

THE STEEPLE

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

December 2020



where faith holds wide the door

• HUNTSVILLE, AL •

• THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY •

• NATIVITY-HSV.ORG •

CLERGY & STAFF

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Rector

The Rev. Susan Sloan

Priest Associate

The Rev. Worth Stuart

Priest Associate

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

Deacon

The Rev. Rose Veal Eby

Outreach Missioner

Amy Brooks

Coordinator of Youth Ministry

Lee Anne Bryant

Assistant Children & Youth Ministries
Coordinator

John Buyse

Property Manager

Mary Coe

Children's Formation

Austin Cook

Finance Manager

Christian Crocker

Choirmaster and Organist

Vicky Hinton

Communications

Amy Kennedy

Worship & Ministry Assistant

Regina Milton

Weekend Sexton

Emily Rodgers

Administrative Office Assistant

Sally Stockton

Kitchen Coordinator

Lane Tutt

Adult Christian Formation

Marlin Wilder

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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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.

A DIFFERENT ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

Dear Parish Family,

The Advent and Christmas Seasons are an exciting, joyful, and busy time of year in the life of the church. This year is no exception! I want to assure you that all of the things you love and look forward to, although they may look a little different, will still be happening this year. Your clergy and staff continue to work hard to make sure that all of our services, events, and traditions continue.

Soon, you will receive your Advent Devotional in the mail and you will be able to pick-up your Advent Wreath making materials at the church. We will also have our virtual Lessons and Carols on Dec. 15th. As you know from watching our online services, the choir is doing an amazing job in this new format. Our Christmas Pageant will debut online on Dec. 15th as well. Don't forget to tune in to this wonderfully creative and adorable Christmas offering from the children of this parish. Our Annual Parish Meeting will take place at both our in-person and online services on Dec. 6th and 13th. Prior to this you will all receive the 2021 Budget as well as clergy and lay reports. I promise everyone will be able to participate in our Parish Meeting whether you are at home or in the pew.

For our Christmas Eve services, we will continue to follow all of the COVID-19 protocols that we have been doing on Sunday mornings. Please don't forget to make a reservation. We will also be offering a beautiful online Christmas Eve service with acolytes, choir, and candles. Our Christmas Day service will be online only and we will have in-person and online worship on the 27th.

I know this is a lot of information and I am sure you have some questions. I hope the following calendar, and articles about upcoming activities and services will make everything clear. But please call the office or email vhinton@nativity-hsv.org if you have any concerns or questions.

I pray you all have a safe and happy Thanksgiving weekend. I continue to be grateful and give thanks to God for your giving of time, talent, and treasure to the church you love. Advent is a time of waiting, and though we may have to keep on waiting a little longer to come together as the full Body of Christ that is this church, we never have to wait to give thanks, to serve, and to worship the God that will be revealed to us on Christmas Day as the Savior of the world.

God's Peace,



The Rev. Michael Goldsmith

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS

ONLINE SERVICES

This Advent Season we will provide a wonderful collection of online and in person services for you and your family. In-person services will follow all current COVID protocols already in place. Reservations links to all in-person services will be sent via email 1 week prior to the service, and will also be available on our website. Online services will premiere on Facebook at the times listed below, and be sent directly to your email inbox. Videos are always available on our [Vimeo Channel](#) for your to view at your convenience.

Advent week 1

Sunday, November 29 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Sunday, November 29 8:00 pm Compline

Wednesday, December 2 12:00 pm Noonday Prayer

Wednesday, December 2 8:00 pm Compline

Thursday, December 3 6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Advent week 2

Sunday, December 6 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Sunday, December 6 8:00 pm Compline

Wednesday, December 9 12:00 pm Noonday Prayer

Wednesday, December 9 8:00 pm Compline

Thursday, December 10 6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Advent week 3

Sunday, December 13 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Sunday, December 13 8:00 pm Compline

Wednesday, December 16 12:00 pm Noonday Prayer

Wednesday, December 16 8:00 pm Compline

Thursday, December 17 6:00 pm

Advent week 4

Sunday, December 20 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Sunday, December 20 5:00 pm Lessons & Carols

Sunday, December 20 8:00pm Compline

Wednesday, December 23 12:00 Noonday Prayer

Wednesday, December 23 6:00 pm Christmas Pageant

Christmas

Thursday, December 24 4:00 pm Christmas Eve

Friday, December 25 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Sunday, December 27 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Wednesday, December 30 12:00 pm Noonday Prayer

Thursday, December 31 6:00 pm Evening Prayer

Sunday, January 3 10:00 am Morning Prayer

Tuesday, January 5th re-air of the Christmas Pageant



*Take time to explore the ways we are
waiting for the light to shine in the
darkness.*

JYC (5TH AND 6TH GRADE)

WEDNESDAYS, DEC 2-16TH 5:30PM

EYC (7TH-12TH GRADE)

SUNDAYS, NOV 29TH-DEC 20TH 5:00PM

VIA ZOOM (LINKS SENT WEEKLY)

ADVENT & CHRISTMAS IN-PERSON SERVICES

Advent week 1

Sunday, November 29

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Advent week 2

Sunday, December 6

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Advent week 3

Sunday, December 13

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Advent week 4

Sunday, December 20

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

Christmas Eve

Thursday, December 24

4:00 pm Holy Eucharist

8:00 pm Holy Eucharist

10:00 pm Holy Eucharist

Sunday, December 27

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

10:00 am Holy Eucharist

Sunday, January 3

7:30 am Holy Eucharist

9:00 am Holy Eucharist

11:00 am Holy Eucharist

REVERSE ADVENT CALENDAR

As we begin Advent many of us may remember the Advent calendars we had as children filled with chocolate treats. If you were like me you might have skipped from Advent 1 to Advent 2 in no time just to enjoy all the chocolate. Now, as we look towards the birth of our Lord and Savior we may not be looking for chocolate treats but ways to bring forth the Gospel message that He gifted us with so many Christmases ago. This is the concept of a reverse Advent Calendar. The concept is to collect 24 items, leading up to Christmas Day as we prepare our hearts and minds for the coming of Christ. You may find it best to buy all the items at once or a few at a time, whatever suits you best is how it should be done. During this time when so many families are in need, it is crucial that we support our local food pantries and we remember that preparing the way is loving our neighbors.

Calendars will be available on Sundays or in the boxes along with the Forward Day by Day booklets.



THE ART AND POETRY OF ADVENT

Join Lynne Berry Vallely and Walter Thames as they explore painting, sculpture and poetry in three Advent Sundays focused on the Incarnation, the birth and the journey of the Magi. The classes will be available online through ZOOM Sunday, December 6, 13 and 20 at 10:00 am. The ZOOM link will be posted in the weekly service email sent out every Saturday.

ADVENT WREATH KITS

Advent wreath sets will be available on Sunday, November 29 at all three in-person services, at each check in table. After Sunday, November 29 services they will be available in a bin in the circle at the Joffrion Hall main door. Donation can be dropped in church office mail slot in the office door. There is a suggested donation of \$15 per wreath set. Questions? Contact Sally Stockton.

FOCAL CHRISTMAS GIFTS

This Advent, we will collect gifts for children in the Foster Care program through FOCAL. Please sign up for the gift(s) you want to purchase, wrap, and bring to the Church of the Nativity by 12 noon on Sunday, December 13, 2020. You can drop them off on Sunday mornings, at the church office or in the bin marked "Children's Gifts" outside of Joffrion Hall.

Don't forget to include a gift tag with the child's name, age, and gender on the front, and what the gift is on the back. Thanks for participating! Please feel free to contact Rose Veal Eby if you have any questions.

[CLICK HERE](#) or visit:

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/4090E4EADAE2BA4F85-christmas> to sign up to purchase gifts.

Holiday Farmers Market

Sunday, December 6

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

A VIRTUAL SERVICE OF ADVENT LESSONS AND CAROLS



Sunday, December 20th, 2020

5:00pm-Service on Facebook or Vimeo

Nativity Choir

Christian Crocker, Director of Music and Organist

Adam lay y bounden-Boris Ord

A tender shoot-Otto Goldschmidt

Benedictus in C-Charles Stanford

Magnificat-David Hogan

Advent carol arrangements by Sir David Willcocks and
John Rutter

Church of the Nativity

208 Eustis Ave Huntsville, AL 35801

256-533-2455

COMPLINE



Every Sunday from November 29-December 20 at 8:00pm, join us on our Facebook or Vimeo pages for this ancient service of night prayer sung by an octet from the choir. This 30-minute service will be filled with unaccompanied chant, hymns, and anthems, and will be a respite in the midst of a seemingly chaotic world.



Advent and Christmas for Nativity families

It's time to prepare for the season of preparation and the birth of Jesus! Your family is invited to get ready for a meaningful Advent and joyful Christmas by taking part in these family faith resources and activities.

- ★ **Advent in a Box** is filled with faith-at-home projects to make and use throughout the Advent season.
- ★ **Nick and Lucy Day, December 6**, will be a hybrid celebration with videos from St Nicholas and St Lucy, at home activities and a little parent-assisted surprise.
- ★ To reserve Advent in a Box and Nick and Lucy Day supplies for your children, go to tinyurl.com/2020Advent. Pick up from the church on 11/22 and 11/29 between 8.30-12.00.
- ★ **Children's Christmas Pageant.** Holy chaos must go on! This year's pageant will be virtual. Emails with details will be sent by age level/pageant role. Pageant premier watch party on December 20.
- ★ **Community Christmas Tree in the Courtyard.** Come enjoy a live tree with lights starting the 1st week of Advent. Families are invited to make ornaments to decorate the tree. Ornament inspiration: tinyurl.com/cheeribirdtreat; tinyurl.com/birdseedbirdtreat; tinyurl.com/recycleornaments.

Community Christmas Tree in the Courtyard

Come enjoy a live tree with lights in the Nativity courtyard. Everyone is invited to make ornaments to hang on the tree. Make an ornament treat for the birds, something that represents you or your family, or a symbol of the season.

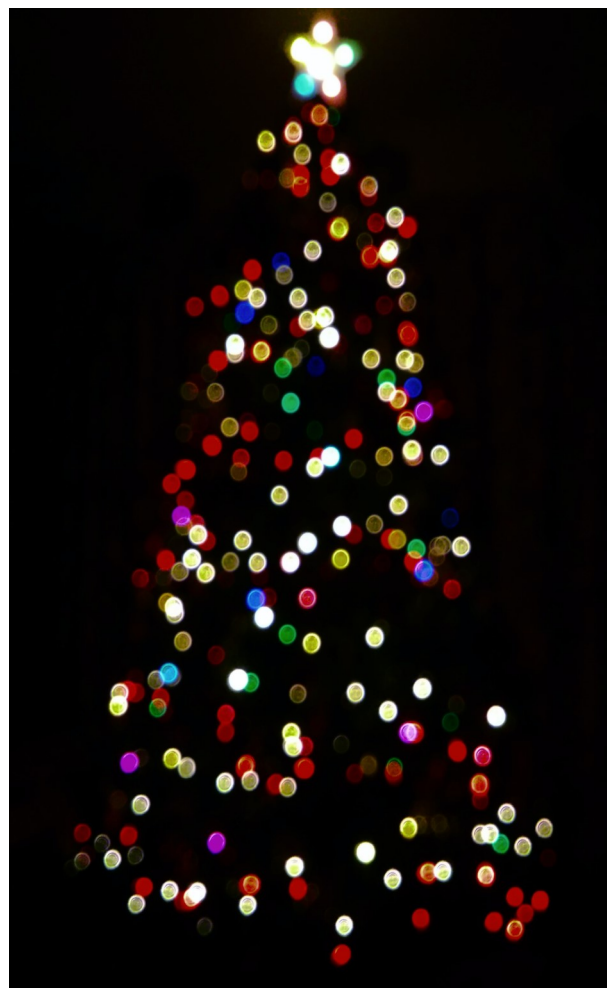
**Inspiration for making
ornaments:**

- ★ tinyurl.com/cheeriobirdtreat
- ★ tinyurl.com/birdseedbirdtreat
- ★ tinyurl.com/recycleornaments

**Supplies for cheerio bird treat
ornaments will be included in the
Nick and Lucy Day at home sup-
plies. More information here,
tinyurl.com/2020Advent**

**The tree will be go up the first
week of Advent.**

Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org



MEET THE CANDIDATES FOR VESTRY

WALTON BRADFORD is originally from Scottsboro, AL. He is a life-long Episcopalian and grew-up attending St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where he was baptized and confirmed. His parents and grandparents were active members at St. Luke's and both of his daughters were baptized there as well. He attended multiple summers at Camp McDowell, was an active EYC member and a very busy acolyte growing up in a small town church. He is married to Leslie and has 2 daughters, Anna (age 9), Caroline (age 8) and a Lab Luke. Walton and his family have enjoyed being active members of Nativity since 2015. Walton has served on the



Stewardship Committee (2018-2020), and helped in organizing the Advent wreath making and Spaghetti dinners. He and Leslie attended Cursillo #212 at Camp McDowell. His wife has been active in helping with the Bazaar, VBS and children's Sunday School. His daughters are active in the Children's formation, choir and VBS. Walton has worked in the Pharmaceutical Sales Industry for the past 15 years and is currently a Cardiovascular Sales Representative with Novartis Pharmaceuticals. He is a graduate of Auburn University with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science. Walton has many favorite outdoor hobbies including, mountain biking, hunting, Auburn Football and traveling with his family. Nativity has been a big part in his spiritual journey, and he would be honored for his name to be put up for the Vestry. He looks forward to the many opportunities that await, if called to serve for the church.

SUSIE SWANSON FORTNER is a cradle Episcopalian, baptized at St. Sebastian's by the Sea in Melbourne Beach, Florida. Susie moved to Huntsville with her family in 1982 at the age of 6 and they quickly found their church home at Nativity. She was confirmed and served as an acolyte at Nativity. After graduating from The University of Alabama, Susie lived abroad as a financial analyst and completed the Chartered Financial Analyst program. In 2007, she moved home to Huntsville to care for her mother Lynne who was afflicted with a massive stroke. She married Mark Fortner at Nativity in 2010 and they welcomed Freddie, 9 and Frances, 6 to their family.



Susie is currently a stay at home mom and an active member of Gothic Guild, Huntsville Symphony Orchestra Guild, Ballet Guild, and League of Women Voters. She regularly attends church and teaches Sunday school. Her activities at Nativity have included: Reception Committee, Vacation Bible School volunteer, Accessibility Committee, Haiti Mission Committee, Bazaar volunteer, and Sacred Ground participant. Susie enjoys visiting art museums, reading, listening to live music, playing with her children, dining out with Mark, and traveling.

ADAM PROUD is a cradle Episcopalian, baptized at St. John's in Concordville, Pennsylvania. Thanks to the Bradfords and Mauldins, he and his wife Allison were introduced to and joined Nativity in early 2018, soon after their move to Huntsville. Adam and Allison are the parents of 3 boys, Carter (11), Brendan (8), and Owen (5). Adam has thoroughly enjoyed the hospitality and no pressure feel of Nativity and believes that is a huge differentiator for new membership. In 2018 Bishop Sloan received Allison and baptized Owen which was quite a memorable experience. Adam has most recently been an active member of the children's programs at Nativity as a teacher for Club 56. He also participates in rotation for the children's chapel. Adam is originally from Philadelphia and has his masters degree in Business Administration from Villanova University. He is actively looking to become more involved with Nativity and provide his unique experiences from his educational, personal, and career background to help the community. Adam enjoys spending time doing outdoor activities with his family, a round of golf when the opportunity arises, and mountain biking as much as he can.



NATALIE RUSHING (to fill a two year vacancy) I was born and raised in the city of New Orleans. A lifelong Episcopalian, I was baptized and confirmed at All Saints Episcopal Church, where my mother served on our vestry. I received a Bachelor of Music degree in piano from Loyola University in 1993. Shortly thereafter I moved to San Jose, Costa Rica, where I taught music for two years before beginning graduate studies in arts administration at the University of New Orleans. After relocating to Huntsville to be closer to family, I began a local arts and letters magazine (Culture & Leisure) which was published for 16 years.



Spirituality has always played a significant role in my life. There is nothing more meaningful to me than caring for what is bigger than myself, living for the good of others, and using the talents and gifts given to me by the grace of God for that purpose. I feel participation as a vestry member is a way to further serve God and God's people and honor my Baptismal vows: "To seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving my neighbor as myself" and "to strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being." Though it took some time and discernment for me to rekindle the commitment to my Episcopal roots, my spiritual journey finally led to the Church of the Nativity, where I became a member in 2013. Since returning to Huntsville from Dublin (Ireland) last year, I have had the privilege to serve the church on Altar Guild, as Lay Visitor, Meals on Wheels Volunteer, and most recently, Lector and Usher. I am humbled and honored to now be called to serve on our vestry as we continue to grow into the future.

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PATRICK ROBBINS is a native of Memphis, TN but has called Huntsville home for over 30 years. I was raised



in the Southern Baptist church which gave a solid grounding in the Bible that still guides me. When the Baptists were taken over by the fundamentalists I found it hard to accept the more rigidly conservative teachings, most specifically the subservience of women and the intolerance of diversity in many congregations. If everyone is a child of God, shouldn't everyone be welcomed, respected and loved? If we are all equal in the eyes of God, why would some people not be afforded full-status within the church? The Episcopal Church has a much better approach to these sorts of issues. My introduction to Nativity was through my involvement with the AIDS Action Coalition (AAC). The generosity and energetic support of Dining with Friends events proved to me that this parish takes seriously the teaching of Jesus to love our neighbors as ourselves. My first involvement in parish life came when I began singing in the choir 16 years ago. I've grown to find deep meaning in the patterns of the liturgy and appreciate the fact that the Episcopal Church allows for searching without the demand that everyone walk in lockstep on the same path. My husband, Chris and I have truly found a loving family within this parish. I am the Director of Professional Services Revenue Cycle for Huntsville Hospital. Outside of work, I've served in leadership roles of the Boards of Thrive Alabama (formerly known as the AAC) and the Huntsville Symphony Orchestra. I was a member of search committees for our Organist Choirmaster and more recently, for our Rector. I would be honored to serve on the Vestry of this parish which means so much to the Huntsville community.

HEATHER STROUD joined Nativity in 2012 with her husband Justin. Their daughter Anna Franklin was



baptized at Nativity in July of 2016. Heather graduated from The University of Alabama with a degree in Finance and Economics, currently working as a Government Accounting Consultant. She and Justin have been active with the Feed My Sheep Ministry since they joined Nativity. In 2014 Heather became the committee lead for the cooking portion of Feed My Sheep. She is also an active member of the Altar Guild, and previously served on the Stewardship committee. Heather went through Cursillo #209 and later staffed Cursillo #220...both of which were the Best Cursillo Ever! The Cursillo movement is a passion for both Heather and Justin. She enjoys spending time with her family, reading, SEC football, and travelling.

ALICIA TAYLOR started attending Nativity in 2016 on the recommendation of a friend and local pastor.



Although that first visit was quite different from my experiences of growing up Baptist, I could feel God's presence. The more I learned about the beliefs of the Episcopal Church, the more I felt this was where God wanted me to be. The next year I was confirmed and attended Cursillo where I fell in love with the Episcopal Church. I have been active in Cursillo and will be on staff for #223. I am active at Nativity serving as an usher and Lay Eucharistic Minister (LEM).

I have lead Compline, supported stewardship through my video testimony, and am currently in my first year of Education for Ministry (EfM). Last month Regina McGee Taylor and I were married at Nativity. Gina and I have two children and two grandchildren. Gina is also active at Nativity. I hold bachelor and master degrees in math education and a doctorate in education. Several years ago I retired as an administrator in the Alabama Community College System. I have a wonderful second career as an analyst supporting U.S. Army open software standards. I am very blessed to be part of the Nativity family.

MIKE WARD (to fill a one year term) is a lifelong member of Nativity. He attended Cursillo #142 in April of 2004 and is active in the Cursillo community. He is a former member of the vestry, serving from 2006 – 2008 and was a member of the most recent Rector Search Committee. He is a LEM, Acolyte Master and is active in the Men's Biscuit Ministry. He formerly served as an usher and Sunday School teacher. Mike has worked at the Chamber of Commerce since moving back to Huntsville in 1991. He is married to Cathy Ward and they have three children, Hanly age 25, Evan age 21 and Molly age 21.



FEED MY SHEEP, A GRACIOUS GIFT

By Emily Rodgers

One of the many treasured ministries at Nativity is Feed My Sheep. Volunteers prepare a meal and deliver it to a parishioner who is grieving, recovery from surgery, sick, or in need of a meal.

My husband recently got a new hip (a new hip sounds better than hip replacement surgery.) We had returned home from the hospital and heard a knock at the door. Standing on the porch was a parishioner delivering a Feed My Sheep meal to us. Our delivery person, mask on his face, said he, and Nativity, were praying for us. While the meal sustained our bodies, his words nurtured our souls. To hear from a parishioner that our church family was praying for us was an elixir no physician could prescribe.



Feed My Sheep is one of the many inreach ministries at Nativity. Inreach translates to taking care of each other. Inreach ministries help us build each other up so that we have the needed nourishment and soul food to reach out into our community through Outreach Ministries. A proven recipe for spreading the Gospel.

Congratulations
to the newly
Ordained
The Rev. Rosie
Veal Eby



A NOTE FROM THE TRAVELERS' ALTAR; MY TRUCK

By The Rev. Rosie Veal Eby

My grandfather was so excited when I bought a pickup truck a few years ago. He used to drive one around the farm and loved his. When I gave my son my Honda Civic and got myself a truck, he said to me, "Sugar, you are going to get so much use out of that truck, it will be wonderful for the whole family." If my Grandfather was still alive I would tell him how right he was, how much use I get out of my truck and how my family has grown.

I would tell him about how my brothers and sisters in Christ from Nativity fill up bins with coats, blankets and food for their brothers and sisters in Christ who need help from HAP food pantry or seek warmth from donations given to First Stop. I would tell him about how my brothers and sisters in Christ from all over the community donate furniture to their brother and sisters in Christ who have been experiencing homelessness and find themselves in a home. I would tell him about the trays of food, and gallons of soup it has transported made with love to feed those who are hungry.

So while I thought my truck was going to be used for transporting furniture to refinish or help my children out from time to time, it turned out that God had bigger plans for both me and my truck as well as expanding my concept of family.



Just a few pictures of Rosie and her truck, out making a difference in our community!

North Alabama Coalition
for the Homeless

ANNUAL BLANKET & COLD WEATHER GEAR DRIVE

Most of us are blessed with a warm place to sleep during the cold winter months. Let's help those who aren't as fortunate. Please donate these items to warm both their bodies and their hearts.

October – through winter months

Collecting for the Homeless:

Gently used or new
Adult sizes only, please

Blankets
Coats/Jackets
Gloves/Socks
Thermal underwear

Sleeping bags
Toboggans
Sweat shirts/pants
Warm scarves

Donations may be dropped off at these locations:

In Huntsville

Please call to confirm office hours before dropping off donations.

Progressive Union Missionary Baptist Church
1919 Brandontown Rd. 256-539-1070

St. Stephen's Episcopal Church
8020 Whitesburg Dr. 256-881-7223

Latham United Methodist Church
109 Weatherly Rd. 256-881-4069

Manna House
2110 S. Memorial Parkway 256-503-4848
(Mondays, Wednesdays & Thursdays 4 - 7pm)

Stand Down Together Huntsville
2007 Poole Rd. Suite B 256-527-9643

The Rock Family Worship Center
3401 Holmes Ave. NW 256-533-9292

Faith Presbyterian Church
5003 Whitesburg Dr. 256-881-4811

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal
208 Eustis Ave. 256-533-2455

First Christian Church
3209 Whitesburg Dr. 256-881-0150
(please use bin at the side entrance)

Monte Sano United Methodist Church
601 Monte Sano Blvd. 256-533-6083

First Stop Homeless Day Center
206 Stokes St. 256-533-3391

MEMOIR #10: HAVING MUSICAL SURGERY-IRONIC AND ORGANIC

By D. R. Boyer

I have told this story many times over the past thirty years, but it was brought to mind again, and to be written about, by noticing in The Huntsville Times newspaper a couple of weeks ago the Obituary of Bruce Wingo, M.D. and a memorial service for family to be held at The Episcopal Church of the Nativity. So, I commit this story to paper in memory of Dr. Wingo.

In the early 1990's a mole located on the flesh over my lower left rib was brought to my attention. I went to Dr. Musik, dermatologist, who took an exploratory sample for pathology. The Pathologist, Dr. Ed Litkenhouse reported it was malignant (he was known to me as a member and having given a piano to the Church of the Nativity). I thought a plastic surgeon would be best for removal and made an appointment with Dr. Michael Yates. He indicated that a larger portion of flesh would need to be taken to make sure the margins of the cancer were extracted. Unlike the exploratory sample, he indicated an anesthetic would be desirable. He made an appointment at Huntsville Hospital to perform the operation.

I was first ushered into a small room to change into proper surgery attire and to be placed on a rolling bed. The attending nurse told me Dr. Wingo, the anesthesiologist liked music during operations and would greet me at the swinging doors of the operating room, which he did asking, "what kind of music would you like to hear during the surgery?" Being a musician, I didn't think music was appropriate or necessary, but he insisted it was the custom of he and Dr. Yates to operate with music to accompany. Finally, I agreed that some selections of J. S. Bach's Werke might be my best (evidently, they had several cassettes available to accommodate every musical taste of every candidate for surgery. ("Lambs to the Slaughter," I'm reminded, here.)

As I was pushed beside the operating table the music of a pleasant Bach flute concerto was heard, but I was most fascinated by the whole procedure of pre-op. My first. I was slid onto the operating table and sheets were placed over me, and monitor connections were being made. Dr. Yates' prep work was hidden by a shielding sheet, but I could feel him drawing on my body where I assumed his scalpel would cut. Dr. Wingo was ready to "put me under," but I told him I didn't think it was necessary as I had endured the exploratory surgery without anesthetic. He countered and said this would be considerably more severe surgery and I would want to avoid feeling the pain. I said, "I have a rehearsal tonight at the Redstone Post Chapel I needed to direct." So, Dr. Wingo, condescended, saying his equipment was all hooked up ready to go should I "need it." His preparation was comforting to know.

Just as Dr. Yates announced, "We are ready," the music changed from the pleasant flute to a melody of J. S. Bach every trained musician would recognize. (+Here, in telling this story, live, I would sing the famous melody!) I began to laugh and said, "what are you guys doing," or something to that effect. They were dumbfounded by my laughter and I explained that the music was Bach's chorale tune, "Komm susser Tod" (Come Sweet Death). They of course had no idea of its title and the significance.

Throughout, the course of the operation the doctors grilled me on the meaning of the Schiller text "Ode to Joy," which Beethoven used with soloists and chorus in the last movement of his 9th symphony. Dr. Wingo said he was a Math major at UA Tuscaloosa as an undergraduate and appreciated music, especially its rhythms, proportions, use of time, etc. The discussion was all about music, distracting me from what was going on behind the sheets which was all about business.

The operation was completed without utilizing any pain medications (As I write this I hope Dr. Wingo wasn't disappointed!). I was "sewn up," wheeled back to my dressing room, changed into rehearsal clothes, and

departed the hospital bent over because of the stitches holding the wide incision over my abdomen together. I drove to the Post Chapel and had my rehearsal with my nose near the music stand, and the movement of my conducting hands at the same low plane.

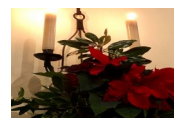
Later, to show my appreciation, I purchased a small gift for Dr. Yates and I sent to Dr. Wingo a “Cassette for Operations.” On side A, I recorded pleasant melodic excerpts, e.g. Mozart, Schubert, Faure’ which I labeled “Recommended for the Surgery Room.” The other side I selected the wildest, atonal music (music?) I could get my hands on, e.g. works of Pierre Boulez and Milton Babbitt, that latter who held tenure at Princeton University in both music and mathematics, and his electronic sounds. It was labeled “Inappropriate”. I also included on side B Bach’s “Komm susser Tod” Ha!

Postscript! While writing this scenario, it has come into my memory that when I left Huntsville for Jackson, Mississippi, I purchased a house on Carlisle street to fix up, rent and live in the cottage apartment behind. I was invited soon after the move to conduct the Metropolitan Chamber Orchestra for a concert in the Old Capitol’s Senate chamber. In rehearsals I met violist, Muller Attkinsen, who with his brothers owned a large hardware store downtown. Muller lived just a few blocks away on Gillespie (later just down the street from our home after marrying Sherry Harfst). He said, “Royce, do you know that you live close to the boyhood home of Milton Babbitt?” I couldn’t believe it! I could see the Babbitt home on Kenwood St. while standing on the front porch of my big house. A few years later I was partially responsible for bringing Babbitt to his home town for a special recital of his music at Millsaps College. The College later presented him with an honorary

CHRISTMAS FLOWER DEDICATIONS

Every year the Nativity Flower Guild fills the church with beautiful flowers and greenery as we celebrate the birth of Jesus. These Christmas dedications are offered to the Glory of God in memory, celebration and thanksgiving of loved ones by family and friends. Dedications are \$20 each and can be made by anyone. All dedications must be turned in no later than Sunday, December 19th. To make a dedication please complete the form below and return with a check made payable to Nativity Flower Guild to Andrea Vandervoort or Amy Kennedy in the Church office. If you have questions, please contact Andrea Vandervoort, 256-539-2673.

2020 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 13th 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...

DAUGHTERS OF THE KING DURING COVID

The Order of the Daughters of the King (DOK) is a spiritual sisterhood of women dedicated to a life of prayer, service and evangelism. We have made a commitment to Jesus as our Savior, and we follow Him as the Lord of our lives. We are an Order for women who are communicants of the Episcopal Church, churches in communion with it, or churches in the Historic Episcopate. Today our membership includes women in the Anglican, Episcopal, Lutheran (ELCA) and Roman Catholic churches. An Order is a community under a religious rule; especially one requiring members to take solemn vows. We don't just enroll as members and attend meetings; we take life-long vows to follow the Rule of Prayer and the Rule of Service.



During COVID the DOK has had to rethink how they come together, and are just one of many groups who have moved to ZOOM for their monthly meetings. Miki Heaton took this picture during the DOK Zoom meeting this November. It was their first time to try it. They had a good meeting and will continue to do so for the foreseeable future.

[CLICK HERE](#) if you would like to know more about the DOK, or [CLICK HERE](#) if you would like to submit a confidential prayer request.

OH
DEER,
BLOOD SUPPLIES
ARE RUNNING LOW!



BLOOD DRIVE

December 13 | 8:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. End the year on a high note by donating blood with us!

St. Thomas Episcopal Church
12200 Bailey Cove Road 35803

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

Parish News

BIRTHDAYS

OF OUR CHILDREN:

Liam Ahren Stevens
 Alec Huskey
 James Sage Plucker
 Sloan Dill
 Jacks Thomas McClung
 Vivian Isabella Brouse
 Patrick Reid
 Jensen Goeke
 Cecelia Grace Wood
 William Scott Knight
 Hope Sophia Howell
 Morgan Taylor Gafford
 Margaret Elizabeth Sanders
 Chandler Shaw Mason
 Alton Hudson
 George McCurry
 Riley Elizabeth White
 Charles Sutton Vowell

Tess Lambert
 William Thomas Pinson
 Caroline Grace Duff
 Nicholas Todd Ocampo

PARISHIONER UPDATES:

Stephanie Sherman
 1114 Beirne Avenue
 Huntsville, AL 35801

BAPTISM:

David Keith Dieterich, son of
 Catherine and Alex Dieterich
 baptized on All Saints' Day

DEATHS: Bruce Wingo, Winston Walker

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS:

Margaret Anne Whitsett

ANNOUNCEMENTS

HAP SUNDAY is December 6. Items needed include small canned ham, any other canned meats, boxed cereal, Christmas cookies and canned fruit. Please place items in the bins located outside Ridley Hall on Sunday, December 6 or, in the HAP bin located in the portico of Joffrion Hall.

HOLIDAY GREENERY PICK-UP will be available for pick-up on Wednesday, December 2 off the gates of the playground from 10:00 am until 4:00 pm. Please contact Sally Stockton if you have any questions.

NATIVITY PLAYGROUND CLOSED

The playground at Nativity will be closed for the foreseeable future. There are repairs needed before the area can be opened safely for our children. If you have any questions, please contact Father Michael Goldsmith.

Parish Financial Report

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$103,736.93	\$92,054.46	\$1,037,369.26	\$984,694.51
Plate	\$10,391.61	\$10,298.56	\$103,916.03	\$72,892.76
Other Revenues	\$10,606.84	\$2,739.22	\$106,068.32	\$323,435.58
Total Income	\$124,735.38	\$105,092.24	\$1,247,353.61	\$1,381,022.85
Diocese & Missions	\$13,695.42	\$12,282.36	\$136,954.16	\$126,910.51
Outreach	\$11,412.88	\$3,183.69	\$114,128.24	\$116,826.33
Personnel	\$65,933.76	\$65,592.48	\$659,337.59	\$662,691.10
Other Expenses	\$33,693.69	\$22,362.26	\$336,932.62	\$279,166.96
Total Expenses	\$124,735.75	\$103,420.79	\$1,247,352.61	\$1,185,594.90
Net	-\$0.37	\$1,671.45	\$1.00	\$195,427.95



2021 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