

THE STEEPLE

July 2023

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

where faith holds wide the door



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The Rev. Worth Stuart

Priest Associate

The Rev. Susan Sloan

Priest Associate

The Rev. Rose Veal Eby

Priest Associate

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Assistant

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Director of Kitchen Ministries

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Weekend Facilities Manager

Lane Tutt

Head Garden Keeper

Marlin Wilder

Assistant Facilities Manager

EMERGENCY CALLS

A member of the clergy is *always* on call. If you need assistance from a priest outside office hours, please call the office 256-533-2455 and press* to speak with our clergy on call. Please leave a message for a priest to respond.

THE STEEPLE July 2023: In this issue...

Summer	page 3
Stewardship of Creation	page 4-5
Parish Engagement	page 6
Choir	page 7
Outreach	page 8-12
Mother's Minute	page 13
Youth Ministry	page 14
Children's Ministry	page 15
Spiritual Direction	page 16
Stewardship	page 17
Parish News and Financials	page 18
Worship Schedule	page 19
Flower Dedications	page 20

KEEP US IN THE KNOW!

Do you have a change of address, email, phone or perhaps major life event?

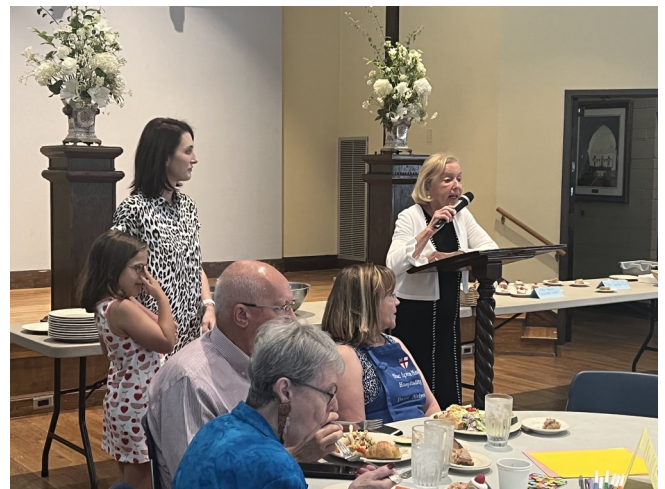
Contact Austin Cook
256-533-2455 ext.204 or
acook@nativity-hsv.org.



On the cover... Vacation Bible School!

Send your pictures from Nativity activities and events to:
abrooks@nativity-hsv.org

Summer at Nativity



Stewardship of Creation

By Tim Tolar

Clean Energy for All

On September 20, 2017, the Category 4 Hurricane Maria hit Puerto Rico, bringing massive destruction. As horrendous as that was, the aftermath of the storm was even more devastating as 80% of its power grid was completely destroyed and not restored for up to 9 months in some rural areas. Then on October 16th Governor Ricardo Rosselló recognized the situation and issued an executive order declaring any new solar *micro-grid*, (a tiny, self-contained version of the bigger grid that powered the island) could skip the lengthy permitting process and be automatically approved. This act opened the door for a new technological revolution to take place on the island that paved the way for what Bill Nussey terms *local energy*₁ to be realized. Groups such as the non-profit Resilient Power Puerto Rico ([ResilientPowerPR](#)) quickly shipped solar panels and batteries to the Island, allowing them to stand up 3 solar micro-grids built within days to provide electricity to community centers. They were able build a solar microgrid in the parking lot of San Juan's Children's Hospital, restoring operation to full capacity. Rocky Mountain Institute (RMI) led local organizations in early 2018 to build a microgrid that allowed the Pedro Fernandez K-8 school in Naranjito to future power outages so they could remain in school regardless of any future events.¹ Additional work is continuing as Adjuntas, PR recently rolled out a system that includes some 700 panels mounted on seven buildings in the town's central plaza and a battery storage system capable of providing up to 187 kilowatts of power. The batteries can provide enough off-grid electricity to keep 14 downtown businesses running for up to 10 days in case of an extended power outage.



While this may seem insignificant, it signals an early stage of a new paradigm in which individuals, communities and local businesses generate their own energy - a new bottom-up approach that has the power to reshape the electric industry. For more than 100 years the industry - aka, the “Big Grid” - has operated unchanged and unchallenged as a regulated electric monopoly in which a small number of businesses have complete control over their own designated regions. However, as the Grid continues to grow in size it becomes more and more vulnerable due to its many single points of failure, with climate playing a larger and larger role. Further, it really has no incentive to meet the demands of the day that our climate crisis requires. However, as a result of decades of declines in prices of solar panels, batteries and electronics such as microinverters, it is increasingly cheaper to generate electricity onsite than to buy it from the grid (Parity between the two was reached in 2020). And these prices will continue to decline with technological advances and economies of scale, which projections that residential solar will cost half the


Stewardship of Creation, cont.....

However, one of best reasons for being interested in this new technology as a religious community is that it is better positioned to aid the poor and impoverished of the world climb the “energy ladder” to a better life while not exacerbating climate change. This includes the nearly one billion low-income people living in Africa and India with no access to an electric grid.

Nussey, Bill. Freeing Energy: How Innovators are using Local-scale Solar and Batteries to Disrupt the Global Energy Industry from the Outside In. Mountain Ambler Publishing 2021

¹⁴“You are the light of the world. A city built on a hill cannot be hid. ¹⁵People do not light a lamp and put it under the bushel basket; rather, they put it on the lampstand, and it gives light to all in the house. ¹⁶In the same way, let your light shine before others, so that they may see your good works and give glory to your Father in heaven. Matthew 5:14-16


Jonathon Daniels Pilgrimage





Guest Preacher
BISHOP PHOEBE ROAF
Diocese of West Tennessee

JONATHAN DANIELS AND THE MARTYRS OF ALABAMA PILGRIMAGE

12 August 2023
Lowndes County Courthouse Square

REGISTER HERE:


 DIOCESE OF ALABAMA

 DIOCESE OF CENTRAL GULF COAST



JONATHAN DANIELS
Youth
PILGRIMAGE

YOUTH 9TH-12TH GRADE

REGISTER HERE

YOUTH ADULT/STAFF

AUGUST 11-13 2023
CHURCH OF THE ASCENSION
315 CLANTON AVE
MONTGOMERY, AL 36104

Sunday Summer Lunches

Join us every Sunday in June and July for Summer Sunday Lunch following the 10:00 AM service. Please let us know you are coming so that we will prepare enough food by clicking [HERE](#) or calling the church office.




Save the Date



We had a great time at the Trash Pandas game last year. Don't forget to reserve your ticket!

EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OF THE NATIVITY



Nativity goes to the ballgame!

VS

ROCKET CITY TRASH PANDAS

PENSACOLA BLUE WAHOOS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 2:30PM

TRASH PANDA STADIUM

TICKETS ARE \$17 EACH



CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS

SEE YOU THERE!

OR CALL 256-533-2455

Choir

by Christian Crocker



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY

Do you know a child who enjoys singing?

Our chorister program is a wonderful way for children to share their talents to the glory of God and also learn music theory and vocal technique, gain liturgical knowledge, and grow as leaders in the Church.

Chorister training begins at third grade and rehearsals will begin on September 6

Junior Choristers (3rd-5th grade)

Wednesdays 4:30-5:30

Location: Church

Senior Choristers (6th-8th grade)

Wednesdays 5:00-6:00

Location: Church

To register for choir, please use the link below, scan the QR code below, or contact Christian Crocker at ccrocker@nativity-hsv.org

[Chorister Registration Form](#)





March 26, 2023

Nativity Bazaar Committee
Episcopal Church of the Nativity
208 Eustis Ave SE
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

Dear Wonderful Nativity Bazaar Committee,

On behalf of every child, family and teacher at Second Mile Preschool, THANK YOU!
Thank you for your generous support and most of all, for believing in the work we are doing at Second Mile Preschool.

Every day we strive to give our families what they need for long term stability and success. Some days that looks like getting a child a much needed medical procedure, other days it is helping a child navigate through anger after being placed in foster care. Most days it looks like digging for worms, jumping off hay bales, baking cookies, singing silly songs and experiencing childhood JOY in all of its forms.

I promise you the work happening here matters and we couldn't do it without the support of our community. We refer to your donation as the "miracle of the casserole money." Thank you to every person who baked, cooked, chopped and simmered and to everyone who purchased as well. The money will provide a healthy lunch for our families attending our parent party next week. It will stock our pantry to prepare meals for our students. It will provide every child with a lunch box, it will pay for our graduation reception to celebrate all the children have accomplished this school year and so much more.

This little school has big heart and we will never be able to adequately thank you for supporting us so we can keep doing the work. Together we are making an impact in our community. Come visit anytime! We love showing off the "Happiest place in Huntsville."

All the best,

Cate DeFiore

1000 MEADOW DRIVE, HUNTSVILLE ALABAMA 36816 CATE@SECONDMILE.NET

Dinner Church

By Rose Veal Eby

Join us for Dinner Church Sunday, **July 16 at 6pm** in Ridley Hall. Dinner Church is a monthly gathering of people, where our worship and sermon conversation will all happen at the dinner table. Consider it a great potluck with a twist to include our spiritual growth and sharing. Please bring a dish to share as you are able. Contact Rose Veal Eby rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org or 256-533-2455 with questions.



Outreach

By Michael Shipley

Greene Street Market Grant

The Outreach Committee is pleased to announce the Greene Street Market Grant recipient for 2023 is The Community Free Dental Clinic. The Clinic has treated over 9500 patients since opening in 2013. Currently over 49,000 residents in Madison County are living in

poverty. There is a specific niche within the poverty level population that the clinic has extreme difficulty treating. These are the mobility impaired patients within our target population. The clinic's difficulty is transferring the patient from their wheelchair into the dental chair. The Grant will be used to purchase a compact wheelchair recliner. This will allow the dentist the ability to treat wheelchair patients.

We are very excited for the Community Free Dental Clinic and thankful for all they do for our community.



Community and Parish Engagement

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity strives to be good neighbors within our church family and in our community. The Parish and Community Engagement Committee works to provide opportunities to connect with each other, non-profit groups and social organizations that support our core values and with our community by opening our doors and sharing our space during downtown community events. This list is ever changing, so make sure to check in regularly for opportunities to engage in your community! Use this link and sign up today!

<https://www.signupgenius.com/go/60B0E49ADAA2DA5F49-hiclc>

For more information please contact Vicky Hinton, vhinton@nativity-hsv.org or Rosie Veal Eby, rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org.

Outreach

By Rose Veal Eby

“So if I, your Lord and Teacher, have washed your feet, you also ought to wash one another’s feet. For I have set you an example, that you also should do as I have done to you.....I give you a new commandment, that you love one another. Just as I have loved you, you also should love one another. By this everyone will know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another.”



Our tradition on Maundy Thursday is foot washing, we have always done it that way, so why change? I wanted to change up the Maundy Thursday service because the people I serve needed something different.

Part of my job as Associate at Church of the Nativity is being a priest in the homeless community. That means I spend time providing pastoral care and worship opportunities at the community center for the homeless called First Stop, however we call the spiritual thin space provided, The Travelers Altar, because faith is a journey we are all on.

Over the past few years serving in the community, one thing I learned is that homeless people walk a lot. The other thing I learned is that a new pair of shoes is not something homeless people receive. I have learned that my privilege allows me to wear my fancy rain boots into the homeless camp that I can come home and rise the mud off of when the rain has left the camps in a swamp like state. Our homeless siblings in Christ do not have that privilege. There is no running water in the camps and space to store shoes for every occasion is unrealistic. Even those who live in shelters do not have supplies available and



unlimited time in the bathroom sink to wash shoes after walking and waiting at the bus stop in bad weather. As I began to think about the act of service Christ modeled for us on Maundy Thursday, I thought about the muddy tennis shoes, I thought about the broken shoe laces, the soles of a pair of shoes being worn thin and the uncomfortable dress shoes passed out at thrift stores that lost their shine a decade ago. I thought about the love and new life that Christ speaks about. So I put out a collection bin in the parish hall and asked for helpers to “wash shoes” at the Maundy Thursday Service at First Stop/Travelers Altar.

Outreach, Cont.....

In the week prior to Holy Week I came into my office and found three garbage bags of brand new tennis shoes. Jill Chadwick, who is a vestry member, had reached out to a family member who works with Fleet Feet and they gave us all the returned shoes they could not put back on the sales floor. It was a beautiful sight to behold.

More supplies came in, shoe laces, boot laces, polish, magic erasers, and insoles for both men and women's shoes in so many different sizes and varieties. I asked Microwave Dave, a parishioner and local music legend to come play the blues during the washing part.

On Thursday morning we had around 95 people show up for breakfast at the center. By 9:30 we had shoes sorted and on racks, tables set out with the supplies to clean and give shoes new laces and insoles, at 10 the service began. The helpers from Nativity sat among the people during the liturgy and sermon.

When it came to washing shoes, I lost count of how many pairs were replaced. I saw two of the homeless men begin to clean each other's shoes while Nativity parishioners were shining shoes. After I cleaned one woman's shoes one of the homeless men, whom I have known for years wanted to shine my boots. He had been in the army and was excited to show off his boot polishing skills.

The music provided a mood for fellowship and gave a common space for everyone to exist in. It was a beautiful service. I know from the feedback that this is something that we will make a tradition out of, because loving one another is the way it has and should always be done.



Sleep in Heavenly Peace

Save the date for the Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build. Join us as we construct 30 beds for children in our community who do not have a place to sleep at night.

**We will meet at the warehouse for SHP at
6000 Technology Dr, Building 7
Saturday July 29, 2023 8am-12pm**



**NO KID SLEEPS
ON THE FLOOR
IN OUR TOWN!**

No experience necessary but expect lots of satisfaction for this magnificent effort!

Click [HERE](#) to help with the build

Click [HERE](#) to donate bedding.

We also need donations of twin size kid's bedding sets. These can be found at Walmart.

Contact Deacon Bob bserio@nativity-hsv.org or Mother Rosie rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org if you have questions.



“At SHP, we fully believe that a bed is a basic need for the proper physical, emotional, and mental support that a child needs. When it was brought to our attention that the need for beds went far beyond our own neighborhoods, we stepped up and took initiative. We’re a national organization answering the call to a national problem.”





FIVE MORE SUNDAYS!

9:00 All Ages Service in Bibb Chapel continues through July

There are lots of good reasons to attend the All Ages Service: the liturgy is a little more accessible, “playground” quiet play area for wiggly children, more roles for young people during worship, children gather around the altar during the Eucharist Prayer and the service has a relaxed vibe, making it a little easier for our younger parishioners to navigate.

Youth Ministry



Children's Formation



Children's Formation, cont....



Summer Spiritual Direction Offerings

By Basye Holland-Shuey

Spiritual Development Activities

A monthly listing of local spiritual development activities of potential interest, brought to you by the Spiritual Development Committee.

- Rev Basye Holland Shuey is starting two classes this summer: (i) Spiritual Practice with Watercolor and (ii) Group Spiritual Direction.
- St Mary's Sewanee also continues to offer a variety of activities and events at <https://www.stmaryssewanee.org/calendar/>

Presentations:

- Dealing with suffering and loss on the Spiritual Journey
- Prayer & Pilgrimage with St. Teresa of Avila - Spiritual Guide and Companion

Email or text for dates and times

Email: office.basye@gmail.com

Mobile: 256.468-5590

*The Rev. Dr. Basye Holland-Shuey, Spiritual Director, Presenter, Watercolor Artist, Retired Priest

Baptism Wall

The Baptism Wall is up in the Banister Room. If you were baptized at Nativity and you would like to submit a photo, you can bring in a hard copy of a 4x6 photo or email an image to abrooks@nativity-hsv.org.



Stewardship

By Christine Starnes

For where your treasure is, there your heart will be also. Matthew 6:21

WHERE IS YOUR HEART?

Mary Johnson grew up at Nativity, both baptized and confirmed here. Her dad's family came here in the early 1800's and some of them worshiped at Nativity. In fact, the two paintings on either side of the main doors at the back of the church are her grandmother's works (Martha Patton Darwin). Though Mary moved away for a while when she got married, she returned about 20 years ago and rejoined her Nativity family.

In her time here, Mary has taught Sunday School, served as a Lector and helped on the Altar Guild. Most recently, she's been serving on the Spiritual Development committee as a representative for Centering Prayer. She loves the workshops the committee offers that expose the attendees to different methods of prayer and communing with God. To sit in silence, to welcome God into that space, and to feel the transformation from that experience.

Mary has experienced that transformation in her spiritual journey through the practice of Centering Prayer, which she's been doing daily for about 20 years now. She learned of God's presence within each of us through a personal experience many years ago and notes that once she knew that God existed in that way, she wanted to spend time in that space, and "I just want to do what God would have me do. In sitting in silence and intentionally welcoming God into your heart and mind, it does transform you."



For anyone interested in Centering Prayer or learning more about the Spiritual Development Committee, please contact Ted Briggs at tedlbriggs@gmail.com.

Parish News

June Youth Birthdays:

Catherine Fortune	Harvey Wilson
Melody Rose Spencer	Evelyn Hendrickson
Finola O'Halloran	Alex Elliott
Eamonn O'Halloran	Joanna Jackson
Lyla Ginga	Deacon Jordan
Teige Cantey	Caroline Ayres
Crosby Smith	Harper Hudson
Alice Fitzgerald	Reagan Huskey
Charles Fitzgerald,jr	Carter Whitehead
Kate Allbritton	Ezra Spencer
Eleanor Fassett	Alice Mae Hinton
Rebecca Fassett	Ryker Brown
Daniel Starnes	Lily Durnya
Alexander Allbee	Elias Spencer
Kellen Blalock	Anna Crawford Mullins
	Tripp Elliott, III
	Greer Baker
	Ellie Roderick

In memory of the departed:

Anita Manning
Jim Douthit
Christian Ray

Births

Hayes Michael born June 7th to
Sidney Gunter and Chase Sims,
grandparents Larry and Shannon Gunter

Weddings

Emily Evans and Walker Purvis, June 17th

New Members (since January 2023):

The Hatcher Family	Austin Nash
The Hale Family	Caroline McCrary
Jennifer Manning	Donna Maze
Guy McClure	Mallory Maze
The Todd Family	Rickey Tate
Debbie Clendenny	
Rene Milligan	
Tammy Eskridge	
Ann Yates	

Transfers

Joe and Joan East–
St. Matthews, Madison

Financial Update

Parish Financial Report May 2023

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$120,049.48	\$82,702.71	\$600,247.40	\$648,663.22
Plate	\$14,583.34	\$8,412.70	\$72,916.62	\$73,331.86
Other Revenues	\$8,835.51	\$5,760.60	\$44,177.43	\$39,138.23
Total Income	\$143,468.33	\$96,876.01	\$717,341.45	\$761,133.31
Diocese & Missions	\$16,155.93	\$10,932.35	\$80,779.49	\$86,033.73
Outreach	\$13,463.33	\$8,714.92	\$67,315.69	\$77,644.38
Personnel	\$80,843.51	\$79,451.16	\$404,217.27	\$393,999.54
Other Expenses	\$33,005.88	\$29,917.43	\$165,025.84	\$154,958.23
Total Expenses	\$143,468.65	\$129,015.86	\$717,338.29	\$712,635.88
Net	-0.32	-\$32,139.85	\$3.16	\$48,497.43

SUNDAY, July 2 nd					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Stuart		Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
9:00 am	Goldsmith				
10:00 am	Veal Eby	Stuart		John Nelson, Marcia Cobun	Elaine Hamner

Wednesday, July 5 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Veal Eby		Guy McClure		

Thursday, July 6 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Goldsmith	Johnson			

SUNDAY, July 9 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Goldsmith		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
9:00 am	Sloan				
10:00 am	Sloan	Goldsmith		Lee Hicklen, Deborah Alexander	Rhonwyn Watson

Wednesday, July 12 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Goldsmith		Walter Thames		

Thursday, July 13 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Sloan		Charles Morley		

SUNDAY, July 16 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Sloan		Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
9:00 am	Stuart				
10:00 am	Goldsmith	Sloan		Mickey Ellis, Lynn Sparks-Lewis	Deborah Baker

Wednesday, July 19 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Stuart		Guy McClure		

Thursday, July 20 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Veal Eby		Sally Ann Culver		

SUNDAY, July 23 rd					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Goldsmith		Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett	Lea Ann Barnett
9:00 am	Veal Eby				
10:00 am	Stuart	Goldsmith		Elaine Hamner, Pamela Briggs	Sally Ann Culver

Wednesday, July 26 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Sloan		Walter Thames		

Thursday, July 27 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Stuart		Charles Morley		

SUNDAY, July 30 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Stuart		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
9:00 am	Sloan				
10:00 am	Goldsmith	Stuart		Jennifer Dill, Q Wirtz	Melissa Kirkindall

FLOWER GUILD					
B = Bibb C = Church B: Elise Taylor, Clarissa Sharp C: Jane Brocato, Missy Walker, Sherry Boyer					
ALTAR GUILD					
July 2 nd	Emily Moody, Beth Pugh, Judy Vann, Mary Johnson, Anne Chelekis				
July 9 th	Nancy Colin, Peggy Serio, Margaret Lotz, Debbie Joyner, Sophia Samogray				
July 16 th	Peggy Serio, Sue Johnson, Linda Watts, Alice Lanier, Gail Brown				
July 23 rd	Linda Watts, Caffey Litkenhous, Anne Chelekis, Heather Stroud, Jewell Reynolds				
July 30 th	Judy Vann, Natalie Rushing, Wanda Cobb, Amanda Kiep, Beth Pugh				

CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE					
June 26 th – July 2 nd		July 3 rd – 9 th		July 10 th – 16 th	
The Rev. Rosie Veal Eby		The Rev. Susan Sloan		The Rev. Michael Goldsmith	

VERGER SCHEDULE					
	July 2 nd	July 9 th	July 16 th	July 23 rd	July 30 th
10:00 am	Don Lambert	Terry Clevenger	Lea Ann Barnett	Don Lambert	Lea Ann Barnett

USHER SCHEDULE					
	July 2 nd	July 9 th	July 16 th	July 23 rd	July 30 th
7:30 am	Peter Barber	Peter Barber	Peter Barber	Peter Barber	Peter Barber
	Jill Chadwick, Dave Chadwick Lloyd Newman, Russ McDonald	Wendy Wilson, Curt Benzle Gina Taylor, Alicia Taylor	Wendy Wilson, Curt Benzle Jill Chadwick, Dave Chadwick	Anna Warren, Lloyd Newman, Ernie Thomas, Susan Thomas	Wendy Wilson, Curt Benzle Jill Chadwick, Dave Chadwick
10:00 am					

ACOLYTE LEADER & ACOLYTE SCHEDULE					
	July 2 nd				
10:00 am	<i>Clay Sherrill – Daniel Starnes, Diana Sommer</i>				
	July 9 th				
10:00 am	<i>TBD -</i>				
	July 16 th				
10:00 am	<i>Mike Ward – Sophie Lotz, John Collier Lotz, Diana Sommer</i>				
	July 23 rd				
10:00 am	<i>TBD – Daniel Starnes</i>				
	July 30 th				
10:00 am	<i>TBD – Diana Sommer</i>				

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



[CLICK HERE FOR
THE MAY VESTRY
MINUTES](#)

Visit nativity-hsv.org/vestry to view
current Vestry minutes or call Austin
Cook 256-533-2455.

2023 Altar Flower Dedications

Your Name:_____ Phone#:_____

Dates requested: _____ (available dates listed below)

September 3rd, 10th

December 3rd

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

or

Fill out the online form by clicking [here](#).

Questions? Call Andrea: 256-539-2673 or Amy Kennedy akennedy@nativity-hsv.org