God’s family at the historic Church of the Nativity is joyfully and energetically committed to sharing Christ’s love and healing by proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel through worship and service to the world.

THE STEEPLE

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Keep us in the know!
Do you have a change of address, email, phone or perhaps major life event?
Contact Emily Rodgers 256-533-2455 ext.204 or erodgers@nativity-hsv.org.

On the cover...
Rose Veal Eby and Emily Collette Linton waving to friends and parishioners who came out to show their support following the May 23 Ordination Service.
Send your pictures from Nativity activities and events to: vhinton@nativity-hsv.org.
Dear Parish Family,

I still miss you all very much! I miss being together as a church family; worshipping together, sharing meals together, learning about and supporting one another, and giving hugs, high fives, and fist bumps. I continue to be grateful for all the wonderful ways that our members, staff, and clergy have been attentive to the needs of others over the past few months. I know we have all been working hard to make sure we stay in touch with everybody in our church family. I am also grateful to see how you continue to be generous to our larger community. We are doing so much to serve our struggling neighbors as Nativity continues to be a source of hope, comfort, and love for our city.

The Bishop has extended the suspension of indoor face-to-face worship until July 1st. I think this is the right decision, even though like you, I am anxious to worship together again. At heart, we are a worshiping community. When we come together, we are the Body of Christ. We come together for renewed strength, for forgiveness, to hear God’s word, to feel God’s love, to celebrate the great Eucharistic Feast, to experience the joy of the Lord, and to know the peace that passes all understanding. We need to be together. We need each other. But please be assured that God is in our midst as we wait for that day when we can all be together again as the Church of the Nativity. Until that day, don’t forget to wash your hands, wear a mask, and continue praying for the sick and those who are ministering to them all over God’s world. Please know that I miss you, I love you, and God loves you too.

God’s Peace -

The Rev. T. Michael Goldsmith

Who and how to contact your clergy and staff while they are away from their desks:

For those who do not receive online communications contact Emily Rodgers (256-653-9903) if you have any needs, concerns, questions, or to share your stories.

Your Facebook contact is Worth Stuart (wstuart@nativity-hsv.org).

The clergy contact for Assisted Living and the homebound is Susan Sloan (256-503-7898). Please leave a message and she will return your call immediately. (ssloan@nativity-hsv.org)

Children’s Ministries, Mary Coe (mcoe@nativity-hsv.org)

Youth Ministries, Amy Brooks (abrooks@nativity-hsv.org) 256-509-7783

Outreach, Rosie Veal Eby (rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org) 404-579-8738

Giving and Finance, Austin Cook (acook@nativity-hsv.org)

Prayer List, Amy Kennedy (akennedy@nativity-hsv.org) 256-533-2455

Choir, Music, and Liturgy (ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org)
Keep watch, dear Lord, with those who work, or watch, or weep. Tend the sick, Lord Christ; give rest to the weary, bless the dying, soothe the suffering, pity the afflicted, shield the joyous; and all for your love's sake. Amen. (adapted from BCP pg. 134)

NEW GATHER GROUPS

Hello Nativity Family!

During these strange times, we have all had to create. We have had to create new habits like working over Zoom instead of our normal workplaces, distancing ourselves from our neighbors, schooling our kids at home, worshipping online, and many more.

One of the things that we have all really missed is being together in fellowship with other members of our church family. As we look for new ways of being a community in Christ, we would like to introduce (drum roll please)...Gather Groups!

**What is a Gather Group?** It is a small group of ten or so people, an intentional cross section of single, married, young, young-at-heart, new members and long-time members. For now, we can’t meet in each other’s home, so we’ll do so over Zoom (or another agreeable platform). Gather Groups will be shuffled after several months.

**What is the purpose of Gather Groups?** Fellowship is strengthened by the ties we form among ourselves. Gather Groups focus on the sharing of a simple meal with brief prayers, fun and conversation.

**What do Gather Groups do?** The emphasis is on simple meals. While we are meeting online for now, pick a simple, easy-to-prepare meal that everyone can have together in their own homes. The meal can be left up to the group. Have the host pick, have breakfast for dinner, have a virtual potluck. Get creative! The choice is yours!

**How do I sign up?** Simply fill out the form here and submit! You will hear from us about your group shortly!

[CLICK HERE TO FILL OUT FORM]

God’s Peace,

Father Worth+
PANDEMIC GRIEF: OPPORTUNITY OR OBSTACLE?

Grief has touched all of us in one way or another during this time of COVID-19. This is a great opportunity to join the discussion on Grief during the pandemic. Amanda Ragland is a wonderful asset to the City of Huntsville as is The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center.
- The Rev. Worth Stuart

We are excited to announce this NEW Sunday school class! The classes will be on ZOOM Sunday, June 7th, 14th, 21st, and 28th at 11:00. ZOOM information to connect will be sent with Sunday Online Resources email each week. Rev. Dr. Amanda W. Ragland, LMFT, Executive Director, The Vine Pastoral Counseling Center will be our instructor.

The presence of change, loss and threat currently in our lives creates an environment that can unseat us, or through the trial, we can become more the people God intends.

In this four-part series, we will consider:

- how to recognize each aspect of grief as well as our basic emotions
- how to name, recognize and understand our deeper internal terrain that is the context for our grief
- how our emotional health (coping well with grief) impacts our spiritual life and visa versa

With this knowledge, we will consider how the pandemic creates a unique and personal healing and growth opportunity for each of us.

The study will be undergirded with spiritual writings and scripture as foundational guides. The goal of the study is to provide information for personal reflection beyond the class that will help us increase our ability to cope with pandemic grief in a way that leads us to the heart of our spiritual life and experience so that we find ourselves aware of and thriving in God’s presence, regardless of our circumstance.

COMING THIS JULY

One of the reasons it is so hard for us, as Episcopalians, to be apart during this pandemic is because we often know and celebrate God in community and through our senses; we “taste and see,” we listen and sing, we pray out loud as one voice, and we pass the Peace. In the sacraments and sacramental rites of our faith we communicate God’s presence with us through tangible and holy things. Things like water, bread, wine, wedding rings, and oil. We are a sacramental people. For five weeks, starting on Sunday, July 12th, the clergy will lead a series of classes entitled “The Sacramental Church.” We will examine how the sacraments communicate God’s love to us. Please join us online as we take a closer look for “The Sacramental Church.”

More information about this class will be available soon!
Hands Across the World VBS Home Edition  
Monday June 22 to Wednesday June 24

Registration open! [CLICK HERE]

A different kind of year; a different kind of VBS. VBS Home Edition will come to you by front porch deliveries and online resources.

You are invited to experience this new kind of VBS with us. We'll have fun together while remaining safe at home. Will it be the same as three days of craziness at church? No. Will it be enjoyable and keep us connected until we can be together again? Yes!

Hands Across the World VBS focuses on God's call for us to love all our neighbors, all over the world. We'll explore the world through crafts, games, music, stories and outreach.

Each day, a package of materials and instructions for crafts, games and projects will be delivered to your front porch and an email with links to online stories, music and demonstrations will be sent to you. We can also share pictures and stay connected through social media.

- Please pre-register so we can order supplies and t-shirts. (Must register by June 12 to receive a t-shirt)
- VBS is free to all, including t-shirts.
- VBS is open to rising 4-year-old Pre-Ks (turning 4 by 9/1/20) through rising 6th Graders.
- Your help is welcome! It will take a group effort to pull off this VBS. We'll need a team to make deliveries and helpers to prepare materials at home. Volunteer during registration or email mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.

[Register at tinyurl.com/2020NativityVBS]

Can’t wait for VBS!
CAMP IN THE COURTYARD

We know that many of our children from Nativity were looking forward to their summer camp sessions at Camp McDowell this year. While we understand the decision to cancel camp was in the best interest of everyone, we also know that those anticipating a week of fun in God’s backyard are disappointed. That is where we come in! In an effort to give the kids a little bit of camp fun, we will be hosting *Camp In The Courtyard* gatherings for all Nativity kids who were signed up for a summer session at McDowell. While practicing social distancing we will play a few games, have a sack supper and worship together in the Nativity Courtyard. Check out the calendar below, and find your sessions meeting time, then put on your favorite camp shirt or pasture party outfit and get ready for some fun! Please bring a blanket or chair to sit on. We will take up a collection for the Camp McDowell scholarship fund during the Compline service for those who would like to contribute.

Please email vhinton@nativity-hsv.org and let us know which session you plan to attend so that we can plan for enough food.

Junior High 1 & Junior High 2– Monday, June 22 5:00-6:00 pm

Sophomore Camp– Monday, June 29th 5:00-6:00 pm

Senior Camp– Monday, July 13th 5:00-6:00 pm

Middler Camp & Bethany’s Kids– Monday, July 20th 5:00-6:00 pm

Elementary 1 & Elementary 2– Monday, July 27th 5:00-6:00 pm

Primary 1 & Primary 2– Monday, August 3rd 5:00-6:00 pm

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Parish Financial Report April 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Budget for Period</th>
<th>Actual for Period</th>
<th>Budget YTD</th>
<th>Actual YTD</th>
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Since I have been out in the camps, at First Stop and various other outreach service organizations I have received so many wonderful donations. Oftentimes there are various sticky notes with who this is for or where it should go to on the item or items. This made me think and begin a conversation with others that this way of doing outreach ministry differently, this Episcopal presence in the wider Huntsville community that we are building at First Stop and in the camps, could use a name.

Names are hard to decide on; my full name is actually Rosemary and nobody calls me that ever! I joke that I know things are serious when someone calls me Rose rather than Rosie, and even my sister will vary between calling me both names depending on her mood.

So before Covid I talked with my friends at First Stop after worship one day about what they wanted to call the ministry. We talked about Saint names and names of places in the Bible. Finally, Travelers Atlar was suggested. That was it. We are all travelers on our faith journey, whether we call our home a tent behind the police station, a car, if we sleep behind the library, live in Blossomwood, in the projects, on the mountain, in Five Points or somewhere in between. We are all on the journey and it is at the altar where we find solace and Christ. Thank you for joining me in the journey and in the ministry.

Peace,
Rosie or Rose :}

MY DAYS AT FIRST STOP

By Rev. Rose Veal Eby

Everyday I show up at First Stop I wait to see if Danny shows up on his bike. I used to hope he didn’t. On March 13th Danny came to me and said he listened to my sermon during worship one day, and said that he heard that we could change our lives. Now I have looked through my sermon notes and tried to find where I said that, and yet I have never seen it, but to this day thankful that the Holy Spirit brought that message to Danny. One March 15th, Danny asked for help to get into rehab, that is also the week that everything began to shut down due to Covid-19.

Danny had approached me prior to this and wanted to talk to me about his beliefs in the white nationalist party. He felt like he could confide in me because we were both white. I very quickly shunned him. He probably did this several times in the months leading up to asking for help. His behavior was erratic due to his use of meth and often on the edge of being violent.

On March 13 I had to decide if I was going to help everyone, no exception. I did. We worked with a group to get him into outpatient rehab. He has slipped a couple times but is doing well. He goes to his doctor every two weeks and is in counseling. He has also grown more respectful and learned to control his temper. 

Continued on page 9...
His bike got stolen last week and Richard, who is black, saw who took it and helped Danny get his bike back. Richard is an employee of First Stop and Danny used to say terrible things about Richard. Danny shook Richard's hand and was so appreciative. His caseworker at First Stop is also black and he is working well with her, making progress and going to labor finders.

Danny grew up in and out of the foster system, experienced abuse and neglect. His mother is a meth addict still. He is 25 years old. He was lost in the system when he was a child and lost on the streets with no one to tell him his belief system is wrong.

It is hard to sit with Danny and talk about race, he is hard to love. But we are not just called to love the easy ones. So everyday when he rides up on his bike I thank God for putting Danny in my life because he is a beloved child of God and he is welcome.

GREENE STREET MARKET MAKES AN IMPACT

By Michael Shipley

The recipient of the 2019 Greene Street Market proceeds is the Kids to Love Foundation. The Greene Street Market at Nativity presented the Kids to Love Foundation with a check for $20,000 at this years opening market on Thursday, May 7, 2020.

Kids to Love is dreaming BIG with a new Cottage Community at Davidson Farms! Five tiny homes will soon become a bridge to independence for girls aging out of the foster care system. Greene Street Market is a proud to support Kids to Love on this journey! And you can too, by visiting KidstoLove.org.

In 2017, the Kids to Love Foundation opened Davidson Farms, a tranquil 10 acres in Madison county that offers young women in the foster system the promise of hope, healing, and a home.

The girls who live at Davidson Farms have survived trauma that no one, especially children, should endure. Each girl at the farm has their own bedroom and safe space. The Kids to Love team works with them on career planning, communication, daily living, home life, housing and money management, self-care and wellness, social relationships, tutoring, mentoring, and so much more.

Right now, when one of the girls turns 20, she must move out of Davidson Farms. This can be a precarious time for these young people that determines their life's trajectory. The Davidson Farms Cottage Community will serve as a bridge during this critical transition from childhood to adulthood, and give these girls an even better shot at healthy happy lives!
An important event took place on April 22nd, the 50th anniversary of Earth Day.

Why is Earth Day important? Earth Day 1970 gave a voice to an emerging public consciousness about the state of our planet. In the decades leading up to the first Earth Day, Americans were consuming vast amounts of leaded gas through massive and inefficient automobiles. Industry belched out smoke and sludge with little fear of the consequences from either the law or bad press. Air pollution was commonly accepted as the smell of prosperity. Until this point, mainstream America remained largely oblivious to environmental concerns and how a polluted environment threatens human health.

However, the stage was set for change with the publication of Rachel Carson’s New York Times bestseller Silent Spring in 1962. The book represented a watershed moment, selling more than 500,000 copies in 24 countries as it raised public awareness and concern for living organisms, the environment and the inextricable links between pollution and public health. Earth Day 1970 would give voice to this emerging environmental consciousness.

Earth Day founder Gaylord Nelson came up with the idea for a national day to focus on the environment after Nelson, then a U.S. Senator, witnessed the ravages of a massive oil spill in Santa Barbara, California, in 1969. On April 22, 1970, 20 million Americans — at the time, 10% of the total population of the United States — took to the streets, parks and auditoriums to demonstrate for a healthy, sustainable environment in massive coast-to-coast rallies. Groups that had been fighting individually against many different environmental problems united on Earth Day around these shared common values. Earth Day 1970 achieved a rare political alignment, enlisting support from Republicans and Democrats, rich and poor, urban dwellers and farmers, business and labor leaders. By the end of 1970, the first Earth Day led to the creation of the United States Environmental Protection Agency and the passage of the Clean Air, Clean Water and Endangered Species Acts.

Now, the fight for a clean environment continues with increasing urgency, as the ravages of climate change become more and more apparent every day. The 50th anniversary speaks to the very heart of what Earth Day is all about — empowering individuals with the information, the tools, the messaging and the communities needed to make an impact and drive change.

Here is a suggested local activity for each of us at Nativity, in celebration of Earth Day, not just on April 22, but one we can do as we continue to celebrate God’s Creation in the future: that is, to make use of a valuable local service provided by Solid Waste Disposal Auth. (SWDA) & Recycling Alliance of North Ala. (RANA)!!

During this unsettled time caused by the coronavirus, many of us are looking for things to do that will turn this unexpected time at home into a productive time. Here is a suggested project for both a positive use of this time and a great thing to do for the environment: clean out old poisons, powders and sprays from your garden shed, old electronics, household cleaners or household chemicals from your workrooms or storage closets, and the old paint taking up space in the garage. With the new drive-through drop-off service at Huntsville’s Household Hazardous Waste Facility, residents don’t even have to get out of their cars to unload materials!! This new facility, which opened in 2019, is open five days a week, 7:00 a.m. – 5:00 p.m.

While you are spending more time at home, this is a great time to sort and collect things to be delivered to HHWF at a later time.

Continued on page 11
The Goal: to reduce the toxicity of the community’s waste stream by removing as much of the household hazardous waste as possible. This program will decrease pollution and contamination that would be caused by improper disposal of hazardous waste, and will reduce injuries due to improper storage of hazardous waste in homes. See the web site for a list of accepted household hazardous waste materials. If you are not sure about the acceptability of an item, contact the Household Hazardous Waste Program at number below. They are happy to answer your questions.

CONTACT US: Phone: (256) 882-0155 Address: 1055 A Cleaner Way Huntsville, AL 35805
Web site: www.swdahsv.org/hazardous

PRESERVING NATIVITY’S LEGACY

By Lou Durnya

Since the first Book of Common Prayer, Episcopalians have been encouraged to make a will to provide for their families and to make bequests for religious and charitable purposes if possible. It is quite noteworthy that the Episcopal Book of Common Prayer includes a specific direction to making a will. Page 445 of the Book of Common Prayer states: “The Minister of the Congregation is directed to instruct the people, from time to time, about the duty of Christian parents to make prudent provision for the well-being of their families, and of all persons to make wills, while they are in health, arranging for the disposal of their temporal goods, not neglecting, if they are able, to leave bequests for religious and charitable uses.”

One of the ways of ensuring Nativity’s legacy is to include Nativity in your will.

While it’s impossible to know or control what happens in the future, you can have security about achieving your ultimate goals by making a plan. Planning is one way to create a secure future for you and your loved ones. With a good plan, you can rest easily knowing that your family will be well cared for and your assets will pass to your intended beneficiaries. At The Church of the Nativity, we want to help you care for your loved ones and make a plan. And we hope you will consider including your church in your plan after your family is provided for.

At The Church of the Nativity, there are two separate, endowed funds for which planned gifts can be designated.

If your passion is outreach, designate your gift to the NATIVITY TRUST, which provides financial support for new outreach programs and special capital needs of the parish.

If your passion is historic preservation, designate your planned gift to the NATIVITY HISTORIC PRESERVATION FOUNDATION. The foundation was formed to preserve and maintain this holy place—a National Historic Landmark—so that it may continue to invoke the spirit of the past and inspire future generations.

Please note: Gifts for historic preservation must be specifically designated to the Nativity Historic Preservation Foundation within the bequest. Undesignated gifts automatically go to the Nativity Trust and cannot be redirected by representatives of Nativity. (It is definitely possible to give to both)

For substantial information on planned giving please visit this site: www.dioalalegacy.org

Note that while this site is diocesan-wide, if you desire to give to Nativity, just substitute Church of the Nativity or the Nativity Historic Preservation Foundation wherever the Diocese is referenced.

Questions? Contact Lou Durnya at ldurn@aol.com.
CELEBRATING OUR GRADUATING SENIORS

Patrick Ahearn - The Church of the Nativity has meant a lot to me over the past 18 years. It’s been a place where I can share my love of God with others who have the same ideas as me. I will truly miss it in Texas.

Abby Amis - Abby will be attending Auburn University in the fall where she plans to study biology while remaining involved in theatre and the arts. Nativity has been a place to celebrate her faith.

Mary Kate Brooks - Mary Kate will attend Birmingham Southern College in the Fall and will major in Musical Theatre. Nativity has been her home since she was born. She has wonderful memories of VBS, Sunday School, and family weekends at Camp McDowell.

Caitlyn Crocker - My future plans are to attend Calhoun Community College to get a general associates degree. Then I will transfer to Chattanooga State Community College and major in cardiac ultrasound. Nativity has been a great influence on my life. The church has been very welcoming. When the youth asked me to go with them on their rafting trip I was very humbled and excited to meet new people and make new friends that live here in Huntsville. Moving to Huntsville for my senior year was not the easiest thing to do but the people of Nativity made it worthwhile and made things here seem a little less crazy. I can’t thank Nativity enough for making me feel welcome in the church and in the community.

Laura Kate Evans - I will be majoring in finance at the University of Alabama. I will be living at Tutwiler Hall and plan to be involved with Greek Life and Student Government. Nativity has always been special to me because of the friends I made there as a child and all of the amazing people I have met through being an acolyte and a summer volunteer a few years ago. I will always cherish my memories at Nativity and am so happy to be a part of such a beautiful community.
Ella Jane Duncan- Ella Jane will be graduation from Randolph with the class of 2020 and attending Auburn University in the Fall. She is looking forward to her adventure on the Auburn Plains, and is exploring career opportunities that will include her love and talent in art. Ella Jane has always found comfort in her church and is proud to call Nativity her home.

Belle Higgins- I’m going to be attending UAB in the Fall, currently planning on majoring in business. High school has been a time of learning and growth and I am very grateful that Nativity has helped me along that journey.

Laura Kamelchuk- Laura is attending Auburn University in the Fall and majoring in Graphic Design. She has loved growing up at Nativity!

Christopher Laney- Christopher will attend Savannah College of Art and Design in the Fall and major in computer game design. Nativity has been his church home since he was one. He always enjoyed packing meals for the Hunger Project and attending Family Weekends at Camp McDowell.

Alice Malone- Alice plans to attend Rhodes College in the Fall and study computer science and studio art. Alice has been involved in Sunday School, acolyting, and youth group. She has also been involved with Sawyerville on the Diocesan level.

Laura Green Nelson- Laura Green will attend The University of Alabama in the Fall. She would like to be an orthodontist. Laura Green was confirmed at Nativity and spent many years in EYC.

Continued on page 14
Amelia Rosler- Amelia will attend the University of Tennessee in the Fall and will major in Biological Sciences with a concentration in Biochemistry and Molecular Biology.

Amelia Rosler

Clay Walker- Clay will be attending Auburn University in the Fall to study finance. He remembers being Joseph in the Christmas Pageant. He has been an acolyte since 7th grade and knows that Nativity is his home. The church has given him a sense of responsibility as well as understanding how important it is to serve others.

Clay Walker

Evelyn Warren- I will be attending Washington and Lee in the Fall. I love all the wonderful friends I have met at Nativity and I am so grateful to have had a church that has allowed me to grow closer to God.

Evelyn Warren

Emery Windham- I will be attending the University of Alabama this Fall. I plan on majoring in business. I have many fond memories growing up at Nativity. I have enjoyed serving the church through acolyting over the years.

Emery Windham

James Overstreet- I plan to attend the University of Alabama in the Fall. Nativity has been a constant in my life that has always provided a warm and welcome environment.
SUMMER BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CHILDREN:

JUNE
Prentiss Miller
Elise Roche
Natalia Vela
Alexander Bounds
Ellie Gleason
John Gleason
William Greyson Cook
Wesley Pate
Nyssa Henderson
Vanessa Vela
Jack Copeland
Colton Boyce
Cora Putt
Alex Hereford
Lydia Kilpatrick
Aerin Watts
Vivienne Shedd
Camille Kilpatrick
Matilda Smith
Laura Kamelchuk
Charles Ayres

AUGUST
Sean Berman
Caroline Brooks
Caroline Cooper
Evan McCarty
Drew Dodgen
Noah Huskey
Henry Keener
Hunter Ray
Moss Fleming
James FitzGerald
Brendan Proud
Kathryn Kelly
Charlotte Klos
Read Klos II
Warren Towry
Frances Fortner
Wren Guffey
Quintin Maddox
Eleanor Elizabeth Nicely
Ford Whitfield IV
Atkins Connelly
John Cowan
Nathaniel Swillie II
Margaret Fortune
Harvey Wilson
Alex Elliott
Joanna Jackson
Caroline Ayres
Harper Hudson
Reagen Huskey
Kurt Scheidker
Ezra Spencer
Carter Whitehead
Alice Mae Hinton
Ryker Brown
Lily Durnya
Elias Spencer
Tripp Elliott III
Anna Crawford Mullins
Greer Baker
Ellie Roderick

PARISHIONER UPDATES:
Shirley Cobun
South Hampton Nursing and Rehab Center
213 Wilson Mann Road
Owens Cross Roads, AL 35763

ORDINATION TO THE DEACONATE: Emily Collette Linton and Rose Veal Eby

DEATHS: Will Rawson, Phil Dotts, Fred Lackey and Buddy Walker

BIRTHS: William Harrison Hase, infant son of Stephanie and Ben Hase

COURTYARD SCHEDULE
The Church of the Nativity Courtyard is a beautiful space for your group to meet while we are still unable to be inside our building. Starting Monday, May 25 we will begin reserving the courtyard for church meetings and groups. This space is for casual meetings and there will be no set-up, take-down or supplies provided. The schedule will just help us make sure that the space is available for everyone when needed and prevent overlap and overcrowding. If your group is interested in reserving the space CLICK HERE and complete the request form. You will receive confirmation once your event has been added to the schedule.