

THE

STEEPLE

Church of the Nativity

December 2019



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Priest Associate

The Rev. Worth Stuart

Priest Associate

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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

Friday, December 20, 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.



Lily Slaton having fun at the Veteran's Day picnic.



Just a handful of the volunteers who helped make the Annual Nativity Bazaar a huge success!



Friends helping out at the Nativity Bake Sale.

THE STEEPLE

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On the cover...

Jim Douthit, his dog Luke and new friend Ellie Roderick sharing a moment on the steps of Bibb Chapel during the Veterans Day picnic and parade.

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

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.



ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

at

EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF
THE NATIVITY

2019

EVENTS & SERVICES

ADVENT BREAKFAST

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1ST

Begin the Advent season with a family style breakfast in Ridley Hall during the 10 o'clock Sunday school hour.

COMPLINE

SUNDAY EVENINGS IN ADVENT, 8:00_{PM}

The church will be illumined by candles and the light fog of incense will waft through the air as canticles, psalms, and anthems are sung by the choir to bring us to rest. Please join us this Advent at compline as we begin this new church year and prepare for the coming of the Messiah. For more information about this service, contact Christian Crocker, 256-533-2455 or ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org.

PARISH DINNER &

ADVENT WREATHS

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 4TH 5:30_{PM}

The Stewardship Committee will host a free spaghetti dinner and Advent wreath making event. This is a wonderful opportunity to spend an evening with your family and friends. Reservations appreciated for this event to ensure enough food and supplies for everyone. Nursery available. Call the Church office to make your reservation, 256-533-2455 or [CLICK HERE](#) to make a reservation online.

Join us for

Spaghetti & Advent Wreaths

at the

Annual Thanks for Giving Celebration

Wednesday, December 4 at 5:30 pm

Make reservations at nativity-hsv.org or call 256-533-2455

Nursery provided

Please let us know you are coming so we have enough food for everyone!

Continued on page 4...

FOCAL GIFT COLLECTION

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

During this season, let's share God's blessings with foster children in the FOCAL (Foster Children's Alliance) program. Nativity is providing Christmas Gifts for children and youth in the local area. FOCAL boards with gift tags are in Ridley Hall, or [CLICK HERE](#) to sign-up online. Gifts must be returned, wrapped with tags attached, by Sunday, December 8. The gifts will be blessed at the 8:45 service and delivered by the EYC that afternoon. Questions? Please contact Rebecca Brothers, rebecca.m.brothers@gmail.com.

ADVENT SABBATH: A QUIET DAY FOR ADVENT SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7TH

Sr. Madeleine Mary CSM, Prioress at the Community of St. Mary, will be our guest presenter for the day. This event is held jointly with St. Thomas Church. Lunch is available by reservation for \$7. You can reserve a lunch by calling 256-533-2455 or [CLICK HERE](#) to register online. Questions? Contact Brenda Chynoweth, brendacc@knology.net.

ADVENT REFLECTIONS

During Advent, all adult Sunday school classes will meet at 10:00 am in Ridley Hall for a hot biscuit and a cup of coffee while enjoying Advent stories and reflections.

Sunday, December 8 Guest speaker: Clair Cotten

Sunday, December 15 Guest speaker: The Rev. Susan Sloan

GREENE STREET HOLIDAY MARKET

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 8TH

1:00~4:00_{PM}

The Greene Street Market at Nativity will host the 5th annual Holiday Gift and Farmers Market on Eustis. A terrific opportunity to support local artisans, farmers, bakers and more while preparing for Christmas celebrations! Live music and food trucks add to the festive atmosphere. For more information visit greenestreetmarket.com.

ADVENT SABBATH: A QUIET DAY FOR ADVENT

with Sr. Madeleine Mary

SATURDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2019

CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY,

Held jointly with St. Thomas Episcopal Church

Morning

8:15 – 9:00 Registration/Coffee/Social time with Sr. Madeleine Mary

9:00-9:50 Presentation: *What is an Advent Sabbath?* – Ridley Hall

9:50-10:20 Break for reflection and silence

10:20-11:00 Presentation: *Growth in humility, Conversion, Experiencing God* – Ridley Hall

11:00-11:30 Reflection

11:30-12:30 Silent Lunch and Break – Ridley Hall

Afternoon

12:30 – 1:15 *Hope born in and through us* – Bibb Chapel

1:30-2:00 – Communion – Rev. Susan Sloan – Bibb Chapel

Please observe silence during the Transitions and Breaks

Lunch is available by reservation – \$7. You can reserve a lunch by calling Church of the Nativity at 256-533-2455 or online at nativity-hsv.org/connect



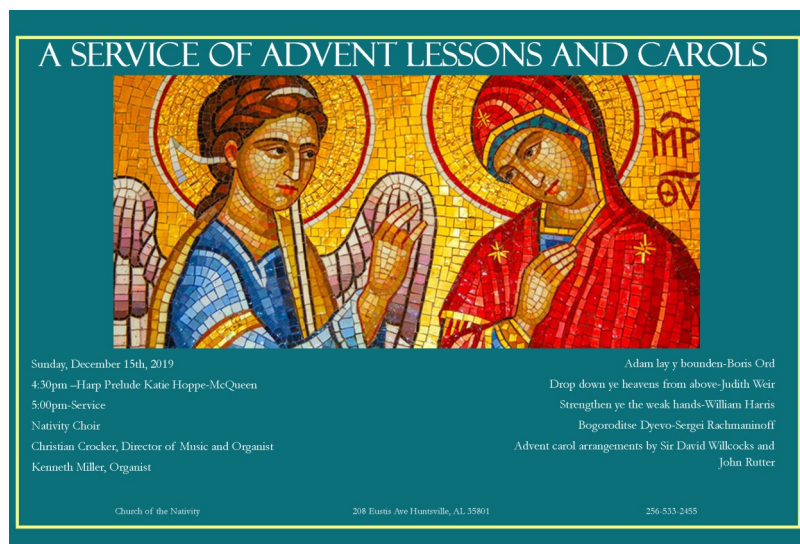
Sr. Madeleine Mary, CSM is the Prioress at the Community of St. Mary, Southern Province, and holds an MDiv. from The School of Theology. She has been a Religious for forty-nine years, has served as a spiritual director for more than twenty-five years, served as the Reverend Mother for twelve years, represented the Episcopal Religious Orders and the Diocese of New York in international ecumenical work. Since she transferred to the Community of St. Mary, she has ministered as Prioress, as a spiritual director and as a retreat leader.

SERVICE OF ADVENT

LESSONS & CAROLS

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 15TH 4:30_{PM}

The Nativity Choir will present an Advent service of Lessons and Carols derived from the original Lessons and Carols established by the Choir of King's College, Cambridge. A harp prelude will begin at 4:30 pm, played by Katie Hoppe-McQueen. Service will begin at 5:00 pm. Questions? Contact Christian Crocker, ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455.



CHRISTMAS EVE

MONDAY, DECEMBER 24TH

4:00, 7:30 & 10:30_{PM}

4:00 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II and Christmas Pageant

Our annual Christmas Eve pageant with communion is perfect for families with children. Ridley Hall will open at 3:15 for children to get costumes and pageant instructions. Nursery is available for this service. Following the service, there will be a Birthday party for Jesus in Ridley Hall. Stop by for a cupcake and special ornament for each child purchased by the Alice W Greenway Memorial Trust.

7:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II

10:30 pm Holy Eucharist, Rite II

Our traditional Christmas Eve Service with candles, extraordinary choir. *Incense will be used at the 10:30 service.

CHRISTMAS DAY, TUESDAY, DECEMBER 25TH

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Bibb Chapel

1ST SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY, DECEMBER 29TH

7:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I, Bibb Chapel

10:00 am Holy Eucharist, Readings and Carols

2ND SUNDAY AFTER CHRISTMAS DAY, JANUARY 5TH

7:30 am Holy Eucharist, Rite I, Bibb Chapel

10:00 am Holy Eucharist*

11:00 am Annual Parish Meeting*

**Indicates nursery is provided*

The Church office will be close at noon on December 24th and will be closed December 25th & 26th.
The office will also close at noon on December 31st and be closed January 1st.

CHILDREN'S ACTIVITIES IN ADVENT

December 1, Pancake breakfast during Sunday school in Ridley Hall.

December 8, Nativity scene drawing contest during Sunday school. Winner is featured on cover of 4:00 Christmas Eve Order of Service.

December 15, Nick and Lucy Day. Saint visits, Pajama party during Sunday school and gift drive for Inner City Learning Center.

December 22, 2:00 Pageant costume fitting in Ridley Hall for 1st through 4th graders. Help ease the chaos on Christmas Eve by picking out a costume early.

December 24, 4:00 Children's Christmas pageant and Holy Eucharist. Ridley hall opens at 3:15 for costumes and instructions.

NICK AND LUCY DAY

Let's celebrate the saints of Advent (and wear PJ's to church)! St Nicolas and St Lucia will be visiting on the morning of December 15th. We'll celebrate with St Lucia during children's chapel and with St Nicolas during Sunday school. All children's classes will meet in Ridley Hall for the pajama party with St Nick, activities and snacks.

Our annual Advent outreach project is a gift drive for Inner City Learning Center. We've been challenged to provide 96 gifts of pajamas and books so that each child at ICLC can receive a gift. Please sign up to bring gifts of pjs and books using the link below. Also, during the pajama party we'll craft cards for our friends in the tent community.

Can't wait to see you there! Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org. Sign up for gift drive here tinyurl.com/nickandlucy2019.

Children's Christmas Pageant 4.00 pm Christmas Eve Service



For all children age 3 through 6th grade.

Dec. 22, 2:00 pm, Ridley Hall

Costume fitting for 1st grade—4th grade.

To help Christmas Eve be a little less crazy, 1st—4th graders are invited to get a costume assignment on the 22nd. If you can't make this day, children can get costumes on Christmas Eve at 3:15 pm.

Dec. 24, 3:15 pm, Ridley Hall

Put on costumes and receive instructions prior to 4.00 service.

Children age 3 through 3rd grade sit with their families until their part in the pageant.

Helping hands needed at both events. Please contact Mary Coe, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org. Thank you!

Nick & Lucy Day

SAINT VISITS! PAJAMA PARTY! GIFT DRIVE!



Sunday, December 15

DURING CHAPEL AND SUNDAY SCHOOL

- + kids and fun adults wear your pj's to church!
- + pajama and book drive for our friends at inner city learning center
- + visit from st lucy during chapel
- + pajama party during sunday school with visit from st nicholas, activities & snacks
- + gift drive sign up: tinyurl.com/nickandlucy2019

QUESTIONS, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org



YOUTH ACTIVITIES IN ADVENT

Sunday, December 8th, 12:30-2:00 pm, JYC & EYC (5th-12th grades) FOCAL Gift Sorting

Please join in Ridley Hall for a very important service project and enjoy cookies and a hot cocoa bar!

Wednesday, December 11th- JYC (5th -6th grade) Christmas Party in the LOFT 5:30-7:00 pm

Sunday, December 15th- EYC (7th-12th grade) Christmas Party in the LOFT 5:00-6:30 pm

Sunday, December 22nd- EYC (7th-12th grade) 5:30-8:30 pm Chrismons, Dinner, and Compline

We'll join together with the choir for dinner before trimming the tree and end our night with a beautiful candlelit compline service. Meet in Ridley Hall.

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

THANK YOU

Thank you for everyone who gave of their time, talents, and resources to make Happening #75 a success. It would not have happened without each and every one of you!



You are invited to Jesus' Birthday Party!



December 24
following 4.00 service

Let's remember the reason for the season and celebrate Jesus' birthday!

Directly following the 4.00 Christmas Eve service, please stop by Ridley Hall for cupcakes and a Christmas gift for each child.

The Alice W. Greenway Trust has been purchasing Christmas gifts for the children of Nativity for 102 years.

Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

COMPLINE DURING ADVENT

By Christian Crocker

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace...

Every Sunday at 8:00 pm during Advent, the choir will lead us through a service of sung compline. Compline is an ancient service from the Daily Office in the monastic tradition. The church will be illumined by candles and the light fog of incense will waft through the air as canticles, psalms, and anthems are sung to bring us to rest. The final canticle sung at compline is the Nunc dimittis or Song of Simeon. The Nunc is taken from the second chapter of Luke, and the words are Simeon's response to meeting Jesus, the Messiah, as promised by the Holy Spirit. The Nunc dimittis has been set by many composers throughout history for liturgical and non-liturgical purposes. During compline this Advent, the choir will sing Chattanooga-based composer Ethan McGrath's setting of the well-known canticle. The purchase of this anthem was made possible by a recent gift given to purchase a piece in memory of the late Reverend Jack Wilson. This canticle is a fitting memorial to Father Jack, and Ethan's setting of the Latin text is nothing short of stunning. Please join us this Advent at compline as we begin this new church year and prepare for the coming of the Messiah.

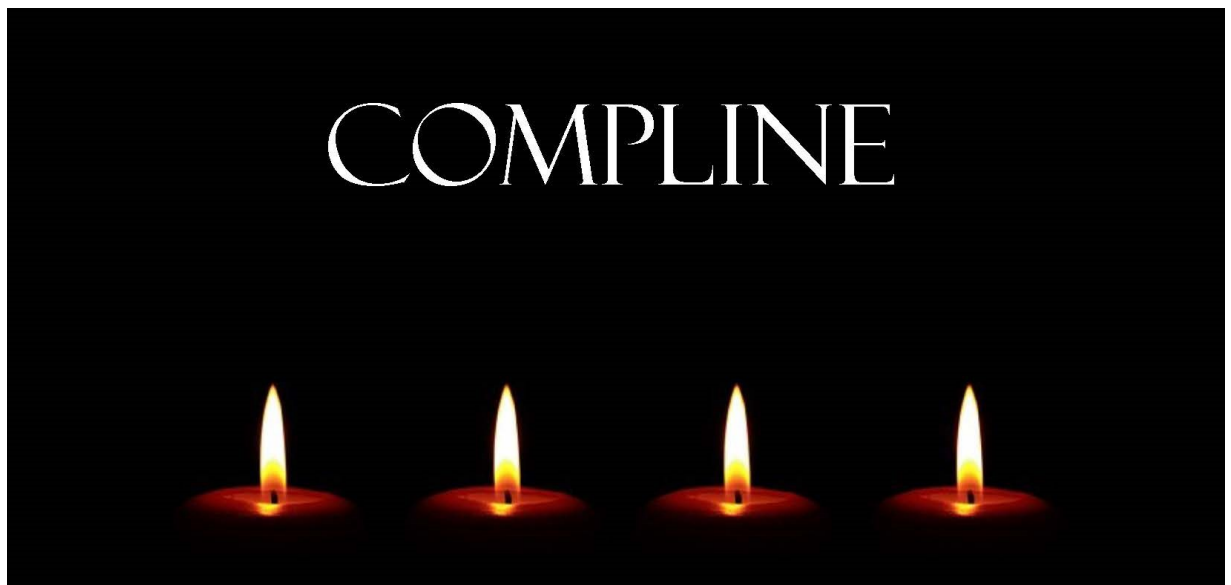
Nunc dimittis servum tuum Domine,
secundum verbum tuum in pace:
quia viderunt oculi mei salutare tuum:
quod parasti ante faciem omnium populorum:
lumen ad revelationem gentium,
et gloriam plebis tuae Israel.
Gloria Patri et Filio et Spiritui Sancto:
sicut erat in principio, et nunc et semper
et in saecula saeculorum.
Amen.

Lord, now lettest thou thy servant depart in peace, according to thy word.

*For mine eyes have seen thy salvation,
Which thou hast prepared before the face of all people. To
be a light to lighten the Gentiles and to be the glory of thy
people, Israel.*

*Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy
Ghost. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall
be, world without end.*

Amen.



REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

Try something new this holiday season! This reverse Advent calendar encourages you to put one item into a bag or box each day of the Advent season. These are items needed on a daily basis by members of our homeless and tent communities. Once you have filled your bag or box bring it to the Church and place in marked bins in Ridley Hall. Items will be distributed by Rose Veal Eby and members of the First Stop ministry team. If you would like more information about First Stop and how you can make an impact in the community, please visit firststop.org.



Nativity Tent Community Outreach

- | | |
|---------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Duct Tape | 13. Deodorant |
| 2. Socks | 14. Toothpaste |
| 3. Gloves | 15. Water Bottle |
| 4. Feminine Hygiene Items | 16. Hairbrush |
| 5. Garbage Bags | 17. Comb |
| 6. Ziploc Bags | 18. Hair Ties |
| 7. Wet Wipes | 19. Dry Shampoo |
| 8. Hand Sanitizer | 20. Shoe Laces |
| 9. Mini First Aid Kits | 21. Razors |
| 10. Batteries | 22. Can Opener (Hand Turn) |
| 11. Flashlights | 23. Chapstick |
| 12. Toothbrush | 24. Gum |

THE 2020 VESTRY NOMINEES

The Nominating Committee is please to present the list of nominees for the 2020 Vestry Slate. The members will be voted on at the Annual Parish Meeting, Sunday, January 5th following the 10:00 service.



Terry Clevenger My past experiences with theology included attending the Evangelical United Brethren church in Shelby, Ohio as I was growing up on a dairy farm; Immanuel Lutheran Church, Oceanside, Ca in the 70s where the kids were baptized when I was in the military; Simi Valley Presbyterian, Simi Valley, Ca where I was baptized since I didn't recall being baptized previously; attending numerous Evangelista Comunidad churches in LA with my second wife (a Brazilian) and a number of charismatic churches along the way.

God's plan was for me to come to Huntsville in 1999 and meet Keith who introduced me to Nativity. Upon my first visit to Nativity, I felt its spirituality speaking to me and awakening an empty spot in my life that I had. From that point forward, I have felt I found the right place for me to develop spiritually and define my theology. From that first experience I have been confirmed, attended Cursillo, and completed EfM. I have served as an usher, blue apron coordinator, trustee for the legacy society, verger, and recently became a new member of Stewardship of Creation. I feel honored to be considered for the Vestry and look forward to the opportunities and challenges associated with it.



Holly Ellis, is a cradle Episcopalian, baptized at Church of Nativity, her Mother's home parish, and raised at St. Paul's in Greensboro, Alabama. She moved to Huntsville in 1998 and joined Nativity. She has 2 children, Park (19), a freshman at The University of Alabama, and Lucy (17), a junior at Huntsville High. They have both been involved in "all things Episcopalian" including Camp McDowell, Sawyerville Day Camp and Happening.

Holly graduated from The University of Alabama with a degree in Public Relations and will be fulfilling a lifelong dream by starting a new job with NASA as a Communications Specialist in the near future. She has Nativity and the Diocese of Alabama to thank for this new opportunity due to all of the experience and friendships she has acquired through serving in numerous roles over the past 21 years. These roles include the recent Rector Search Committee; Vestry Nominating Committee; Youth Department Renovation Team; Capital Campaign; Long Range Planning Committee; Spiritual Development Committee; Delegate to State Convention; Stewardship Committee and Chair; Parish Weekend Chair; Sunday School Teacher; Nativity Bazaar Arts & Crafts Chair and Take Out Chair; Sawyerville Day Camp Art Program Director; Nativity Cursillo Lay Rector; Cursillo Diocesan Application Coordinator; Cursillo Lay Rector #193...the Best Cursillo Ever! and Camp McDowell Board. Hobbies include spending quality time with family and friends, Alabama Football Tailgating, visiting her hometown of Greensboro, reading good books, binge-watching and listening to good music.



Laura Pierce is originally from Atlanta, GA. She and her husband, Steve, have lived in Huntsville since 1983. They have two sons and three grandsons. Laura has been a member of Nativity since 2012. She attended Cursillo #203 and has sponsored other pilgrims for Cursillo. She was a housewife for many years then became a cake decorator for Publix for ten years. In 2015, she earned a nursing degree from Calhoun Community College and is currently working for the

Tennessee Valley OB/GYN group. She regularly attends church and the Breakfast Club Sunday school. She is currently a Lay Episcopal Minister having helped to serve the eucharist for the past 2 years and is a Stephen Minister. She and Steve's favorite hobby is to travel around North Alabama and Tennessee in their Miata convertible. They also love to travel across the US and internationally.



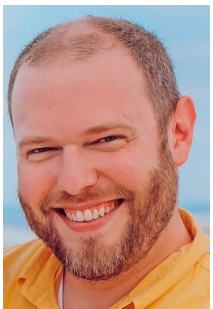
Jerry Nutt began attending Nativity shortly after moving to Huntsville with his wife, Dorrie, in 1981. Dorrie is a lifelong Episcopalian; Jerry was raised Baptist and was confirmed at Nativity. He has undergraduate degrees in Music Education and Electrical Engineering and is retired from a career in technology sales. He has been active in the Nativity Choir for over 20 years. He graduated EfM and is active with the Greene Street Market. Outside of church, Jerry spends time woodworking, working with the Humane Society and various music organizations in town. Dorrie and Jerry have two married sons, and one new grandson.



Andrea Pritchett Rosler, President Human Resources, HH Health System
I am originally from Meridian, MS and began my career in health care in 1987 during and after graduating from Millsaps College in Jackson, MS. I went to graduate school at UAB in Health care Administration, receiving a Masters in Health administration and a Masters in Business Administration. I completed my administrative residency for the healthcare masters at Huntsville Hospital and have worked there since 1991. My mom moved to Huntsville from Meridian in 1995 after retiring as a librarian and raising me as a single mother. I am now married to my high school sweetheart, Ken Ortlepp and am the mother of two very active and remarkable children, Edward born 1998 and Amelia born 2001 and two step-children Daniel born 1999 and Sarah born 2002. I have wonderful friends and family in Huntsville.

I grew up in the Baptist church in Meridian and attended a Methodist faith based college. During graduate school in 1989, one of my closest friends, Alan, was diagnosed with AIDS. I spent a lot of time caring for him and was introduced to the program Positive Attitudes, and Father Ron Delbane, an Episcopal priest. During the time I spent caring for Alan, I decided I was very interested in the church. After Alan died in April 1991, I moved to Huntsville, attended St. Thomas church and was baptized and confirmed by Father Henry Hudson. I attended St. Thomas while Father Kee Sloan was the rector. Since then, I moved to Nativity.

Outside of work I play flute, attend symphonies where my husband is a professional French horn player and professor. I serve on several community boards: Huntsville Symphony Orchestra, United Way, and North Alabama AHEC.



Eric Wood joined Nativity in 2013 with his wife Deirdre. He has a J.D. from Cumberland School of Law and is a practicing attorney. Eric has been active sponsoring new members in the Nativity Seekers class and served on the rector search committee. He and Deirdre's daughter Cecilia was baptized at Nativity in 2018. Eric enjoys traveling, college football, fly fishing and spending time with his family.

WHAT ARE YOU READING

By Mary Johnson

I've been reading an interesting and meaningful short story published in the New Yorker magazine, by the well-known and acclaimed author, John Updike.

David, an adolescent boy, and his family move from the city to the country. Everything is out of place and in turmoil. Old books are piled around waiting to be arranged. He idly leafs through one and comes across H.G. Wells' account of Jesus as "an obscure political agitator who in a freakish incident, survived his own crucifixion and presumably died a few weeks later...Through the credulous imaginations for the times. Myths grew of miracles performed..."

David is horrified by this account. Horrified that an account like this can even exist in a human brain! He questions his parents, his priest and all who should have an answer to his pursuit of truth about God and whether death is an eternal nap or the precedent to Heaven. Because all had a different and unsatisfactory answer, he feels they are all frauds and that he has tapped in on a secret they all hide behind. **THEY DON'T KNOW!**

It is a terrible time of dread and fear of death for this intelligent and sensitive boy. He prays for a sign from God— just a gesture or a nod that He exists and is not just manufactured by HOPE.

Th answer, the nod, comes in an unlikely way. He is sent to the barn to shoot the pigeons that have taken over and become a nuisance. Though he doesn't really want to do the job, in the dark barn with sparkles of light coming through the rafters, he really gets into killing the pigeons. He loves the feeling of control. He is a master. He is an avenger. He experiences the all too human desire to "play God," to seize control. Somehow, he also internalizes the reality of life and death as a whole.

In burying the birds, he studies and is overcome by the beauty and diversity of their feathers. These are nuisance and worthless birds but there seems to be such craftsmanship, such care lavished on their creation. In his becoming enraptured by that seemingly Godly care, the air over him seems suffused with joy and he, who had felt worthless himself, is "robed" in the certainty that the God who created these gorgeous creatures surely exists and would not let his own soul just die with his body.

Holiday Farmers Market

Sunday, December 8

1 pm – 4 pm

Church of the Nativity, Downtown Huntsville

LOCALLY GROWN PRODUCE

FARM FRESH FOODS

FRESH BAKED GOODS

LOCAL ARTISANS

www.greenestreetmarket.com



the
Greene
Street
Market
at Nativity

NEW CLASSES BEGINNING IN JANUARY

By Lane Tutt

We have several new classes that will begin this January for adults. Please contact Lane Tutt if you have any questions, ltutt@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455.

Connections Book Club will begin meeting weekly on Monday, January 6th. This is an after-hours opportunity for any who can't make it to weekday church events to connect and discuss topics that impact today's Christian women. We will meet on the second floor of Joffrion Hall in the Confirmation Room from 5:30 until

7:00 and will have food and drink to share. For additional information contact Minda Alexander, 256-694-0554 or mindaa@comcast.net.

Holy Envy, Finding God in the Faith of Others by Barbara Brown Taylor. Wednesdays, January 8-February 19 from 6:00-7:00 pm in Joffrion Library. This class will be led by The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe, The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland– Shuey and The Rev. Susan Sloan.

A blue poster for Financial Peace University. At the top, it says "JANUARY & FEBRUARY 2020" in white. Below that, "AT NATIVITY" in white. The main title "FINANCIAL PEACE" is in large white letters, with "University" in a yellow script font below it. To the left of the title, "Dave Ramsey's" is written in yellow script. At the bottom left, it says "MONDAY NIGHTS 5:45-7:15" and "CHILDCARE PROVIDED". In the center bottom, it says "Questions? Contact Lane Tutt ltutt@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455". At the bottom right, it says "\$109 PER FAMILY (\$83 IF YOU SIGN UP BEFORE 10/31/19)" and "Register online at nativity-hsv.org". The background of the poster shows a group of people.

OUTREACH IMPACT

By Michael Shipley

Since 1972, Girls Inc. of Huntsville has provided services to girls in underserved communities, working with over 600 girls annually. Girls who attend our program are guaranteed a safe, pro-girl environment that is invested in their future through research-based programming. Programming equips girls to achieve academically; lead healthy and physically active lives; manage money; navigate media messages; develop positive relationships, and discover an interest in science, technology, engineering, and math.

In 2019, Church of the Nativity gave a one time grant for \$5000 to Girls Inc. This grant will help the organization fulfill their mission in our community.

To volunteer or find out more information, please call 256-859-0011 or email Kristin Johnson, Program Director, at kjohnson@girlsinc-huntsville.com.

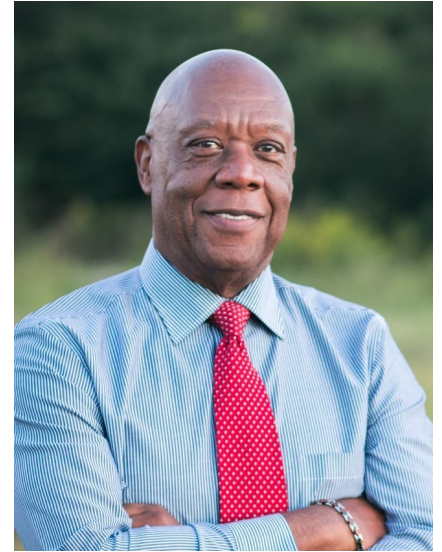


LOSING ART LESLIE

By Jill Chadwick

On November 2, Huntsville lost one of our heroes. Art Leslie, founder and executive director of Huntsville Inner City Learning Center, suffered a brain aneurysm while in Tennessee for a speaking engagement on behalf of his center's children.

Anyone who heard Art speak last year at one of Nativity's Wednesday Suppers knows he was charismatic, kind, funny, and supremely dedicated to providing children who have limited opportunities in our community with academic, spiritual, and physical support. Because Art grew up in low income housing in Huntsville, he knew the reality of high school drop-out rates; he felt called to do what he could to keep these kids in school -- to convince them that they are loved by God and worthy of attention.



In 2005, Art started a volunteer-supported group to provide 30 inner city children from kindergarten through 8th grade with a Monday-Thursday after school program providing physical activity, Bible instruction, a hot meal, and an hour of homework help. At first, they used school and church facilities, but through prayer, hard work, and supporter donations, Art was able to refurbish a building to house his vision, now the Huntsville Inner City Learning Center on Brahan Avenue. It's gone from a fixer-upper brick building and warehouse surrounded by chain-link fence with razor wire on top to a welcoming academic facility and gym -- with a fully-functioning garden/play area enclosed by a wooden fence. The HICLC supports, at this time, 96 children.

I've known Art Leslie personally for over 10 years as a close friend of my brother's (Jesse May) as well as the Center's director. I have taken students from Calhoun Community College's honors program to the Center as tutors, and Art joined our extended family for holiday meals. Still, as I sat with my husband Dave in the Twickenham Church of Christ on November 10th for Art's memorial service, I was newly inspired by how much he has done for our community through faith. With tears and laughter, friends and family celebrated how a man with nothing but a heart for service lifted up and loved so many children. He listened to God's voice, dreamed visions, and partnered with others to make those dreams a reality.

I asked Art after he spoke at Nativity last year what our church could do to support the center. He said, "Volunteer if and when you can, but if it's material help you're offering, Toiletries! Our families need what food coupons won't cover: toilet paper, shampoo, deodorant, toothpaste, laundry detergent, sunscreen, skin lotion...and did I say Toilet Paper!" In Ridley Hall, the Breakfast Club Sunday School class has placed a blue bin to collect these essential items. If you are moved to help, please fill that bin and go to hiclc.org to find out how to volunteer and/or donate to keep Art Leslie's vision alive.

AN EXTRAORDINARY GIFT

By Kim Huskey

“Earth is bursting with God’s grace and love and beauty.” Wow! This descriptive passage shared by Father Goldsmith during a November sermon stirred my soul. The words filled my head with imagery from Graeme Base’s children’s books *Animalia* and *The Water Hole*. Earth, abundant with life and the resources needed to sustain it. Earth, a minute speck of a planet in a vast Universe that God chose to breathe his life into. An extraordinary gift!



We don’t know of any other celestial body that supports life as it does. *The Privileged Planet*, according to Gonzalez and Richards, “is really quite an extraordinary hostess for both life and scientific discovery”. What an amazing gift it is that we have the ability to love and appreciate its beauty.

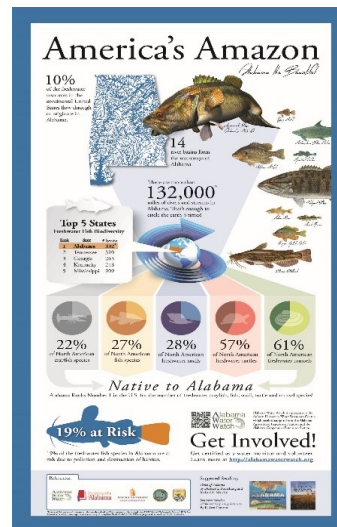
We must respect the fact that biodiversity of life on Earth is key to healthy ecosystems. In turn, healthy ecosystems ensure natural sustainability.

“Biodiversity as a whole forms a shield protecting each of the species that together compose it, ourselves included.” ~ E.O. Wilson “*Half-Earth*” The Earth has the amazing ability to endure destruction, both natural and man-made, and heal itself, but what is its breaking point?

Most of us are probably not aware that at this moment in time Earth is experiencing a mass extinction event. Extinction is part of growth and

evolution. Mass extinctions have occurred at least 5 times in the history of the world but never during human history – or with human influence. Many facets of human activity are contributors but the number one reason for loss of life is loss of habitat.

“Earth is bursting with God’s grace and love and beauty.” Another takeaway from Father Goldsmith’s sermon was to “Testify!” We are blessed with such an amazing gift of life on this Earth. If we love it, testify! Speak out. Protect it. Testify! This might bring to mind someone standing on a street corner with signs, shouting to everyone within earshot. The challenge of saving the Earth is extremely daunting, but through God’s grace it can be done.



Bringing it closer to home – Did you know that right here in the great state of Alabama we rival the Amazon in biodiversity? We rank in the top 5 in overall biodiversity of all states in the U.S. We are #1 in biodiversity of freshwater aquatic species. Right

here in our own backyard! Alabama the beautiful! Bursting with God’s grace and love and beauty.

Through God’s grace we can testify. Get out and see what this great state of ours has to offer. Immerse yourself in its wonder, from the mountains to the Gulf. Share your experiences. Teach our children. Pay attention to legislation and don’t let the gift of Alabama’s diverse natural beauty slip through our fingers.

Southern Wonder ~ Alabama’s Surprising Biodiversity by R. Scott Duncan

The Privileged Planet ~ by Guillermo Gonzalez & Jay W. Richards

Parish Financial Report October 2019

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$97,509.83	\$98,407.83	\$975,098.34	\$980,038.33
Plate	\$9,746.33	\$13,097.96	\$97,463.34	\$143,535.61
Other Revenues	\$8,791.67	\$3,243.50	\$87,916.66	\$114,149.94
Total Income	\$116,047.83	\$114,749.29	\$1,160,478.34	\$1,237,723.88
Diocese & Missions	\$11,655.00	\$11,986.88	\$116,550.00	\$119,934.08
Outreach	\$10,600.58	\$8,932.00	\$106,005.84	\$97,370.27
Personnel	\$68,223.37	\$67,481.09	\$682,233.76	\$643,522.18
Other Expenses	\$25,568.75	\$24,687.64	\$255,687.50	\$257,482.00
Total Expenses	\$116,047.70	\$113,087.61	\$1,160,477.10	\$1,118,308.53
Net	\$0.13	\$1,661.68	\$1.24	\$119,415.35

2019 Christmas Flower Dedications

Christmas dedications are \$20 each

Please complete this form with your check made payable to Nativity Flower Guild and return it no later than **Sunday, December 15th** to:

Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801

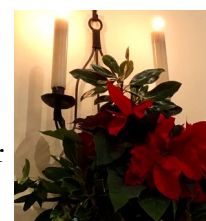
PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION. If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 256-539-2673.

Your Name as it is to be listed in Christmas service leaflet (if you do not wish your name listed, please indicate)

Phone #: _____ Name for this dedication: _____

Please check the box next to the dedication you desire. All dedications read *To the glory of God and.....*

☐ In loving memory of... ☐ In thanksgiving for... ☐ In celebration of...



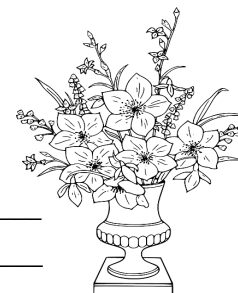
2020 Altar Flower Dedications

Your Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Dates requested: _____

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

December Acolyte Schedule

Sunday, December 1

8:45 A/M Putt

C Sadie Anglin, Patrick Ahearn
T Luke Ham, SC Hornsby
T Alex Ahearn, Alec Husky
S Vivian Hinton, AS Jacks McClung

11:00 A/M Nutt

C Catherine Hendricks
T M Gafford, R Gafford
S Catherine Hendricks, AS Maggie Sanders

Sunday, December 8

8:45 A/M Sherrill

C Cooper Gunter, O O'Halloran
T Sam Rice, F O'Halloran
T E O'Halloran
S Alton Hudson, AS Daniel Starnes

11:00 A/M Ward

C Evans Bryant, Laura Kamelchuk
T Erin Hannah, Raz Aboudonia
S Laura Kamelchuk, AS Evans Bryant

Sunday Dec 15

8:45 A/M Putt

C Clay Walker, AK Ayres
T Caroline Ayers, Colton Boyce
S Alana Boyce, AS Caroline Brooks

11:00 A/M Nutt

C Emery Windham, Alice Malone
T Madelyn Alison, Mary Ellis Alison
S Emery Windham, AS Alice Malone

Sunday, December 15 LESSONS AND CAROLS

5:00 pm (arrive by 4:45) A/M Sherrill

C Caroline Hornsby
T M Gafford, R Gafford
Thurifer Tess Lambert

Sunday, December 22

8:45 A/M Sherrill

C Evelyn Warren, Thomas Aldag
T Vanessa Vela, Charles Warren
S David Young, AS Macy Baker

11:00 A/M Nutt

C Carter Watson
T Erin Hannah, William Keener
S Clara Keener, AS Carter Watson

Tuesday, December 24 CHRISTMAS EVE

(arrive 20 min prior to service for instruction)

4:00 A/M Putt, Sherrill

C Evelyn Warren, Clay Walker
T Riley Jane Ragland, Macy Baker
T Colton Boyce, Luke Ham
S Alana Boyce, AS Thea Sommer
Banners: Lillian Retzke, C Warren, Drew Dodgen

7:30 A/M Ward, Nutt

C Emery Windham, MM Creech
T EJ Duncan, Phoebe Duncan
T Sam Rice, David Young
S Alton Hudson, AS Alec Huskey
Banners: Patrick Ahearn, Alex Ahearn, Alton Hudson

10:30 PM A/M Nutt, Ellis

C Cooper Gunter, Tess Lambert
Thurifer Carter Watson
T Will Pinson
Banners: Anna Mullins, Elle Webber
T Laura Kamelchuk
S Anna Mullins, AS Elle Webber

Sunday, December 29 ONE SERVICE ONLY

10:00 AM A/M Nutt

C Will Pinson
T R Gafford, M Gafford
S Thea Sommer, AS Daniel Starnes

Please check this schedule carefully as you may be assigned multiple days due to the extra services involved for Advent and Christmas. If you're unable to serve—especially for Lessons and Carols or Christmas Eve, please let us know, and see if you can arrange for a sub. Thanks for your service to this important ministry at Nativity!

Parish News

DECEMBER BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CHILDREN:

Liam Stevens
Alec Huskey
James Plucker
Sloan Dill
Jacks McClung
Vivian Brouse
Jensen Goeke
Patrick Reid
Cecelia Grace Wood
Will Knight
Hope Howell
Morgan Gafford
Maggie Sanders
Alton Hudson
Chandler Mason
Hunter Whitworth
George McCurry
Riley White
Charlie Vowell

Tess Lambert
Caroline Duff
Will Pinson
Nicholas Ocampo

WE PRAY FOR THE DEPARTED:

Jo Ann Money Moorman
Virginia Farley McLeod
Charles Arthur Thomson
Beth Langford Chenoweth

WE CELEBRATE THE MARRIAGE OF:

Elizabeth Moody & David Shelton

WE CELEBRATE THE BAPTISM OF:

Caroline Duff
Camille Kilpatrick
Hope Nation
Margaret Fortune
Ryker Brown

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:
Stephanie Gafford and her daughters, Morgan Taylor and Rowan Woodward Gafford.

Upcoming Events

HAP (Huntsville Assistance Pantry) SUNDAY, DECEMBER 1 Items needed include tuna, peanut butter, boxed meals, boxed potatoes, chili, soup, crackers, canned fruit. Place items in HAP bins located in Ridley Hall and the breezeway. Thank you!

YAMS (Young Adults Married & Single) MONDAY, DECEMBER 2 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.

MONTHLY MEN'S BREAKFAST Tuesday, December 10 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.

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 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

December Worship Schedule

Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Goldsmith		Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
8:45 am	Stuart	Goldsmith	Allen Daniels	Camille Sommer, Fred Beck	Shirley Hale Stucky
11:00 am	Stuart	Goldsmith	Peter Cobun	Liza Q. Wirtz, Marcia Cobun	Rhonwyn Watson
WEDNESDAY , December 4 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Sloan		Joan East		
THURSDAY, December 5 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Stuart		Sally Ann Culver		
SUNDAY, December 8 th - 2 nd Sunday of Advent					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Stuart		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Sloan	Stuart	Lewie Bates	Lane Mickle, Jennifer Dill	Clay Sherrill
11:00 am	Sloan	Stuart	Hanns Billmayer	Martha Joffrion, Elaine Hamner	Deborah Baker
WEDNESDAY, December 11 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Stuart	Stuart	Mary Hendricks		
THURSDAY, December 12 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Sloan		Lewie Bates		
SUNDAY, December 15 th - 3 rd Sunday of Advent					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Sloan		John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
8:45 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Virginia Kobler, Joan East	Mary Johnson, Lee Hicklen	Susan Brown
11:00 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Donna Rush, Walter Thames	Mickey Ellis, John Conover	Mdissa Kirkindall
WEDNESDAY, December 18 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
12 noon	Sloan		Miki Heaton		
THURSDAY, December 19 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM		
6:00 pm	Goldsmith		Sally Ann Culver		
SUNDAY, December 22 nd - 4 th Sunday of Advent					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Sloan	Sarah Watts	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
8:45 am	Goldsmith	Sarah Watts	Pat Sampson	Allen Daniels, Mike Innes	Fred Beck
11:00 am	Goldsmith	Sarah Watts	Deborah Baker	John Nelson, Ron Hogan	Polly Blalock
TUESDAY, December 24 th - Christmas Eve					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	
4:00 pm	Goldsmith	~	Sally Ann Culver, Linda Watts, Donna Rush, Charles Warren	Children	
7:30 pm	Sloan	Goldsmith	Mike Ward, Hanns Billmayer	Melissa Kirkindall, Lynn Sparks-Lewis	
10:30 pm	Stuart	Goldsmith	Peter Cobun, Sue Johnson	Marcia Cobun, Steve Johnson	
WEDNESDAY, December 25 th , Nativity of Our Lord: Christmas Day					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
10:00 am	Stuart		John Hendricks	John Hendricks	John Hendricks
THURSDAY, December 26 th NO Thursday Night Eucharist					
Service 6:00 pm	~	~	~		
SUNDAY, December 29 th , The First Sunday after Christmas Day - Readings & Carols					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Serio		n/a - Morning Prayer	Mary Hendricks	Mary Hendricks
10:00 am	Goldsmith	Readings & Carols	Lea Ann Barnett, Ken Barnett	Camille Sommer, Sally Ann Culver, Marcia Cobun, Jim Douthit, Robbie Shafer, Deacon Bob Serio	Clay Sherrill
USHERS					
8:45am	Charlie Warren, Stuart Evans, Bland Warren, Kevin Webber, Don Wheeler				
11:00am	Pamela Briggs, Ted Briggs, Kylan Laxson, Keith Clevenger, Terry Clevenger				
FLOWER GUILD					
B = Bibb C = Church	Gail Brown (B), Sharon Darty (B), Carole Albyn (B), Suzy Naumann (C), Lane Tutt (C)				
ALTAR GUILD					
1 st	Melva Ochoa, Sara Little, Sophia Rowe, Wanda Cobb, Judy Heacock, Danidle Roderick				
8 th	Gail Brown, Heather Stroud, Rebecca Brothers, Jewell Reynolds, Anne Carter				
15 th	Emily Moody, Mary Johnson, Judy Vann, Caffey Litkenhous, Debbie Joyner, Amanda Kiep				
22 nd	Sara Little, Linda Watts, Peggy Serio, Melva Ochoa, Alice Lanier, Nancy Colin, Rebecca Brothers, Danidle Roderick				
29 th	Beth Pugh, Sophia Rowe, Heather Stroud, Wanda Cobb, Judy Heacock				
CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE					
December 2 nd - 8 th	December 9 th - 15 th	December 16 th - 22 nd	December 23 rd - 29 th	December 30 th - January 5 th	
Serio	Sloan	Goldsmith	Sloan	Serio	
SUNDAY VESTRY PERSON OF THE DAY SCHEDULE					
December 1 st	December 8 th	December 15 th	December 22 nd	December 29 th	
Darren Malone	Grant Thomson	Greg Whitehead	Jason Angdichio	Paul Bonner	
Nike Pate	Elizabeth Foster	Michael Shipley	Wendy Wilson	Virginia Kobler	
VERGER SCHEDULE					
December 1 st	December 8 th	December 15 th	December 22 nd	December 29 th	
Don Lambert	Lea Ann Barnett	Don Lambert	Lea Ann Barnett		
Terry Clevenger	Hud Heaton	Terry Clevenger	Hud Heaton	Don Lambert (10am)	

December 24th Christmas Eve VERGER Schedule:

4pm: Terry Clevenger
 7:30pm: Lea Ann Barnett
 10:30pm: Hud Heaton

December 25th:

10am: Terry Clevenger

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

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



Vestry member Margaret Gleason (2nd from right in back) with Nativity volunteers preparing for the Annual Bazaar.

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