THE STEPLE

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity



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Adult Christian Formation

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Sexton

EMERGENCY CALLS

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.

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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FINANCIAL UPDATE

On the cover...

Sweet little Lane Medina (granddaughter of Lane and Drew Tutt) watching the Sunday service online at her home in New York City, NY.

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 eventy-new-nativity-hsv.org.

MASK MINISTRY

By Margaret Devenish

This past spring, when the Greene Street Store opened for food pick up, Marilyn Evans suggested the store also supply face masks as a service to our community. Who knew this effort would so successfully expand to the Thursday Greene Street Market!

To date, a devoted group of women have made 1,200 reusable, cotton face masks, equaling \$6,000.00 which has been donated to Manna House and First Stop. Five

dollars at a time!

I wish everyone could have witnessed some of the community connections which have occurred from this effort to make everyone safer from illness.

There have been kids absolutely delighted to find just the right "Thomas the Tank Engine", pirate or puppy masks. One customer was thrilled to find an aqua and





pink flower mask that perfectly matched her aqua hair. Clovia, a lovely lady, has purchased many masks for her family and friends. Our contacts with this ministry have bridged all ages, denominations, languages and socio-economic barriers. It has, and continues to be, a wonderful ministry.

We are so grateful!

Sewers and sellers include: Lea Ann Barnett, Teresa Brosemer, Jennie Coe, Nancy Colin, Margaret Devenish, Marilyn Evans, Karen Falkowski, Debbie Harriman, Connie Henderson, Melissa Jones, Angie Knight, Dorrie Nutt, Janet Robbins, Emily Rodgers and Diana Scheidker

LET'S DO THIS SAFELY-TOGETHER! FACE TO FACE WORSHIP @ NATIVITY

I want to thank you for your patience during this time of separation. As you know, we will resume face-to-face worship beginning September 6th. However, we will also continue to offer all of our online services for those who are not yet comfortable returning.

To help us create a safe worship environment we will require you to wear a mask and make a "reservation." Reservations will allow us to ensure proper social distancing. The instructions for how to reserve a pew are outlined below.

As we enter into this new way of worshiping together, we will do so carefully and slowly. Therefore, we will not yet be celebrating the Eucharist. I know you have lots of questions and I hope the attached information and video will answer all of them. If not, please let us know.

**Continued on page 4......

Reservations:

Please make a reservation by calling the church office 256-533-2455, Monday-Friday, 9am-12 noon OR make your reservation online. Reservations will open each Monday and a link will be sent via email. You can also find the link online at nativity-hsv.org. Phone reservations will be taken until noon Friday, and online reservations until midnight Saturday.

- *Select which service you would like to attend: 7:30am, 9:00am or11:00am.
- *Select a pew for up to 3 people or a pew for up to 6 people.

Reservations are required for Sunday morning.

Sunday Morning:

*Masks are required at all times.

Please arrive early to give plenty of time to check in and be seated.

- *Go to one of two welcome tables: Bell Tower door OR Breezeway between the Nave and Ridley Hall.
- *Volunteers will check your name off the list and take your temperature.
- *An Usher will take you to your seat.
- *We will seat from the front of the church to the rear. At the end of the service, parishioners will be dismissed from the rear of the church to the front.

Please help us keep each other safe and healthy!

FEED MY SHEEP

When they had finished breakfast, Jesus said to Simon Peter, "Simon, son of John, do you love me more than these?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Feed my lambs." He said to him a second time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" He said to him, "Yes, Lord; you know that I love you." He said to him, "Tend my sheep." He said to him the third time, "Simon, son of John, do you love me?" Peter was grieved because he said to him the third time, "Do you love me?" and he said to him, "Lord, you know everything; you know that I love you." Jesus said to him, "Feed my sheep.

-John 21:15-17

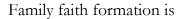
Feed My Sheep is a ministry dedicated to cooking and delivering frozen home cooked meals to our parishioners in need. Please contact Amy Kennedy akennedy@nativity-hsv.org or a clergy member if you or someone you know has recently been ill, in the hospital, had surgery, experienced a death in the family, had a baby or adopted a child, or just needs to feel love from our wonderful church family.

If you are interested in working with the delivery of these meals, please contact Sherry Sampson robertsampson@knology.net.

If you are interested in cooking these meals, please contact Heather Stroud hmserwecki@gmail.com.

Family Faith Formation

During this unusual season, maybe we can make just a little lemonade out of lemons. With the Family Faith Formation series, your family can gather whenever you like, for the length of time that works for you: a quick check in, a reflective chat or an ongoing dialogue. FFF is not one more thing to add to the struggle juggle, but a moment to step out away from it and spend a few minutes talking about God and faith. Use the weekly guides as a jumping off point and see where the Spirit leads you!



- ...doable anytime, anywhere your family is together: mealtime, bedtime, drive-time
- ...doable by anyone, no special knowledge or training needed
- ...a time for families to talk about faith and spirituality together
- ...good for families or friend groups
- ...lectionary based
- ...adaptable to your family's blend of ages and preferences

Family faith formation is not...

- ...boring
- ...hard
- ...limited to 50 minutes on Sunday mornings
- ...preparation intensive
- ...focused on screen-time

Please register at <u>tinyurl.com/familyfaithformation</u> to receive monthly mailings that include a guide for each week of the month and other faith at home ideas. Weekly guides will also be posted on-line. Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.





Children's Activities for Fall 2020

As we move into the fall season, some things will change and others will stay the same. Children's chapel on line will continue. In person Sunday school will not be held this fall. Instead, register at tinyurl.com/ <u>familyfaithformation</u> for the Family Faith Formation series.

Special Events

October 25, Drive through pumpkin carving contest and reverse trunk or treat

November 15, Progressive prayer stations for all ages

December, date TBD, Christmas pageant.

Look for more details on these events as the time draws closer.

NATIVITY YOUTH

Welcome back! We are excited to start a new year with our Nativity Youth!

New Parent Remind links for 2020-2021

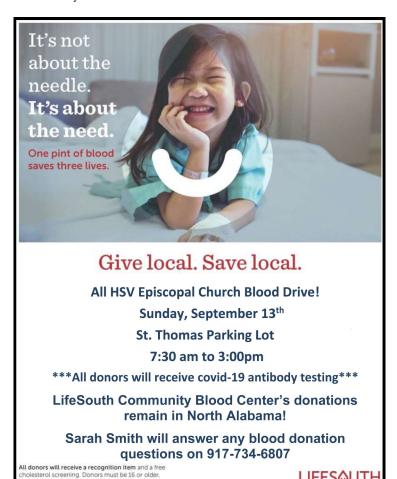
JYC (5th and 6th grade): https://www.remind.com/ join/khe29a

EYC (7th-12th grade): https://www.remind.com/ join/9c7bb2c

New Remind Codes for Youth 7th-12th grade: https:// www.remind.com/join/9k7kef

Click on the link below for the latest information on what is happening with the Youth this Fall:

https://tinyurl.com/Fall2020Youth



gh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. year-olds require written parental permission

LIFES@UTH

Community Blood Cente

ADULT CHRISTIAN FORMATION

By Lane Tutt

Even though we can't be together in person this fall, we are planning some fun things for Adult Christian Formation! Keep an eye out in the weekly service emails, on Facebook and on our website for announcements.

ART AND POETRY - Go to Facebook and search for the page called Art and Poetry for Nativity. The description says: Art and Poetry from the classes taught by Lynne Berry Vallely, Jeannie Robison, and Walter Thames at the Church of Nativity, Huntsville, AL. Also includes art and poetry related to sermons, other classes, events, etc.

CHAT AND CHEW -Sunday school class. This class will meet once a month this fall on Facebook. The dates are to be announced. Contact: Iana Ham

THE SOCIAL JUSTICE CLASS -This Sunday school class will meet this fall on ZOOM. Details are being decided. More information will be announced soon. Contact: Freya Neely

REFLECTIONS BIBLE STUDY - This women's Bible class will meet on Thursday mornings. More information to follow. Contact: Stephanie Ortel

ADVENT SERIES-This class will be lead by Walter Thames and Lynne Berry Vallely on Sunday's December 6, 13, and 20. It will either be recorded or on Zoom. Details published closer to the time.

NATIVITY LUNCH BUNCH

We have all missed seeing each other during the pandemic! Things are opening up a little but we still need to be safe.

We are trying to organize a meeting of the Lunch Bunch over Zoom in the next few weeks.

Once we get the details worked out we will put the information on the website and weekly updates.

If you have a computer with a camera or a smart phone, we can help you get set up.

Look forward to seeing and talking to everyone.

Mother Susan and Deacon Bob

SINGING AND THE NEW NORMAL

By Christian Crocker

Over the past six months musicians have been wondering, "When can we make music together again?" Church musicians have been particularly challenged by this question with regard to congregational singing as well. "When can we sing our praises to God together like we did just six months ago?" The answer is unclear, but what we do know is that it is currently unsafe to do so, even as we are able to return to our space that we all love so dearly. At the beginning of the pandemic, there was very little information about the spread of the virus, and leaders of choirs, voice and wind instrument instructors, and singers were heartbroken to know that their craft, their art, their lives were affected in a way they had never previously thought possible. I've personally wondered what the future of corporate singing is going to look like, and frankly, I have no idea.

Throughout this time, the "unknown" is what has driven some of our fears about the virus and how our interactions with one another mitigate the spread of it. Right now there are countless studies happening around the world specifically targeted at determining how singing can spread the virus. Since these studies began, the information has vacillated from one extreme to the other. One minute it seems as though, no matter the level of precaution, singing is a "super spreader" activity; the other, that singing with proper precautions (masking and distancing of 6ft) can be no less harmful than going to the grocery store. What we do know is that singing does increase the velocity at which air is expelled from the body, as well as the amount of air needed to produce longer tones at differing volumes. Most of these studies, if not all, have not been peer-reviewed yet. Trying to maintain clarity with the weekly deluge of information has been slightly challenging, but it's also somewhat promising to know that this is something that is important to so many of us.

This is why, at first, our worship back in the nave will be very different from what it is on a usual Sunday morning. Yes, you'll be distanced and masked, which is different already, but music will also have a very minimal presence. Our organ draws in air from the space and recycles it to use in the blower, which is slightly counteractive to the attempt to filter any air while in the space. Thankfully we have a beautiful Steinway grand that we can use to provide some pre- and post-service music to mark the time we are in the space together.

I hope that this sheds some light on the decisions that have been made with respect to the current role of music in worship. It's my hope that we will be able to go back to some sense of normal, whatever that may be, soon. In the meantime, we can keep longing for that day when we will be singing together again.

"Oh may we soon again renew that song, and keep in tune with Heav'n til God ere long to His celestial concert us unite, to live with Him, and sing in endless morn of light."

-John Milton At a solemn Musick



CHOIR FOR ADULTS AND CHILDREN

By Christian Crocker

This Fall all choirs for children and adults will be offered online. This provides an opportunity for choristers of all ages to participate in leading worship as safely as possible during the pandemic. Our weekly rehearsals will be a combination of instruction, singing, and social activities all on Zoom. We will then join together in Virtual Choirs that we have been creating together since July. If you have any questions about any of our ensembles or if you would like to sign up for choir, please email our Director of Music and Organist, Christian Crocker at ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org. We offer ensemble opportunities for the following age groups:

Cherub Choir: age 3-4 More information about this group to come later

Novice Choir: K-2nd grade 4:30pm-5:00pm

Junior Choristers: 3rd-5th grade 4:00pm-4:45pm **Senior Choristers**: 6th-12th grade 4:30pm-5:15pm

Adult Choir: includes teen boys with changed voices and the young at heart 7:00pm-8:30pm

Rehearsals will begin September 9th

NOTES FROM THE TRAVELERS ALTAR, FIRST STOP

By Rosie Veal Eby

I can remember when my children were young, arguing with them about having to take a bath. Golly, they would run about the house and even sometimes hide in order to avoid a dreaded bath, I am certain I did the same. Now as adults we look forward to a shower, a way to wash the day off or a way to wake up in the morning. What a privilege.



Somedays at First Stop I get called out of my role of providing pastoral care to filling in for staff and I will be charged with the shower sheet. We have a list that we take names down for showers. There are 22 slots on this sign up sheet every day that we manage to fill with the time we have to offer. On average we feed about 60-80 people a day. When I write the last name on the shower list I know people will keep coming to ask for a shower. During this pandemic we closed the showers for sometime. One person was so filled with joy when he got to take a shower, he told us it had been weeks since he had bathed.



Often times we find people improvise when the list fills up and have used the sink we have outside for washing hands, this provides some comic relief from time to time and keeps us all in check. Thank you for you continued support,

we can always use the shampoo and body wash minis and shower cleaning supplies.

CENTERING PRAYER MOVIES TO WATCH

By Mary Johnson

Every summer the Centering Prayer groups has a dinner and a movie series. Since that is not an option for us this year, we thought we would put together a list of movies you might watch on your own this summer. Click on the title for a preview of each movie. Most titles can be found on Netflix or Prime Video.

Menashe

The Awakening of Motti Wolkenbruch (The trailer is not in English, nor has subtitles, but Netflix streams a dubbed version.)

The Mighty Macs Hail, Cesar

<u>Unstoppable</u> <u>The Letters</u>

<u>Tender Mercies</u> <u>Rabbit-Proof Fence</u>

<u>Just About Enough</u>
<u>Babette's Feast</u>

A Box of Faith

A Man Called Ove

The Way

WONDERFUL WONDERFUL CAMP MCDOWELL STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

By Clarissa Sharp

Nothing is the same this summer The joyful laughter of campers is not hear. But I can tell you Camp is not a bummer. God's backyard is full and undeterred! Over the years, we have all enjoyed Camp McDowell as campers, counselors, chaperones, lodgers and more. When the family threw around the idea of a Social Distanced Family gathering over the July 4th weekend, most of us dove in! Each family unit occupied one lodge in Parson's Commons, and we gathered together outside. We did pretty well with the masks, and better with being mindful of how close we were to



others. The cabins were empty, and the canteen was not open, but some things don't change! Breakfast at 8, hiking/swimming at Tillers at 9, lunch, Canoeing at 1, pool open until 4, dinner. We were so busy getting to the next activity, we even forgot about rest time! The beauty and majesty of McDowell never ceases to amaze. The flora and fauna so diverse and lush, the tall rock cliffs along Clear Creek, the cool rushing rapids in a full creek were appreciated by all of us. God's Backyard is holding strong during the pandemic. It may even be healing and growing stronger with a summer of less footsteps. More importantly, it leads our minds to a peaceful state, allowing us to take in the beauty of creation without the clutter of noise, screens, or other distractions. The vibe is one of pure joy. Growing bigger to host more and different events, Camp has many areas to explore. The Farm school animals and plants are still tended, even as many employees have been furloughed. Camp grown and camp made items are for sale at the Camp store-they have ice cream too! Fishing and canoeing on the upper camp lake is available for all at any time. We attended a bird program as well as took a farm tour. Ever grateful to have Monte Sano mountain and the Land Trust trails to enjoy locally, and equally grateful to have Camp McDowell as our Episcopal camp.

- *A follow-up to our last piece about recycling:
- Target glass recycling is back underway
- You can ask RANA for a second residential bin
- Whole Foods collects cork now

SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT

The Spiritual Development Committee would like to offer this list of resources for those who are looking for tools to assist them on their journey of spiritual growth. The list was prepared by Thomasa Huffstutler with St. James in Alexander City.

Alexander City.		1
BOOKS		
Title	First	Last
The Wisdom Jesus: Transforming Heart and Mind-a New Perspective on Christ and	Bourgeault	
his Message 12 Extraordinary Women	John	MacArthur
12 Ordinary Men	John	MacArthur
Always We Begin Again	John	McQuiston
Beulah: A Sequel to Jabbok	Key	Sloan
Daring Greatly	Brene	Brown
Falling Upward: A Spirituality for the Two Halves of Life	Richard	Rohr
God's Wisdom for your Every Needs	Jack	Countryman
Help, Thanks, Wow, The Three Essential Prayers	Anne	Lamott
Holy Envy: Finding God in the Faith of Others	Barbara Brown	Taylor
Jabbok	Key	Sloan
Lamb, the Gospel According to Biff, Christ's Childhood Friend	Christopher	Moore
Life in Christ: Practicing Christian Spirituality	Julia	Gatta
Listening to Your Life, Daily Meditations	Frederick	Buechner
Liturgy of the Ordinary: Scared Practices in Everyday Life	Tish Harrison	Warren
Prayer of Jabez: Breaking Through to the Blessed Life	Bruce	Wilkinson
The Boy, the mole, the fox and the horse	Charlie	Mackery
The Clown in the Belfry: Writings on Faith and Fiction	Frederick	Buechner
The Gift of Years: Growing Older Gracefully	Joan	Chittister
The Late Great Planet Earth	Hal	Lindsey
The Power of Love: Sermons, reflections, and wisdom to uplift and inspire	Michael	Curry
The Practice of the Presence of God		Lawrence
The Purpose Driven Life: What on Earth Am I Here For?	Rick	Warren
The Ragamuffin Gospel: Good News for the Bedraggled, Beat-up, and Burnt Out	Brennan	Manning
The Shack	William P.	Young
The True Measure of A Man: How Perceptions of Success, Achievement & Recognition Fail Men in Difficult Times	Richard	Simmons Ill
The Wisdom Way of Knowing: Reclaiming an Ancient Tradition to Awaken the Heart	Cynthia	Bourgeault
Walking on Water	Madeleine	L' Engle
What's So Amazing About Grace	Philip	Yancey
Whistling in the Dark: A Doubter's Dictionary	Frederick	Buechner
Authors - Anything by		
C.S. Lewis		
Adam Hamilton		
Max Lucado		
Nadia Boltz Weber		
N.T. Wright		

Guided Prayer Journals/Devotionals		
Title	First	Last
Prayer Journal for Women	Shannon	Roberts
A Year with C.S. Lewis edited by	Patricia S.	Klein
Bread for the Journey	Henri	Nouwen
Core 52: A fifteen-minute daily guide to build your bible IQ in a year	Mark	Moore
Daily Splashes of Joy	Barbara	Johnson
Jesus Calling	Sarah	Young
New Morning Mercies: A Daily Gospel Devotional	Paul David	Tripp
Yes, and: Daily Meditations-Richard Rohr	Richard	Rohr
Daily Guidepost, A Spirit-Lifting Devotional		Guidepost
Websites		
Title		
Bishop Steven Charleston - https://www.facebook.com/bishopstevencharlesto	on/	•
Blue Letter Bible , www.bluelet terbible.org has Strong's Concordance references, 1	pronunciation recordings	,
Daily Office, the Episcopal Church , https://episcopalchurch.org/library/glos		
Forward Day by Day, https://prayer.forwardmovement.org/		
Franciscan Richard Rohr Daily Devotionals - https://cac.org/category/daily-medi	tations/	
Frederick Buechner, https://www.frederickbuechner.com/	,	
Gospel Reflection from Notre Dame,		
http://www.lectionarypage.net/		
https://www.bcponline.org/		
https://www.brainpickings.org/		
Messages from God: An Illuminated Devotional - https://www.facebook.com/Mo	essagesfromGodDevotio	nal/
Oremus, www.oremus.org includes Hymnal , Prayer Book, NRSV Bible, and Episo		
Oswald Chambers: My Utmost for His Highest https://utmost .org/		
Our Daily Bread - online devotional https://odb.org/		
Proverbs31 Ministries, https://www.proverbs31.org/		
Sacred Space - http s://www.sac redspace.ie/		
Koinonia House, https://www.khouse.org/		
Podcasts/Apps		
Title		
The Way of Love with Bishop Michael Curry, https://wavoflove.episcopalc:hurch.org/ 3-Minute Retreat	/	
Abide, prayer and meditation app		
d36S		
Holy Bible-You Version		
My Utmost for His Highest		
Proverbs 31 Ministries Pod cast, https://www.proverbs31.org/listen/podcast		
Simply Being		

In addition to these resources, we encourage you the check out the <u>Center for Action and Contemplations</u> most recent newsletter.



SNAPSHOTS OF RALLY DAY

Thank you to Mary Coe, Lee Ann Bryant, Amy Brooks, Sally Stockton and Lane Tutt for putting together a fabulous celebration for Rally Day! We enjoyed seeing each and every face that drove by to say hello and we missed seeing those of you that were not able to make it. We look forward to the day when we can all see each other again for fun and fellowship soon!















































Parish News

SEPTEMBER BIRTHDAYS OF OUR CHILDREN:

Emma Angelichio Ashley Ortel

Courtney Ortel

Tate Dollman Rhett FitzGerald

Mary Ceil McClung

Samantha Rowe

James Mauldin

Micah Watts

Lillian Retzke

Grace Twitty

Reed Peters

Jefferson Retzke

Sarah Cote

William Rice McCurry

Molly Manning

Oliver FitzGerald

Emily Rowe Lillian Ritchie

PARISHIONER UPDATES:

Caryl Lester 807 Bank Street Decatur, AL. 35601

Brenda Chynoweth 844 Twin Forks Avenue Auburn, AL 36830 256-998-1867 (cell phone) Brendacc0202@gmail.com

Dr. & Mrs. Ross Hunter 715 Clinton Avenue Huntsville, AL 35801

DEATHS: Jane Bennett, Joan Bennett, David Mendel, Karen Scriven, Ron McCullar, Evie Spearman

OUTDOOR MEETING SPACE SCHEDULE

The Church of the Nativity Courtyard, St. Francis Courtyard and Playground are all beautiful spaces for your group to meet while we are still unable to be inside our building. These spaces are for casual meetings and there will be no setup, take-down or supplies provided. We are scheduling the space to help 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.

Parish Financial Report

	Budget for Period	Actual for Period	Budget YTD	Actual YTD
Pledges Received	\$103,736.93	\$85,165.03	\$726,158.47	\$721,802.21
Plate	\$10,391.61	\$4,008.06	\$72,741.20	\$52,395.33
Other Revenues	\$10,606.84	\$129,816.46	\$74,247.80	\$311,002.56
Total Income	\$124,735.38	\$218,989.55	\$873,147.47	\$1,085,200.10
Diocese & Missions	\$13,695.42	\$10,700.77	\$95,867.90	\$92,903.73
Outreach	\$11,412.88	\$7,340.00	\$79,889.60	\$97,641.00
Personnel	\$65,933.76	\$65,130.31	\$461,536.31	\$461,630.62
Other Expenses	\$33,693.69	\$25,996.31	\$235,851.55	\$192,082.71
Total Expenses	\$124,735.75	\$109,167.39	\$873,145.36	\$844,258.06
Net	\$0.49	\$109,822.16	\$2.11	\$240,942.04

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal 208 Eustis Avenue SE Huntsville AL 35801

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nativity-hsv.org

