

# THE SAWYERVILLE STEEPLE

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

July 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](mailto: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**

### **IN THIS ISSUE**

- 3-7 WE ARE ONE BODY
- 8 CHILDREN'S MINISTRY
- 9 NATIVITY'S NEW PLAYGROUND
- 10 TRAVLERS ALTAR
- 11 HELPING HANDS
- 12 STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION
- 13 WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT NATIVITY
- 14 FINANCIAL UPDATE
- 15 PARISH UPDATES & ANNOUNCEMENTS



### **On the cover...**

Liddy Malone, Alice Malone, Worth Stuart and Lucy Ellis having a wonderful time at Sawyerville Summer Camp.

Send your pictures from Nativity activities and events to:  
[vhinton@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:vhinton@nativity-hsv.org).

Dear Nativity Parishioner,

If you are reading this, I suspect it indicates that The Church of the Nativity is important to you and your family. Like countless pilgrims over nearly 175 years, you have found a reason to call our vibrant, historic parish your spiritual home. Maybe you are drawn to the Cursillo community or perhaps the rich tradition of choral music we experience each week.



Families with children undoubtedly appreciate the Christian formation programs and the many opportunities to fellowship together. Our more mature members may find joy in reflection and meditation in one of our lovely spaces both indoors and on the grounds. Whatever path brought you here, you can be assured you are loved, respected and valued.

Most of us would agree that there is a unique sense of space here at Nativity; I might go so far as to call it holy ground. It isn't simply that our buildings have stood the test of time; it is knowing that this historic parish continues to serve as a beacon for our community in the 21st century. Despite the beauty and significance of our properties, it is time to face the fact that we have neglected a need that first became obvious over 40 years ago. Frankly, our property is not as accessible and welcoming as it should be. **NOW is the time to address that problem.**

Because **We Are One Body**, it is time to install an elevator, build several restrooms and renovate some other spaces to meet the accessibility needs of **everyone** who visits or calls Nativity home. Your vestry and parish leadership will be sharing more information in the coming weeks but I'm writing to encourage you... no, I am writing to **CHALLENGE** you to consider how you can do your part in this project which will benefit all of us for many years to come.

The **We Are One Body** building improvement project will cost about \$2 Million. You may be like me when you see numbers that large. It might be hard to imagine how we can pay for this project even though it has been a critical need for decades. It helped me to break it down a bit. Our annual budget for pledges and offerings is approximately \$1.4 Million. **If we each pledge 150% of our annual contribution we will have the money we need.** Frankly, many of us can and should do more but **it is important that we all do our part** to fund a project which will benefit all of us.

When this project is completed in 15-18 months, I know you will agree that it will be tangible and symbolic evidence that **all are welcomed at The Church of the Nativity**. Please join me and your fellow parishioners in making this long-deferred dream a reality for this generation and those that follow us.

Thank you!

Patrick Robbins, Vestry Member

Find more about the **We Are One Body** campaign on page 4...

Dear Friends,

We are excited to tell you about the Accessibility Project or Elevator Fund at Nativity!

The Accessibility Committee was tasked with finding a way to make Nativity's facilities more accessible to all people, specifically adding an elevator and more restrooms. The result of the Accessibility Committee's work is the One Body Campaign.



A brief history of the project goes back to the formation of the Accessibility Committee which had three subcommittees: design, finance and communications. All subcommittees coordinated with the Vestry. The Design Committee made a “short list” of architects who were interviewed. James Caudle, NewSouth Architects, was selected. He is developing the construction documents, as he did for the ramp addition to Bibb Chapel. Mr. Caudle is assisted by his team of consultants for the engineering work. The contractor, Chorba Construction, came highly recommended and has been assisting James Caudle with pricing. The Finance group, led by Grant Thomson, is currently interviewing financial institutions while we continue to receive donated funds. All funds given to the One Body Campaign will only be used to complete this project.

The Americans with Disabilities/ADA act was passed in 1990, well after Ridley was complete. Since then, Nativity has grown, which is a good thing. With the Vision 2020, we recognized the need to make all areas of the church accessible to all who worship here. Along with the elevator which will provide access to all floors in both Ridley and Joffrion, the issue of having enough restroom facilities became part of the package. The new elevator core will be located between Ridley and Joffrion, adjacent to the breezeway.

Our existing bathrooms will be upgraded with new fixtures and finishes. Two new unisex restrooms will be located in the elevator lobby of each floor. The Attic space will have two new restrooms as well.

Currently, we have been reviewing the design development drawing set from the architect to finalize the surrounding existing spaces. Adding an elevator core causes a “domino effect” of the surrounding rooms, as it requires connection to the existing buildings.

Because Bibb Chapel is somewhat separated from the new elevator core, it became necessary to add restrooms on that side of our campus. The existing Flower Guild room by Bibb Chapel was previously a







To make your pledge or gift to the We Are One Body campaign please use one of the following options:

Complete the form below, place in envelope and return by mail or place in the collection plate during any service.

Visit [nativity-hsv.org /weareonebody](http://nativity-hsv.org/weareonebody) and click on MAKE MY GIFT

Scan the QR code and complete the online giving form.



*We are committed to the making The Episcopal Church of the Nativity accessible to all people.*

I/We would like to make a one-time gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I/We would like to make a multi-year gift of \$\_\_\_\_\_ (total amount).

This gift will be fulfilled over \_\_1\_\_ \_\_2\_\_ \_\_3\_\_ \_\_4\_\_ \_\_5 years.

I/We will give this gift on a \_\_monthly\_\_ \_\_quarterly\_\_ \_\_biannual\_\_ \_\_annual basis.

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_



# Spaghetti Supper & We Are One Body Q&A Wednesday, July 21 5:30 pm Ridley Hall

Join us for our first Spaghetti Supper of 2021, and learn more about the exciting new plans to make Nativity accessible to all people!

**\$5 per person** (\$20 max per family)

[CLICK HERE TO MAKE A RESERVATION OR CALL 256-533-2455](#)



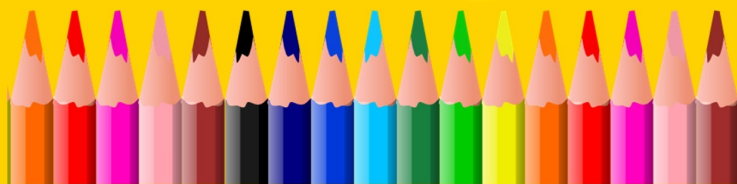
# VBS WAS AMAZING!

By Mary Coe

**M**any thanks to the children of Nativity for being a part of GET OUT! Discover God in your Backyard VBS! It was wonderful to gather together again, even if it was in small groups. The office staff was so happy to hear the sounds of children's laughter and chatter in the church. On our one VBS church day together and two at home, we explored God's creation right in our backyards—the miracle of seeds growing, bugs communicating and critters making their own homes; we enjoyed parachute games, crafts and snacks; we heard Bible stories about naming the animals and John eating locusts and wild honey; and, of course, enjoyed music by Father Michael and Father Worth and visits from our friends Angel and Lane. It was a great time of fun and fellowship. A huge thanks goes out to the many volunteers and Club 56 junior counselors who made it all happen. Can't wait to do it all again next year!



## Back to School Blessings



Preferred by Teachers!

**AUGUST 8, 10.00**

STUDENTS  
EDUCATORS  
PARENTS

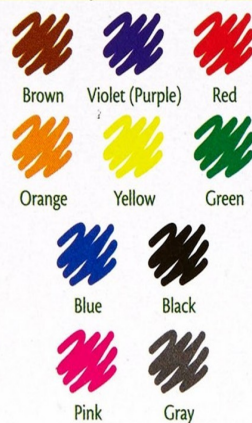
**Sunday,  
August 8  
during  
10.00  
service**

**Start the new  
school year  
off right!**

**Backpack Blessing**  
Children and youth are invited to bring backpacks and school bags to church to be blessed during the service.

**Prayers** for educators and parents.

**Loose leaf paper and pencil drive** for Inner City Learning Center.



PROOF OF BLESSING



**Made to  
last the  
whole  
year!**



# NATIVITY'S NEW PLAYGROUND

By Emily Rodgers

In 2008, a playground was installed at Nativity. The wooden structure was designed for children 2 through 5 years old. For 13 years, the play space provided lots of fun for our children. However, it has deteriorated and was deemed unusable last year. Father Michael Goldsmith formed a committee to determine how to replace the playground equipment. After seeking input from parishioners and their children, the committee created a Request for Proposal (RFP) which was sent to companies who specialize in playground equipment. The committee asked for structures to be accessible to children of all abilities ages 2 through 8 years old. With the addition of swings and slides, older children will enjoy the space as well.



Three companies replied to the RFP. The committee evaluated the footprint of each company's proposals based on safety, durability and maintenance, visual appearance, 'fun' appeal, landscaping and site furnishings, accessible equipment, flexibility in equipment selection and cost. After due diligence, the committee chairwoman, Allison Proud, presented the committee's request to the Vestry on May 25. The vestry approved a contract with Game Time/Struthers Recreation for the equipment and installation of playground equipment in the amount of \$125,018.53. Due to a combination of 2020 budget surplus funds and generous parishioner donations, the playground has been fully funded. Ralph Vemmer and Andy Cowan have led the demolition effort to prep the site for the new equipment.

The committee requested a door be installed to allow access to the new playground from the nursery in Joffrion Hall. In light of the One Body Campaign, it made sense to the committee to create a safe access point to the playground for our youngest members. In addition to the door, a ramp will be installed. The playground will extend from the edge of Gates Avenue up to Joffrion Hall. Gates will be installed on either end of the sidewalk behind Joffrion Hall to ensure a safe and secure place for play. Because NewSouth Architects and Chorba Construction have been hired for our Accessibility Project, it made sense to use them to install the ramp and the elevator. The contract to install the door and the ramp are separate and apart from the Elevator project.

But wait, there's more! The new playground space will have sail cloths to provide much needed shade and tables and chairs will provide plenty of space for caregivers and parents to rest. This area may also be used for small group meetings.

The new equipment should be installed by the end of the summer. We are excited about the new playground equipment and know it will provide many years of enjoyment!

Playground Chairwoman: Allison Proud

Committee: Mary Coe, Lawren and Joe Cooper, The Rev. Michael Goldsmith, Emily Rodgers, Abigail and Trent Spencer, The Rev. Worth Stuart and Sherry Vemmer

# THE TRAVELERS ALTAR

By The Rev. Rosie Veal Eby

**G**reetings from the Travelers Altar! On June 19th I organized a Community Bike Clinic in the parking lot of Huntsville Inner City Learning Center. We had bike mechanics from Bicycle Cove bike shop, people from the community, and folks from the Huntsville Urban Bike Share Co-op. The co-op group has been working to find a spot where they can teach children from the Boys and Girls Club how to build bikes, maintain them, and teach the importance of bicycle safety. Members of the Co-op went with me to meet with the folks at 2820 Community Missional Space, a place where many of my homeless friends attend Bible study on Wednesday night. 2820 Community Missional Space, also known as The Livin' Room, also hosts Shower Up on Sundays, and they happen to have a large warehouse in the back which is not currently being used. This fall, the unused warehouse space will be used by the Huntsville Urban Bike Share Co-op, and help meet a need in our community.

I truly see the holy spirit moving in our community as I continue to work with individuals and groups, and as I see more people from Nativity reaching out to volunteer their time and talents. This project is a wonderful example of teaching creation care, service and sharing of resources. If you are feeling pulled to be involved in this ministry or any others please get in touch.

Peace,

Mother Rosie

[rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org)

<https://www.huntsvilleurbanbikeshare.com/>

<https://www.facebook.com/theLivinroomhsv/>





# HELPING HANDS IN THE COMMUNITY

*Below is a letter received from our friends at Girls Inc. If you would like more information about how you can volunteer for Outreach Ministries at Nativity please contact The Rev. Rosie Veal Eby [rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org)*

Hello Rosie,

I trust that all is well, and your summer has been amazing so far! We have been deeply enthroned with our summer camp and look forward to the activities you have planned for July! As mentioned, attached are pictures of the box gardens the girls planted earlier this spring. We anxiously await to see additional sunflowers bloom.

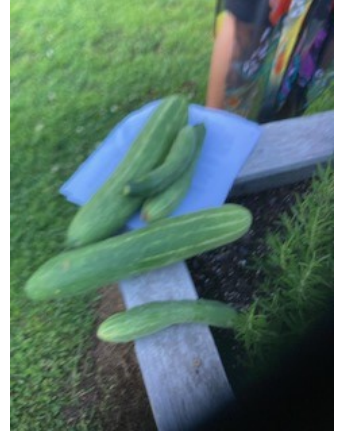
We are looking for some recipes for the herbs and we will probably make a simple dip for the cucumbers so that all the girls can taste them. Exciting times at Girls Inc!

Thank you for all that you do to support us!

Warm regards,

Regina Burden

Girls Inc.



Mother Rosie & friends making pepper at 2820 The Livin' Room this summer.



Students at the Huntsville Inner City Learning Center enjoying an art class with Kana Goldsmith

# STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

By Margaret Devenish

This is the best time of year for our six-legged friends: butterflies, bees, and lightening bugs.

Last week, our back yard seemed like a gift from God with a light display that was truly wondrous.

It seems we seldom take the opportunity to witness this show produced by Mother Nature.

It is this same time of day when our less favorite insect friends can be biting pests.

According to the textbooks, primarily *Aedes* sp. and less commonly *Culex* sp. harass human beings two hours after sunrise and several hours BEFORE sunset. If we have bright lights turned on after dark, mosquitos take the opportunity to continue biting us.

Simple measures, such as draining standing water, are the best safeguard against local mosquito populations. So please - drain plant saucers and clean bird baths regularly. If you choose to use pesticides, please be an informed consumer. The most commonly used pesticides are pyrethrins (natural substances from some chrysanthemums) and their synthetic equivalent, pyrethroids. My concerns about commercial mosquito control companies are advertising promises and the detrimental effect of their spray treatments on beneficial insects.

Mr. Kelly M Stevens MS, Director of Infectious Diseases and Outbreak Division, Alabama Department of Public Health, has a wealth of information regarding mosquito-borne disease. Mr. Stevens also explains in the passage below that pesticide use is a complex issue:

“There are a great variety of mosquito adulticides and larvicides available, and not all kill by contact. Also, the timing of applications and size of the spray droplet is very important in targeting mosquitoes and avoiding beneficial insects as well as preventing harm to non-target animals. Different chemicals and formulations are used to target the adult or immature mosquitoes and have different modes of action. Once you are able to get the name of the chemical(s) being used in your area, you can search more about them using the name of the product. “

The challenge we face is balancing protection of our environment, including insects, and protecting the health of our families. Please be an informed and responsible steward of creation. [https://](https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/mosquito/)

[www.alabamapublichealth.gov/mosquito/](https://www.alabamapublichealth.gov/mosquito/)



Photo by Shutterstock courtesy of David Chadwick



Every Thursday May– October  
4:00 pm

FRESH PRODUCE~LOCAL FOOD~LIVE MUSIC~GOOD FUN



# WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING AT NATIVITY



Enjoying a hike at the VBS Kick-off at Monte Sano



Celebrating our graduating seniors at the Sunday at 6:00 in the Courtyard service.

## Save the Date!

Youth Ocoee White Water Rafting Trip

Ages 7th-12th grade

September 24th-September 25th

Cost per person \$70.

This includes lodging, meals, and rafting!

Questions? Contact Amy Brooks,

[abrooks@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:abrooks@nativity-hsv.org)



# Parish Financial Report June 2021

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$109,597.10	\$135,114.00	\$657,582.50	\$724,607.62
Plate	\$6,666.67	\$10,391.21	\$39,999.98	\$48,417.72
Other Revenues	\$9,379.84	\$5,117.29	\$56,279.00	\$38,499.98
Total Income	\$125,643.61	\$150,623.17	\$753,861.48	\$811,525.32
Diocese & Missions	\$13,951.67	\$17,460.62	\$83,709.98	\$92,799.66
Outreach	\$11,626.46	\$6,405.09	\$69,758.24	\$89,575.09
Personnel	\$69,390.31	\$67,966.39	\$416,341.50	\$410,443.13
Other Expenses	\$30,673.76	\$32,309.43	\$184,038.04	\$155,607.70
Total Expenses	\$125,642.20	\$124,141.53	\$753,847.76	\$748,425.58
Net	\$1.41	\$26,481.64	\$13.72	\$63,099.74

## 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:

Finola O'Halloran  
Eamonn O'Halloran  
Alexander Cahue  
Joseph Cantey  
Crosby Smith  
Alice FitzGerald  
Charles FitzGerald Jr.  
Kate Allbritton  
Eleanor Fassett  
Rebecca Fassett  
Daniel Starnes  
Alexander Allbee  
Harvey Wilson  
Evelyn Hendrickson  
Jacob Baxter  
Alex Elliott  
Joanna Jackson  
Caroline Ayres  
Harper Hudson  
Reagen Huskey  
Carter Whitehead  
Kurt Scheidker  
Ezra Spencer  
Alice Mae Hinton  
Ryker Brown  
Lily Durnya  
Elias Spencer  
Anna Crawford Mullins  
Tripp Elliott  
Greer Baker  
Ellie Roderick

## BIRTHS:

Rowan Harper Brown, daughter of  
Anna Lauren Brown, Tara Dorsey  
and big brother Ryker

Melody Rose Spencer, daughter of  
Abigail and Trent Spencer and big  
brothers Ezra and Elias

## WEDDINGS:

Maria Caprio and Grant White

## DEATHS:

Jean Cummings Watts

## PARISHIONER UPDATES

### Miki and Hud Heaton

539 N B Forrest Drive  
Brierfield, AL 35035

### Dave Gallaher

Email: [micdave47@gmail.com](mailto:micdave47@gmail.com)

## WELCOME NEW PARISHIONERS:

Anne and Robert Chelekis

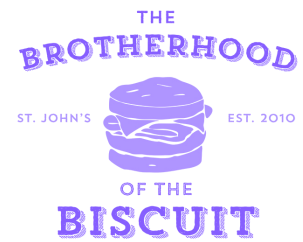
## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### UPCOMING BAPTISM DATES:

Sunday, September 12  
Sunday, November 7

## COLLECTION BINS:

The bins for outreach have been  
moved inside to Ridley Hall. We will  
be collecting for HAP Food Pantry  
on the first Sunday of the month.  
First Stop post urgent needs weekly  
on their Facebook page, right now  
due to storage space they are not  
accepting clothing. We will also  
continue to collect twin size sheets  
and new pajama set for both men  
and women in various sizes for  
R.O.S.S. Recovery Serves. Thank you  
for your continual support of  
outreach ministry.



## Calling All Cooks!!!

Are you interested in some  
Sunday fellowship while making  
the sought after Nativity  
Breakfast Biscuits?

If you would like to be part of  
this Ministry Team, please  
contact:

Amy Kennedy 256-533-2455  
[akennedy@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:akennedy@nativity-hsv.org)

## SAVE THE DATE!

2022 Women's Retreat at  
Camp McDowell

February 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup>

Guest Speaker

The Rev. Sarah Watts.

**Church of the Nativity, Episcopal**  
208 Eustis Avenue SE Huntsville, AL 35801  
256.533.2455 Fax: 256.533.2374  
[nativity-hsv.org](http://nativity-hsv.org)



# all-ages summer service

**Eustis & Greene  
Courtyard  
6pm Sundays  
June - August**

All-ages liturgy that follows the order of Holy Eucharist from the Book of Common Prayer while using language accessible to everyone. Music from the Alleluia III song book.

All ages welcome. Come as you are with your lawn chair or blanket.



Enjoying the  
Sundays at  
6:00 in the  
Courtyard  
service!