUMPKIN PAINTING ~ COSTUME CONTEST ~  
PLUS YOUR FAVORITE FARMERS, VENDORS & FOOD TRUCKS

# October Worship Schedule

WEDNESDAY, October 2 <sup>nd</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Sloan		Joan East		
THURSDAY, October 3 <sup>rd</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Stuart	Stuart	Lewie Bates		
SUNDAY, October 6 <sup>th</sup>					
The Seventeenth Sunday after Pentecost					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Stuart	Stuart	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 am	Goldsmith	Stuart	Lane Mickle, Allen Daniels	Lynn S. Lewis, Don Lambert	Shirley Hale Stuckey
11:00 am	Goldsmith	Stuart	Sally Ann Culver, Peter Cobun	David Collette, Debbie Collette	Martha Joffrion
WEDNESDAY, October 9 <sup>th</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Goldsmith		Mary Hendricks		
THURSDAY, October 10 <sup>th</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Sloan		Sally Ann Culver		
SUNDAY, October 13 <sup>th</sup>					
The Eighteenth Sunday after Pentecost					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Guest Preacher	Guest Preacher	John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
8:45 am	Goldsmith	Guest Preacher	Mike Ward, Linda Watts	Lee Hicklen, TBD-Youth	Clay Sherrill
11:00 am	Goldsmith	Guest Preacher	Hanns Billmayer, Laura Pierce	Marcia Cobun, Mike Innes	Rhonwyn Watson
WEDNESDAY, October 16 <sup>th</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Stuart		Cheryl Watts		
THURSDAY, October 17 <sup>th</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Goldsmith		Charles Morley		
SUNDAY, October 20 <sup>th</sup>					
The Nineteenth Sunday after Pentecost					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Goldsmith		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Sloan	Goldsmith	Lewie Bates, Lee Hicklen	Allen Daniels, Fred Beck	Shirley Hale Stuckey
11:00 am	Sloan	Goldsmith	Tom Devenish, Virginia Kobler	Liza Q. Wirtz, John Nelson	Adalene Bledsoe
WEDNESDAY, October 23 <sup>rd</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Goldsmith		Joan East		
THURSDAY, October 24 <sup>th</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Sloan		Sally Ann Culver		
SUNDAY, October 27 <sup>th</sup>					
The Twentieth Sunday after Pentecost					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Sloan		Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
8:45 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Darlene Ehinger, Mary Johnson	Jennifer Dill, Lane Mickle	Lee Hicklen
11:00 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Susan Brown, Deborah Baker	Martha Joffrion, Polly Blalock	Melissa Kirkindall
WEDNESDAY, October 30 <sup>th</sup>					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Sloan		Mary Hendricks		
THURSDAY, October 31 <sup>st</sup>					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM		
6:00 pm	Stuart		Susan Brown		
USHERS					
7:30am	Peter Barber				
8:45am	Pat Goodson, Larry Gunter, Richard Spera, Drew Tutt, Anna Warren				
11:00am	Michael Shipley, Lou Durnya, Benita Hayes, Tom Lydon, Rebecca Brothers, Ronny Crawford, Justin Stroud				
FLOWER GUILD (B = Bibb Chapel / C = Church)					
Gail Brown (B), Beth Durnya (B), Sarah Gessler (C), Kate Noble Purvis (C)					
ALTAR GUILD					
6 <sup>th</sup>	Gail Brown, Sara Little, Debbie Joyner, Peggy Serio, Judy Heacock				
13 <sup>th</sup>	Jewell Reynolds, Melva Ochoa, Judy Vann, Laura Innes, Beth Pugh				
20 <sup>th</sup>	Rebecca Brothers, Sara Little, Nancy Colin, Mary Johnson, Wanda Cobb, Heather Stroud				
27 <sup>th</sup>	Emily Moody, Alice Lanier, Caffey Litkenhous, Nancy Colin, Linda Watts, Rosalie Smith				
CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE					
Sept. 30 <sup>th</sup> - October 6 <sup>th</sup>	October 7 <sup>th</sup> - 13 <sup>th</sup>	October 14 <sup>th</sup> - 20 <sup>th</sup>	October 21 <sup>st</sup> - 27 <sup>th</sup>	Oct. 28 <sup>th</sup> - November 3 <sup>rd</sup>	
Goldsmith	Serio	Sloan	Goldsmith	Stuart	
VESTRY Member Of The Day					
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	October 13 <sup>th</sup>	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	October 27 <sup>th</sup>		
Jason Angelichio	Paul Bonner	Teresa Pinson	Don Evans		
Elizabeth Foster	Virginia Kobler	Nick Pate	Darren Malone		
VERGER SCHEDULE					
October 6 <sup>th</sup>	October 13 <sup>th</sup>	October 20 <sup>th</sup>	October 27 <sup>th</sup>		
Lea Ann Barnett	Don Lambert	Lea Ann Barnett	Don Lambert		
Terry Clevenger	Hud Heaton	Terry Clevenger	Hud Heaton		



## 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

[CLICK HERE FOR  
THE AUGUST  
VESTRY MINUTES](#)



From left: Margaret Devenish & vestry member Virginia Kobler  
enjoying the kickball game at Parish Weekend

**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