

THE STEEPLE

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

April 2021



where faith holds wide the door

• HUNTSVILLE, AL •

• THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY •

• NATIVITY-HSV.ORG •

CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. T. Michael Goldsmith

Rector

The Rev. Susan Sloan

Priest Associate

The Rev. Worth Stuart

Priest Associate

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

Deacon

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

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.

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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On the cover...

Nativity youth are back together in person again! For more information about activities please contact Amy Brooks abrooks@nativity-hsv.org

Send your pictures from Nativity activities and events to:

vhinton@nativity-hsv.org.

BACK IN THE BUILDING!

Dear Parish Family,

Happy Easter! I am excited to let you know the ways in which our buildings will be open at Nativity in the days ahead. **Beginning April 19th, all indoor meeting spaces will be available for small groups whose members have been fully vaccinated.** Please continue to wear your mask on your way to and from your meeting space.

Groups which consist of both vaccinated and non-vaccinated folks are invited to meet in the nave of the church beginning on April 19th. Please continue to wear masks and observe social distancing as we do for Sunday worship. Of course, our outdoor meeting spaces are always available.

We are currently finishing up our audio-visual upgrades in Ridley Parish Hall. That space will be available on May 2nd. Among other things, these upgrades will allow us to expand our worship opportunities. Beginning in May, our in-person Wednesday and Thursday services will resume. These services will be held in the nave so that we can live-stream them for those who choose to continue to join us online. Our 11am Sunday service will also be live-streamed. Details about how to access these services will be coming out soon.

One more thing. **Reservations are no longer required to attend in-person worship.** As always, if you need further information about our worship services, both online or in-person, or you would like to reserve a space for your group, please contact Vicky Hinton (vhinton@nativity-hsv.org).

I look forward to seeing you soon!

[SUBMIT A ROOM REQUEST HERE](#)

God's Peace,



The Rev. Michael Goldsmith





Discover God in Your Backyard

Vacation Bible School
June 14-16 at home & at church
Kick off June 13 on Monte Sano

Where can you find God? Walk outside and see all the gifts God created...trees and bees, plants and ants, birds of flight and warm sunlight... Let's get out and discover God!

Get Out! VBS will be a hybrid of at home and at church activities. VBSers attend one afternoon of activities at church and enjoy 2 other days of activities at home. To keep us spread out, when registering, select one day to come to church (Monday, Tuesday, or Wednesday) from 1 to 3.30. On the other two days, you will receive supplies, instructions and video links for at home activities.

Get Out! VBS kicks off June 13th on Monte Sano with an afternoon hike and picnic.

- VBS is for children age 4 (by 8.30.21) through 4th grade.
- Fifth and Sixth graders are invited to register to be junior counselors.
- Registration opens Mid April. Look for info via Facebook and email.
- Opportunities to volunteer during registration.

Can't wait for VBS!

Questions, mcoe@nativity-hsv.org

MEET NATIVITY'S NEWEST STAFF MEMBER

By The Rev. Worth Stuart

We are thrilled to welcome Josh Carter as our new full-time Youth Minister!

Josh will be joining the staff in late August and is ready to hit the ground running! Although Josh will not officially begin until late August, you will be able to welcome Josh to the Nativity family when he is here on May 16 for Confirmation.

Amy Brooks will be transitioning to her new role as part-time Youth Ministry Coordinator. We are excited about what the future holds for Youth Ministry here at Nativity!

Please read a note from Josh below:

Hey Y'all! My name is Josh Carter and I am honored and excited to start working with the youth of Nativity! I am a soon to be Auburn graduate (War Eagle) with a bachelor's degree in Speech, Language and Hearing Sciences. Born and raised in Huntsville, I have grown up in the Episcopal church and attended St. Thomas with my family. Youth Ministry has had a tremendous impact on my spiritual life, and I cannot wait to give back to others and help foster the youth of the church. One of the many lessons that I learned through youth group and still live by today, is the idea of spreading God's love. I believe that we are all called to take the love that God has given us and share that with everyone we meet. This lesson is a pillar of my faith and is monumental in who I am as a Christian today. I am thrilled to embark on this journey, and I cannot wait to meet everyone and get started!

God's peace,

Josh Carter



**CONGRATS TO OUR
NEWLY ELECTED YD**

AT-LARGE

Annagrace Parmer- St. Stephen's BHAM
Bayley Welborn - Christ Church, Tuscaloosa
Lydia Raulerson- Epiphany, Guntersville
Noah David- Holy Trinity, Auburn
Olivia O'Halloran- Nativity, Huntsville

NORTHERN DISTRICT

Caitlin Martin- Epiphany, Guntersville
Sarah Coleman Hornsby- Nativity, Huntsville

CENTRAL DISTRICT

John Wilson Dorton- St. Stephen's, BHAM
Lauren Jones- St. Stephen's, BHAM

SOUTHERN DISTRICT

Parker Roth- Ascension, Montgomery
Richie Bailey- Trinity, Wetumpka



Nativity Seniors

We want to celebrate our class of 2021 seniors! Please send a photo, along with a short statement:

- where you went to high school
- plans for next year
- what Nativity has meant to you

Send to Amy Brooks by May 1st
abrooks@nativity-hsv.org

STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION:LET'S CELEBRATE EARTH DAY!

By Terry Clevenger

You may not now this, but Earth Day will occur on Thursday, April 22 – its 51st anniversary. From its meager beginnings as a grass roots movement in the 1960s, to its first celebration in 1970 on a sprinkling of college campuses, mainly in the US, this year's celebration will be observed by more than 1 billion people involved in Earth Day activities according to the Earth Day Network, a nonprofit organization that coordinates Earth Day activities. For 2021 EDN is collaborating with over 17,000 organizations in 174 countries making it “the largest secular civic event in the world”. In many countries it is considered a national holiday and is expanding into a celebration as “Earth Week” with a full seven days of events focused on green living.



How It All Started

Some of us (still young at heart) may recall or may have actively participated in the creation of Earth Day as an outgrowth of the 60s counter-culture movement. As awareness of environmental and chemical pollution and waste disposal grew, active demonstrations were organized with the theme that our planet needed to be protected. Organized activism focused on environmental issues on college campuses with protests, marches, demonstrations, and teach-ins gaining in popularity. The pop-culture made Rachel Carson's, *Silent Spring*, a bestseller in 1962, exposing the dangerous effects of pesticides; in 1969 Cleveland's Cuyahoga River caught fire, exposing the largely unregulated disposal of industrial pollutants; cars were large, gas was cheap and engine fuel-efficiency was lacking; recycling was uncommon - “The Throwaway Society” was commonly used to describe the lack of waste management.

A senator from Wisconsin, Gaylord Nelson, considered a leader of the modern environmental movement and inspired by this environmental activism, developed the idea of Earth Day to convince the federal government that the planet was at risk. He used the appeal of the large-scale, grassroots environmental demonstrations “to shake up the political establishment and force this issue onto the national agenda.” At a conference in Seattle in 1969, he invited the entire nation to get involved, later recalling “The wire services carried the story from coast to coast. The response was electric. It took off like gangbusters. Telegrams, letters, and telephone inquiries poured in from across the country. The American people finally had a forum to express its concern about what was happening to the land, rivers, lakes and air—and they did so with spectacular exuberance.”

The first Earth Day on April 22, 1970, featured rallies in many cities with speeches from prominent politicians and celebrities, music by popular folk singers, caught the appeal of the public and adopted a festive and celebratory atmosphere which is still present today. Schools were closed so parents could take their kids. Congress recessed so members could attend local festivities. The affair succeeded beyond imagination in raising awareness about environmental issues and transforming public attitudes. According to the Environmental Protection Agency, “Public opinion polls indicate that a permanent change in national priorities followed Earth Day 1970. When polled in May 1971, 25 percent of the U.S. public declared protecting the environment to be

an important goal, a 2,500 percent increase over 1969.” Earth Day kicked off the “Environmental decade with a bang,” as Senator Nelson later put it. During the 1970s, several important pieces of environmental legislation were passed, among them the Clean Air Act, the Water Quality Improvement Act, the Endangered Species Act, the Toxic Substances Control Act and the Surface Mining Control and Reclamation Act. In December 1970, the Environmental Protection Agency was established and tasked with protecting human health and safeguarding the natural environment—air, water, and land. And Earth Day has grown every year since, being recognized and celebrated across the entire globe.

Each year Earth Day is identified by a different theme as a focus for its observance and activities. Themes from previous years have included:

- 🌍 2020 - Climate Action.
- 🌍 2019 - Protect Our Species.
- 🌍 2018 - End Plastic Pollution.
- 🌍 2017 - Environmental & Climate Literacy.
- 🌍 2016 - Trees for the Earth
- 🌍 2015 - It's Our Turn to Lead.



For 2021 the theme of Earth Day 2021 is **Restore Our Earth™**. As stated at the www.earthreminder.com website: “The annual event will be celebrated with the objective of restoration by reducing climate change. Restoration will also bring hope to minimize the impact of COVID-19.”

What Can You Do for Earth Day?

You can make Earth Day every day by making small lifestyle choices with a huge impact. This could include:

- 🌍 Avoid using plastic water bottles in favor of reusable water bottles.
- 🌍 Try opting for second-hand instead of buying new, like clothes, furniture, and toys.
- 🌍 Supporting organizations with sustainable manufacturing practices to save water and materials.
- 🌍 Plant flowers and trees minimize the use of pesticides.
- 🌍 Search on “Earth Day 2021” for numerous websites to follow this year’s celebrations. Many have links to videos and interesting information that are both educational and enjoyable.
- 🌍 Visit a State Park or botanical garden to experience the natural world.

Interesting fact: A highlight of the United Nations' Earth Day celebration in New York City is the ringing of the Peace Bell, a gift from Japan, at the exact moment of the vernal equinox.

Keep the Earth green and safe!



GET INVOLVED WITH OUTREACH

By The Rev. Rosie Veal Eby

On April 15 at 5:30 we will have an Outreach interest meeting to discuss new projects. This past year has been exciting, and we have had the opportunity to build strong relationships with Inner City Learning Center and Girls Inc. Volunteer opportunities are available at both of these centers and we will be discussing ways to contribute. Some of these opportunities include special celebrations, cooking classes during their summer camps, monthly birthday celebrations and possible family dinners in the fall. It has been amazing to see what we have done using bins and porches in our outreach ministry this past year. As we move forward safely I want to invite you to begin to engage as you are comfortable with some of the programs that are in place and new relationships and programs that are being made. If you have any questions or concerns please feel free to reach out to me via email rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org or call me, my cell phone number is 404-579-8738.



Friends at Huntsville Inner City Learning Center

I look forward to us sharing the Easter message and going out of the church to share the good news of Christ. Everyone is invited to attend!

Topic: Outreach Interest Meeting

Time: Apr 15, 2021 05:30 PM Central Time (US and Canada)

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/88696486648?pwd=MGVhNWp4MXc3b0hyMzdqVWk1L1FLUT09>

Meeting ID: 886 9648 6648

Passcode: 870357

One tap mobile +19292056099,,88696486648#,,,,*870357# US (New York)

+13017158592,,88696486648#,,,,*870357# US (Washington DC)



Every Thursday May– October
4:00 pm

FRESH PRODUCE~LOCAL FOOD~LIVE MUSIC~GOOD FUN

LUNCH BUNCH

It's spring ... the flowers are blooming, the veggies are ripening and we are springing into action!

It's Greene Street Market time, and we will get all the scoop- past and present- on how it works!

Please join us for the Lunch Bunch at noon on April 27 via ZOOM. Our speaker this month is Marilyn Evans, the leader of the Market who is up to date with the latest information.

We hope that we will be able to resume in person meetings with Sally Stockton's wonderful lunch fares in the near future but in the meantime we look forward to seeing everyone on the small screen.

Be sure to let Deacon Bob know if you will be joining us so we can be sure you get receive a ZOOM invitation (bserio@nativity-hsv.org).



LET'S MAKE A JOYFUL SONG

For the past year, we have all experienced an historic pandemic. Let's memorialize the year with song lyrics that describe the pandemic. Send me an email with your song lyric contribution, all I'll compile them and share in a future Steeple. Maybe we can talk our musician friends into putting the words to music!

My contribution: "it's a half an inch of water and you think you're gonna drown".

Let's have fun with this project!

Send lyrics to: Emily Rodgers.

Erodgers@nativity-hsv.org

It's never
been so simple
to be so
significant.

One pint of blood
saves three lives.



Visit the **Donor Portal** to find a drive or make an appointment at lifesouth.org

Give local. Save local.

St. Thomas Episcopal Church Blood Drive

Sunday, April 18

7:30 a.m. – 2 p.m.

12200 Bailey Cove Road SE, Huntsville

****We are screening all eligible donors for Covid-19 antibodies****

All donors will receive a recognition item and a free cholesterol screening. Donors must be 16 or older, weigh at least 110 pounds, and show photo I.D. 16-year-olds require written parental permission.

LIFESOUTH
Community Blood Centers

Parish Financial Report March 2021

| | <u>Budget for Period</u> | <u>Actual for Period</u> | <u>Budget YTD</u> | <u>Actual YTD</u> |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges Received | \$109,597.10 | \$103,667.62 | \$328,791.20 | \$383,518.78 |
| Plate | \$6,666.67 | \$8,079.00 | \$19,999.97 | \$16,749.00 |
| Other Revenues | \$9,379.84 | \$5,164.42 | \$28,139.48 | \$15,570.03 |
| Total Income | \$125,643.61 | \$116,911.04 | \$376,930.65 | \$415,837.81 |
| Diocese & Missions | \$13,951.67 | \$13,409.58 | \$41,854.97 | \$48,032.10 |
| Outreach | \$11,626.46 | \$5,840.00 | \$34,878.86 | \$54,490.00 |
| Personnel | \$69,390.31 | \$68,232.05 | \$208,170.57 | \$206,969.29 |
| Other Expenses | \$30,673.76 | \$20,576.31 | \$92,016.76 | \$70,744.12 |
| Total Expenses | \$125,642.20 | \$108,057.94 | \$376,921.16 | \$380,235.51 |
| Net | \$1.41 | \$8,853.10 | \$9.49 | \$35,602.30 |

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 and mail your check along with this form to: to:

Nativity Flower Guild Andrea Vandervoort 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801

Questions? Call Andrea: 256-539-2673

Parish News

BIRTHDAYS

OF OUR CHILDREN:

Brayden Durnya
Nannette Aboudonia
Maggie Jones
Sarah Laughlin Fleming
Harry Cantey
Carter William Watson
Sarah Catherine Miller
Trey Schiber III
Ralph Hornsby III
Caroline Steigner
Raleigh Ramirez
Sadie Anglin
Samuel Rice
Luke Ham
Abby Ham
Jack Ham
Austill Baker
Foster Fleming
Ava Angelichio
Mary Ellis Alison
Madelyn Alison
Alex Ahearn
Bradford Hall
Luke Ryan McClendon
Fenway Goeke
Lily Cantey
Emme Roderick
Clara Williams
Kylie Meyer
Eliza Hendrickson
Ari Gunnar
Brooks Whitehead

DEATHS:

Dottie Hilchey
Benita Hayes
Sarah Thiemonge

BIRTHS:

Angus Bishop Cornelius, grandson of
The Rev. Rosie Veal Eby

WELCOME NEWCOMER:

Katie Shaver
413 Locust Avenue
Huntsville, AL 35801

TRANSFER OUT:

Rob, Amanda, Ronan, Jensen and
Fenway Goeke to St. John's
Episcopal Church, Ellicott City,
Maryland
Ruth Rainey to The Church of St.
Michael and St. George, St. Louis,
Missouri

BAPTISMS:

Charlotte Anne-Daniel Dingess,
daughter of Rachel and John Dingess
Jacob Chukwudike Anani and Joseph
Chukwuemeka Anani, twin sons of
Uche and Love Anani and grandsons
of Angela and Joseph Ezeibe
Joseph "Ronnie" Byron Falt, III

PARISHIONER UPDATES

Shante Meier
1221 Willowbrook Drive SE #3
Huntsville, AL 35802

PLEDGE ENVELOPES

If you ordered pledge envelopes they
are available to pick up in the back of
Bibb Chapel Monday-Friday 9:00 am
until 4:00 pm. If you have any
questions please contact Austin
Cook, acook@nativity-hsv.org.

2021 VESTRY LIAISONS

Administration: Laura Pierce
Adult Formation: Natalie Rushing
Care of Creation: Terry Clevenger
Children and Youth: Susie Fortner
Community Engagement: Mike
Ward and Elizabeth Foster
Gifts and Memorials: Eric Wood
Music: Patrick Robbins
Newcomers: Alicia Taylor and
Walton Bradford
Outreach: Heather Stroud
Special Events: Holly Ellis
Spirituality: Virginia Kobler
Stewardship: Adam Proud and
Darren Malone
Senior Warden: Virginia Caruso
Junior Warden: Jerry Nutt
Clerk: Darren Malone
Treasurer of the Vestry: Greg
Whitehead
Member at Large: Elizabeth Foster
email at acook@nativity-hsv.org.

Church of the Nativity, Episcopal
208 Eustis Avenue SE Huntsville, AL 35801
256.533.2455 Fax: 256.533.2374
nativity-hsv.org



Women of the church and members of DOK making prayer beads for confirmands at Gail Brown's house. All women at the table have been fully vaccinated.