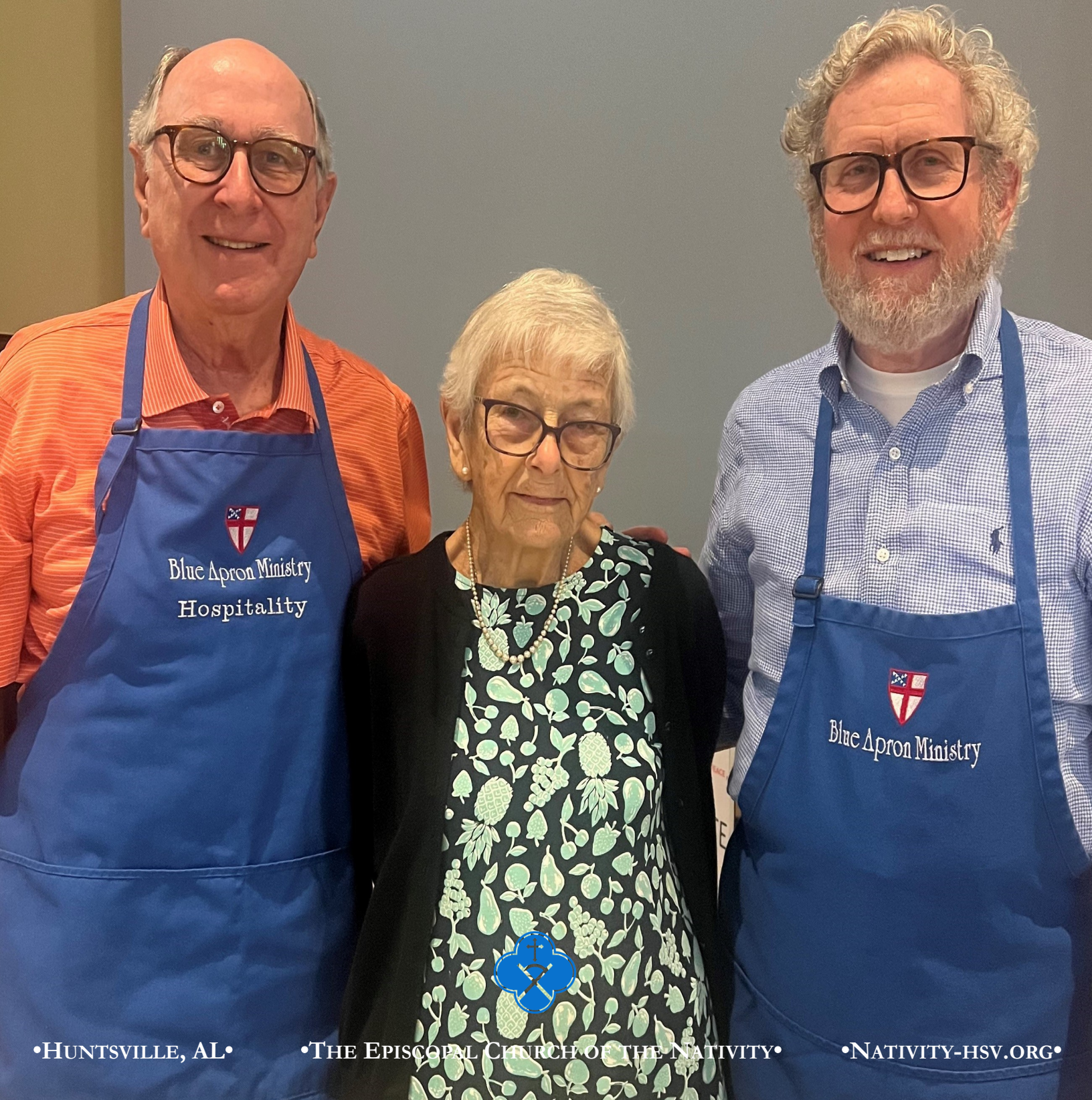


THE STEEPLE

August 2023

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

where faith holds wide the door



CLERGY & STAFF

The Rev. T. Michael Goldsmith

Rector

The Rev. Worth Stuart

Priest Associate

The Rev. Susan Sloan

Priest Associate

The Rev. Rose Veal Eby

Priest Associate

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

Deacon

Amy Brooks

Director of Communications

Madi Bell-Colpack

Director of Youth Ministries

Mary Coe

Director of Children's Ministries

Austin Cook

Director of Finance and Membership

Christian Crocker

Director of Music and Organist

Vicky Hinton

Director of Engagement & Adult Formation

Emily Rodgers

Facilities Manager

Sally Stockton

Director of Kitchen Ministries

Emily Thovson

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 August 2023: In this issue...

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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... Rusty Stephenson, Jennie Coe, and Peter Cobun serving at Sunday Summer Lunches.

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

Fall Worship Schedule

By Father Michael

Nativity has had a wonderful Summer filled with fellowship, worship, and spiritual growth. Now it's time to look towards the Fall and the exciting changes it will bring. The first Sunday after Labor Day marks the change to our Fall Worship Schedule. This year we are doing something new! Beginning on September 10th, Sunday School for all ages will be from 9:30 am - 10:15 am with Nursery available from 9:15 am - 12:00 pm. Just like this Summer, we will have one principal worship service which will begin at 10:30 am. Brotherhood of the Biscuits will be serving following the 7:30 am service through Sunday School and there will be fellowship in Ridley Hall after the 10:30 service.

Why the change? Popular demand!

So many of you have shared with me how much you have enjoyed a full church with new faces, old friends, and praising God with a full choir. Instead of splitting up into 8:45ers and 11 O'clockers, we will continue to worship as One Body. We will all hear Scripture, celebrate the Eucharist, and learn together. Your Vestry, clergy and staff look forward to this new beginning because we are One Body - the Body of Christ.

God's Peace,

Father Michael

****Please note that Sunday, July 30th was the last 9AM service of the year!**

Fall Worship Schedule **beginning September 10th**

Wednesdays, 12pm, The Holy Eucharist with Healing, Bibb Chapel

Thursdays, 6pm, The Holy Eucharist Rite II, Bibb Chapel

Sundays:

7:30am, The Holy Eucharist Rite I, Bibb Chapel

9:30am, Christian Formation (all ages)

10:30am, The Holy Eucharist Rite II

One Body Accessibility Update

We are delighted to share that we are making steady progress toward our goal of creating a more accessible and inclusive environment for everyone.

Paul Matheny and his team from Matheny Goldmon Architects and Interiors, our architectural firm, have commenced work on the project. Their primary focus has been on carefully documenting our existing facilities and gaining a comprehensive understanding of how they are currently utilized. This crucial step will lay the foundation for the subsequent phases of the project and ensure that we address accessibility challenges effectively.

Capital Campaign Feasibility Initiative:

To bring this vision to life, we recognize the need for adequate funding. Our committee has been proactive in exploring various avenues to raise the necessary capital. After careful consideration and consultations with the diocese, we reached out to three reputable fundraising consulting firms. We are excited to announce that we have engaged the services of the Vandersall Collective to perform a capital campaign feasibility study. This firm comes highly recommended, having successfully assisted numerous churches in similar projects, and their expertise will be instrumental in conducting a capital campaign feasibility study.

A feasibility study is designed to ask what is the level of support for proposed projects to address accessibility. With the congregation's collective input, we aim to assess the potential for fundraising, as well as identify the most effective strategies to secure the required funds. This process will enable us to make informed decisions and ensure our success if we move forward with a capital campaign. The feasibility study will take place in October and November with a full report provided to the Vestry in December 2023.

We recognize the significance of your involvement and support in making the One Body Accessibility Project a reality. In the coming weeks, we will be reaching out to seek our members' valuable input and suggestions. Your feedback is vital in shaping the future of our church and making it more welcoming to all people, regardless of their physical abilities.

As we move forward, we will keep you informed about the progress of the project, fundraising milestones, and opportunities for engagement. We anticipate an inclusive and transparent approach throughout this journey, valuing each member's contribution and embracing the true spirit of unity and togetherness. Together, we can create a place of worship that embodies the values of compassion, acceptance, and inclusivity that our church stands for.

Thank you for your continued support for the One Body Accessibility Project.

Jerry Nutt, Accessibility Project Committee Chair

Nativity Cookbook Update

By Lea Ann Barnett

The Nativity Cookbook Recipe Testers prepared fabulous feasts and delicious desserts for the congregation during the Summer Sunday Lunch series in June and July. What a popular event and tremendous success it was each Sunday with 80 to 90 people sharing a meal and learning about Nativity ministries! Thank you all for being our recipe tasters! Our hearts were filled with joy to see your excitement and your anticipation to sample our dishes!



I want to recognize and thank the following group of volunteers who prepared prospective recipes for our new cookbook and delivered them to the church kitchen each Sunday before the 10 am service: Thank you all for donating your time, your culinary talent, and your treasure in order for us to “gather around our table” once again and share in fun, food, and fellowship.

Jennifer Dill	Sharon Darty	Michael Shipley	Sarah Gessler
Janet Robbins	Dottie Crawford	Gail Brown	Sandy Brown
Jewell Reynolds	Pattie Cline	Christine Starnes	Pamela Briggs
Mary Johnson	Marcia Cobun	Laura Pierce	Connie Ruth Thompson
Margaret Devenish	Peggy Serio	Sara Little	Mary Alice Naylor
Kay Tate	Jennie Coe	Linda Watts	Nadyne Churchill
Tammy Eskridge	Pat Sampson	Anna Warren	
Jimmy Farrar	Pat Goodson	Dawn Nelson	

A special thanks, also, to Sally Stockton for allowing us to “invade” her kitchen and providing her catering tips/advice and moral support in serving such a large crowd. And to Emily Thovson, our weekend sexton, who happily assisted us with prep in the kitchen and the setup of the “buffet line” each week!

We will be providing future updates to the progress that we are making towards our anticipated cookbook publish date in 2024. In the near term, Janet Robbins and I will be editing recipes based on our testers’ feedback and refining our recipe selections. Sherry Boyer is coordinating artwork submittals with our Nativity artists and will be preparing to layout the design of the cookbook pages.





This year, First Stop celebrates **FIFTEEN** years as a nonprofit organization. Fifteen years of providing essential services to the homeless in our community through our Outreach Team, meals and showers offered in our Day Center, and individuals helped by our Case Managers to exit homelessness.

*Fifteen years of **impact**.*

We could not have done this without the support of our generous donors, volunteers, and dedicated staff. Over the years, we have watched Huntsville grow to become the largest city in the state of Alabama and named the “*Best Place to Live*” in the United States. We know that there is still much work to be done, and are grateful for your continued support as we work to end homelessness in our community.

We invite you to join us for our **15-year Celebration Dinner on Thursday, September 21**. We'll be looking back on the ways that this amazing community has helped First Stop *encounter, connect, and empower* the homeless in Huntsville over the years.

How can you help?

[Join the Celebration](#)

[Sponsor the Celebration](#)

Upcoming Nativity Groups Supporting the 1st Monday First Stop Breakfast :

August- DOK

September- Social Justice Class September 11

October- Lunch Bunch

November- Common Grounds

December- Men's Ministry

Outreach

By Mike Farnell

I feel fortunate to have worked with Mother. Rosie Veal Eby for the last couple of summers. As part of my seminary training, I chose to fulfill my CPE requirement with her at First Stop rather than in a typical hospital chaplaincy program. It was one of my better choices!

In working among human beings experiencing many difficulties in life, not least homelessness, I have realized the value of each person. We are all creatures of God. We share this planet with people enduring all kinds of challenges. It is tempting to walk by unfazed by another's plight. However, there are other possibilities of response.

Mother Rosie strives to meet needs, offer pastoral care, and to show God's love to all people. She does these things in interesting and creative ways and encourages others to join in. For example, last summer First Stop began a building renovation that was going to eliminate a much-needed service to those who have no house -- laundry. How does one experiencing homelessness get laundry done? We began a service called 'Suds and Buds' that continues on: a team of people who help people do laundry free of charge once a week. While the clothes are in the washer and dryer, the volunteers can interact with the First Stop clients.

Spending time with someone in need is real ministry. Looking them in the eye, listening to their best and worst stories, building relationships, and helping them get connected with the help they need are ways of sharing God's love while lightening their load for a moment. It is meaningful, it is impactful, it is love on display.

As I leave my work to others at First Stop, I cannot help but think of the way this experience will affect my ministry in future. Thank you, Nativity for your support of this work. And thank you, Mother Rosie for your tutelage and your wildly creative energy that is making a difference!

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 The Rev. Rose Veal Eby

I have had several people ask me about the benediction I offer at the end of the service. I heard this benediction quoted by one of my seminary professors and the words spoke to me. I decided that when, God willing, I was ordained that this would be what I wanted to leave as an offering at the end of the service. Following Bishop G's ordination she spoke with several of the newly ordained priests and deacons and asked us about benedictions. I shared this with her and she prayed it when she was with us last at Nativity. It was written by Rev. William Sloane Coffin, who has since become one of my favorite theologians.

**May God give you the grace never to sell yourself short;
Grace to risk something big for something good; and
Grace to remember the world is
too dangerous for anything but the truth and
too small for anything but love.**

Below is a short BIO by By Frederic and Mary Ann Brussat from Spirituality and Practice.

William Sloane Coffin was a Protestant social justice activist who dedicated his life to the pursuit of universal civil and human rights and international peace. Born on June 1, 1924, he graduated from Yale University in 1949. He then entered Union Theological Seminary but left after a year and joined the CIA for whom he spent three years in Germany working against Stalin's regime in Russia. Coffin then enrolled in Yale University Divinity School and in 1956, he was ordained a Presbyterian minister; later he was recognized as a minister by the United Church of Christ.



Coffin served as Chaplain of Yale University from 1958 until 1975. He was one of seven "Freedom Riders" arrested during the Civil Rights Movement for protesting segregation laws. He was an early opponent of the Vietnam War and became well-known for his anti-war activities. Coffin was indicted by the U.S. government in the Benjamin Spock conspiracy trial and immortalized as Rev. Sloan in Gary Trudeau's *Doonesbury comic strip*.

After Yale, Coffin became senior minister of Riverside Church in New York City. During the 1980s he was a leader in the movement against nuclear weapons as president of the SANE/FREEZE campaign for global security, the largest peace and justice organization in the United States. He retired as president emeritus in the early 1990s but continued to teach and lecture across the United States and overseas. Both Union Theological Seminary and Yale University have established scholarships in his name.

Young People Paint Birmingham

By Annabelle Eby

Young People Paint Birmingham is a unique work week for youth from various church homes in Alabama. We got to scrape and paint the exterior of a house over a three day period. We start at 9 and go until 2:30. This was the first year in a while, due to Covid-19, that this program was held. There were six youth as well as adult staff. It was truly a very rewarding experience.

To get the most work in, we woke up everyday at around 7:15. Then, we had lovely people provide us with breakfast and would get on the bus at 8:30, give or take. It was a twenty five minute drive from the church, so we got there at about 9:00. After we

discussed what the main projects of the day were going to be, we got to work.

On the first day, after we finished scraping it, we started on the trim, which was the first challenge we faced. A little after lunch, which started at about 12:30, the owner of the house came out and said “Why is it cream colored?”. There were only about three of us in the back, and we didn’t know how to react. It turned out that we had the wrong color and repainted it white. I was rather worried that it would be a really difficult recovery, but everyone was so calm and determined about it which was helpful.

On the second day, we focused on finishing what was left to do with the trim and various other smaller tasks. I volunteered to work on the ladder which was fun, but also scorchingly hot. In my opinion, the second day was the hottest. However, the second day was when you could really see the progress being made, making it all worth it. We had finished most of the trim other than the tops of windows that would be done on the third day.

Finally, on the third day, we got to work on painting the walls of the house a nice red. The youth were rolling the walls and then the adults would take a brush and go over the books and crannies that rollers couldn’t get. While it was still really hot, the bugs, specifically sweat bees, were posing as more of a problem that day. It was so satisfying to see the finished product at the end of the day. After three days of work, we had finally finished this huge project.

It was such a worthwhile experience that was well worth dedicating time to. Thank you to St. Stephens, the Diocese of Alabama, and all the people who volunteered their time and effort to make this all possible! I would definitely recommend this to anyone who wants to. I had such a wonderful and fulfilling time and great time getting to know all the other awesome people who came out for this amazing cause.



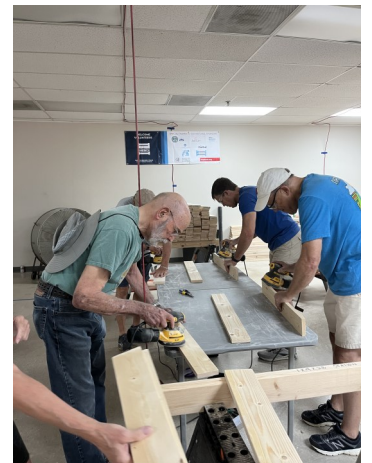
Sleep in Heavenly Peace



NO KID SLEEPS ON THE FLOOR IN OUR TOWN!

Thank you to everyone who gave of their time and resources to make the bed build a success! Our goal was to build 35 beds. We built 45 beds in just a few short (and hot!) hours! There is still an opportunity to help. If you would like to contribute financially to ensure that no child in Huntsville sleeps on the floor, you may do so by clicking [here](#) or mailing a check to the Church of the Nativity and writing Sleep In Heavenly Peace in the memo line.





Parish and Community Engagement

COLLEGE GROUP COOK-OUT

WHO? COLLEGE AGE STUDENTS

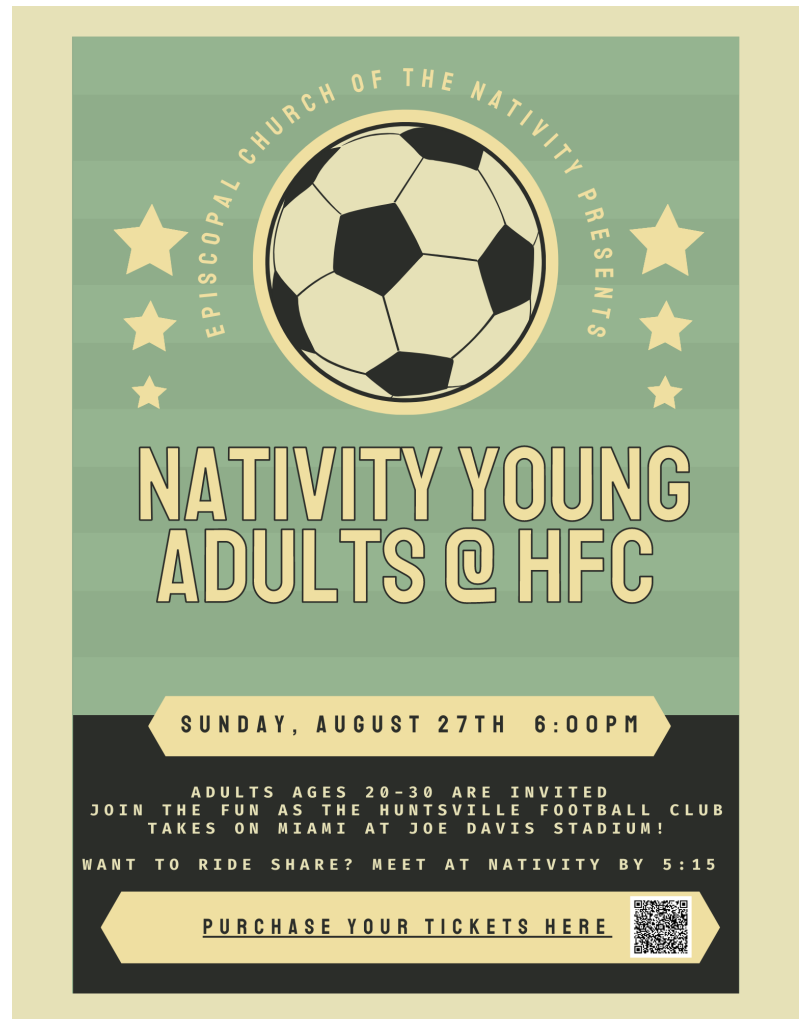
WHEN? WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 2 @ 6:00PM

WHERE? THE COURTYARD @ CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
208 EUSTIS AVENUE IN DOWNTOWN HUNTSVILLE

WHAT? FOOD, FUN, NETWORKING & INFO ON HOW YOU
CAN GET INVOLVED WITH EPISCOPAL STUDENT MINISTRIES
THIS FALL AT YOUR COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY!

WANT TO KNOW MORE? [VHINTON@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG](mailto:vhinton@nativity-hsv.org)

IN THE EVENT OF INCLIMENT WEATHER THIS EVENT WILL BE HELD IN RIDLEY HALL



Looking for ways to engage with your church family this fall? We have several opportunities to lend a helping hand and anyone is welcome to sign-up!

[Use this link](#) to check out the upcoming Parish Engagement opportunities or call Vicky Hinton, vhinton@nativity-hsv.org

HEY NATIVITY EYC PARENTS...
FEELING SOCIAL?

SUNDAY
SOCIAL

ENJOY CONVERSATION & FUN WITH
OTHER PARENTS WHILE THE KIDS ARE
AT YOUTH GROUP

2nd & 4th Sundays of the month	NATIVITY WELCOME CENTER
	5:00-7:00 pm

QUESTIONS? CONTACT VICKY HINTON
VHINTON@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG

WEDNESDAY NIGHT
SPAGHETTI
SUPPER
AUGUST 30TH



DINNER SERVED 5:30-6:30
NURSERY OPEN 5:00-7:00

RESERVATIONS APPRECIATED BUT NOT REQUIRED:
256-533-2455, NATIVITY-HSV.ORG OR USE THE QR CODE



SUNDAY, AUGUST 13
FOLLOWING THE 10:00
SERVICE

FALL
MINISTRY
PREVIEW

Find out about the many ways you can get
involved at Nativity this fall!

Parish and Community Engagement



Nativity is going back to the ballpark! Join us for an afternoon of fun with the Rocket City Trash Pandas! Sunday, September 10th, 2:30 pm @ Toyota Field. Watch with friends as the Rocket City Trash Pandas take on the Pensacola Blue Wahoos. Tickets are \$17 per person (children 2 & under are free)

- Reserved Nativity Section for everyone who purchases their tickets through Nativity before the deadline, September 5th.
- Each ticket will have a \$2 loaded value that can be used at participating vendors in the park the day of the event.
- Link to purchase discounted parking will be provided.
- Father Worth will throw out one of the celebratory first pitches before the game

Lunch following the 10:30 service and transportation will be provided for seniors who sign up.

Purchase your tickets [online](#), by calling the church office or by using the QR code. Questions? Contact Vicky Hinton, vhinton@nativity-hsv.org.

Financial assistance is always available, contact Austin Cook acook@nativity-hsv.org.

Nativity Young Adults

August

**NATIVITY YOUNG ADULTS @
HFC SUNDAY 8/27 6:00 TICKETS
\$10**

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER WEDNESDAY
9/30 DINNER 5:30
BOARD GAMES IN THE WELCOME
CENTER 6:00**

September

**TRASH PANDAS GAME SUNDAY
9/10 @ 2:00PM TICKETS \$17**

**MEET UP AT CONCERTS ON THE
DOCK. FRIDAY 9/15 6:00-9:00**

**NATIVITYFEST SUNDAY 9/24
LUNCH AND LIVE MUSIC
FOLLOWING THE 10:30 SERVICE**

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER WEDNESDAY
9/27 DINNER 5:30 BOARD GAMES
IN THE WELCOME CENTER 6:00**

October

**90S TRIVIA @ THE CAMP
WEDNESDAY 10/5 6:00 NO
COVER CHARGE TO PLAY!
PET FRIENDLY**

**BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS
@ NATIVITY SUNDAY 10/8 4:00**

**WALK IN THE WOODS @ INDIAN
CREEK GREENWAY SATURDAY
10/21 11:00**

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER WEDNESDAY
10/25 DINNER 5:30 BOARD
GAMES IN THE WELCOME CENTER
6:00**

NATIVITY
young adults
November

**LEND A HELPING HAND @
NATIVITY VETERANS DAY
PICNIC SATURDAY 11/11 10:00
SET-UP**

**FRIENDS GIVING @ NATIVITY
SATURDAY 10/16 6:00**

**SPAGHETTI SUPPER WEDNESDAY
10/29 DINNER 5:30 ADVENT
WREATH MAKING 6:00**

December

**MEET UP AT THE CHRISTMAS
PARADE @ NATIVITY WELCOME
CENTER 6:30**

**LESSONS & CAROLS @ NATIVITY
SUNDAY 12/17 7:00 RECEPTION
FOLLOWING**

**CHRISTMAS PARTY THURSDAY
12/21 LOCATION TBD 7:00**



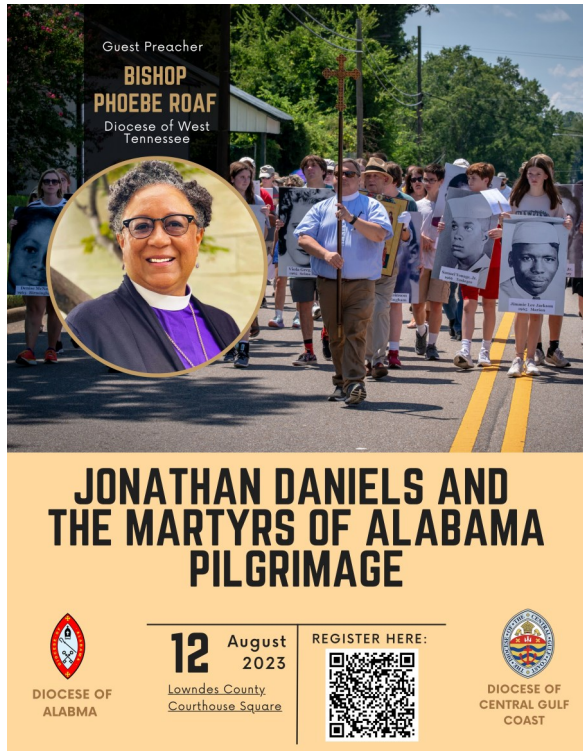
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY

@NATIVITYHSV

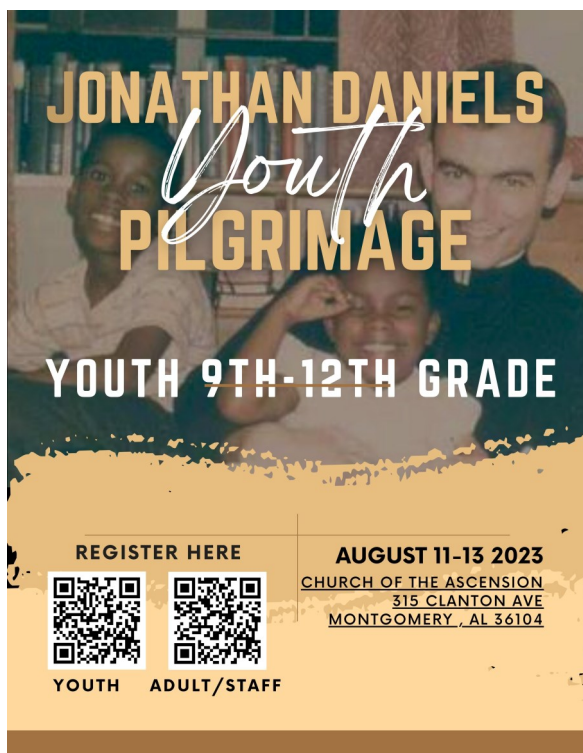
Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage

If you are interested in attending the pilgrimage and would like transportation, there are a limited number of spaces available in the van rented by the Nativity Common Grounds group. Contact Rosie Veal Eby for more information rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org

You can sign up for the pilgrimage [here](#)



Please join us on Saturday, August 12, 2023, for the 26th Annual Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage. We will gather in the courthouse square in Hayneville, Alabama, and begin our pilgrimage procession at 11 am. The procession will travel from the square to the old County Jail where Daniels was among those detained for a week after being arrested in Fort Deposit for picketing white-only businesses. The procession continues to the site of the old Varner's Cash Store, where Daniels was killed. The procession ends in the Lowndes County Courthouse, where a service of Holy Communion will be celebrated in the courtroom where the man who shot Daniels had been tried and acquitted by an all-white jury.



The Jonathan Daniels Youth Pilgrimage is a weekend of service and remembrance for youth grades 9th-12th grade. We will gather at Episcopal Church of the Ascension (315 Clanton Avenue Montgomery, AL 36104), with registration from 5:30 -6:30pm, on August 11th. The weekend will conclude on August 13th around 2:00pm.

When: August 11-13, 2023

Where: Episcopal Church of the Ascension (315 Clanton Avenue, Montgomery, AL 36104)

Choristers

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](#)



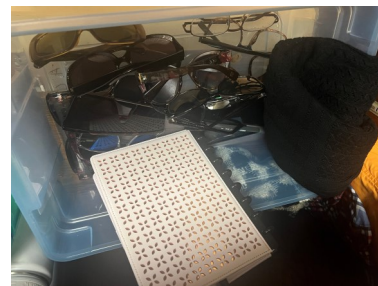
Buildings and Grounds

by Emily Rodgers

Lost and Found

Nativity's lost and found bin is very full! If you are missing a pair of Clark's shoes, a child's plaid hat, orange jacket, black and white scarf, black cardigan sweater, sunglasses, readers, a cell phone or one of fourteen water bottles, chances are they are in the lost and found bin.

The bin, clearly labeled, is located in the Coke Machine Hallway on the east side.



A Quick Termite Update

An arbitrator has been appointed for our litigation proceedings. The next steps will be for Campbell Law Firm and the arbitrator to develop a schedule for pre-hearing discovery.

Please go to <https://termitetom.com/nativity/> for all information regarding the case.

A Thank You from Sawyerville

By Kana Goldsmith

Dear Nativity Family,

In these pictures you will see evidence of the faithful support you have given Sawyerville for Summer 2023. If you have been to Sawyerville, you know first hand the impact that giving and service has on this ministry. What started 30 years ago with a handwritten note taped on a door has turned 70 first time campers into well over 7000. This year, with your generous support we hosted 563 campers, 189 high school staff members, 120 Summer Learners, 29 certified teachers 52 coordinators and 15 interns. Our diocese provided 28 meals serving between 110-130 people each evening of a camp session. And Nativity took the lead in so many ways with giving and service. This church family provided clergy and staff as well as setting the table with a delicious supper for 130 staff members on the last day of camp. Your monetary gift of \$2,000.00 from the Outreach Committee provided the cleaning supplies for each session (3 Summer Camp sessions, 3 Summer Learning Sessions, 4 Jump Start sessions) to maintain Greensboro Elementary campus. Mops, buckets and brooms are a nightly ritual which we call Joy Stations. Every bathroom, hallway, and the cafeteria was scrubbed each day by our highschool staff. Father Michael provided over 50 five gallon buckets and close to 700 drumsticks for our drumming rotation which is the second favorite rotation aside from swimming. And again, Nativity gave! Bathing suits, towels and pool noodles delivered to ensure that every camper swam this summer. We are also thankful to the prayers you offered for all of us. Everyday we witnessed the presence of God "in this place". Thank you Nativity for answering the call to serve Sawyerville this past summer, we are truly grateful.

God's peace,

Kana



Men's Breakfast and Lunch Bunch



EFM

By Ted Briggs



Education for Ministry (EFM) Classes Starting in September

New classes will be starting after Labor Day. We hope to be adding a daytime class in addition to the existing Monday night class. All seekers are welcome - new students as well as graduates who wish to retake a specific year. Join us for a weekly evening of learning, discussion, and fellowship.

Contact Ted Briggs (tedlbriggs@gmail.com) or Bob Serio (bserio@nativity-hsv.org) if you are interested. There will also be an information session later in August.

EFM is a four-year course, sponsored by Sewanee School of Theology, to deepen understanding of the church and the roots of Christianity as well as learning to think theologically. Each year focuses on a different aspect: Year 1 the Old Testament, Year 2 the New Testament, Year 3 Church History and Year 4 Theology. We meet weekly on Monday nights from September to May. An overview of EFM is available at <https://theology.sewanee.edu/education-for-ministry/program/>. And a list of books used in EFM is available at <https://theology.sewanee.edu/files/resources/efm-books-handout-2021-2025-2.pdf>

Here are some examples of things you might not aware, that you will learn in EFM:

Why are there multiple Old Testament stories for creation, the flood, Exodus, and Joseph's sale into slavery?

Why did modern rabbinic Judaism co-evolve separately from Christianity?

What are the differences between the 4 gospel stories?

Why did the Catholic Church introduce celibacy for priests about 1000.AD?

Why is the Episcopal Church unique from the Catholic and most Protestant Churches?



2022/23 EFM Class (L to R) David Hardy, Allen Daniels, Ted Briggs(mentor), Lisa Hardy, Gina Hannah, Natalie Rushing, Q Wirtz, Miki Heaton, Lee Nation, Don Lambert, Jo Goldasich (co-mentor)



I'm in 5th/6th grade. Where do I fit in?

There is a place for everyone at Nativity to experience God's love in our church community-- including all 5th and 6th grade church members. Starting this fall, opportunities for this age group have changed a bit.

Club 56 Sunday school, the Sunday morning class for 5th and 6th graders, will continue in C56 room, up the back stairs of Ridley using the Sparkhouse Connect curriculum. Our fun and fearless leaders will again be Adam and Allison Proud, Kelly Hudson and Ashley Ayres.

Sixth graders will join 7th graders for **Junior EYC** this fall, meeting Sunday nights from 5.00 to 7.00 in the Club 56 room, concurrently with Senior EYC. Dinner is provided each week. There is no Sunday evening programming for 5th graders this year.

Starting in 5th grade, all youth invited to serve as **acolytes**. Acolyting is a lovely way to give your time and commitment back to the church and God during worship services. Training with lunch is August 20, 11.30-1.30

Get more information Sunday August 6th at the children and youth ministry fair, Ridley Hall after 10.00 church or contact mbellcolpack@nativity-hsv.org or mcoe@nativity-sv.org.

Children's Formation

Getting Ready for Fall

August 6

10.00 church with Blessing of the Backpacks.

11.00 Children and Youth Ministry Fair in Ridley Hall and Angel Lane

Please join us August 6 as we start moving towards the fall season. To celebrate the return to school, students of all ages are invited to bring their school backpacks and bags to the 10:00 church service. The backpacks and their students will receive a blessing to start the year off right.

Also on August 6, following church, come by Ridley Hall for the children and youth ministry fair. There's a place for everyone at church and the ministry fair is a good place for young people to discover theirs—Sunday school, choir, acolyting, EYC and more. Families with young children are invited to visit Angels Lane, downstairs Ridley Hall, to see learn more about children's Sunday school and see their rooms.



Children's Sunday School Resumes September 10

You are invited to join our vibrant, loving and welcoming Sunday community. Children from 3 years through 4th grade will find their classes on Angel Lane, downstairs Ridley Hall; 5th and 6th graders meet upstairs in Ridley Hall. Come learn about God's love through play, stories and friendships. Go to registration page for more information; further questions contact mcoe@nativity-hsv.org.



Cursillo

By Brynnan Reddy

Have you ever seen someone around church wearing a button that says, “Ask Me About Cursillo?” Did you want to ask, but change your mind in fear of getting pulled into something way out of your comfort zone? I get it. I’ve been in similar shoes!



If you’d asked me about Cursillo prior to 2019, I would have told you it was that “church thing” that my parents did. They attended Cursillo #74 in 1989 and served on many Cursillo staffs over the course of my childhood and adolescence. I didn’t know much about it other than the fact that no matter where we went in the Diocese, my parents knew so many random people. I’d ask: “How do you know them?” And they would always answer, “Cursillo.”

When Jim and I relocated from Northern Virginia to Huntsville in April of 2019, we were eager to find ways to get connected at Nativity. After some nudging, we decided to attend Cursillo #220 in October of that year. I won’t name any names but one of us was more excited to go than the other. We decided that, at minimum, it would be a nice weekend away from the kids reconnecting with each other and spending time at Camp McDowell.



I’m happy to say that now, after attending Cursillo both as a participant and a staff member, I can tell you what Cursillo is. Technically, it is a short course in Christianity—a 3-day weekend that focuses on talks given by both laypersons and clergy with the goal of helping individuals grow in their faith. But to me, Cursillo is so much more than that. It’s a loving, welcoming community that is deeply committed to knowing and serving God and building community together. It’s singing, laughing, hugging, and maybe even a little crying every now and then. It’s building close relationships both at Nativity and across the Diocese. It’s knowing that you are always being held in prayer and supported on your life journey, in good times and bad. Simply put, it’s a never ending and continuously



Stewardship

By Charlotte Olsen

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

Where is your heart?

What is the Community and Parish Engagement committee? I talked with one of its members, Jill Chadwick, who said that Nativity is more than a beautiful building. The Community and Parish Engagement committee provides an opportunity for parishioners to become engaged with community organizations that support our core values.

Jill has been involved with the committee for several years. One early event was assisting with the Cheer Squad for the annual Huntsville Inner City Learning Center Run. Jill and others held up signs in both English and Spanish cheering on the runners. Since that time, she has helped with the Hot Dog lunch during the downtown Veterans' Day parade, Shrove Tuesday Community Pancake Supper, and other events on the downtown square. When there are downtown events Nativity often opens its Welcome Center with volunteers providing refreshments and hospitality.

Jill talked about a humbling yet meaningful experience. She assisted with the cleaning of showers at an event providing warm showers for the homeless at the Max Luther Community Center. She said that she got more out of it than expected.

She pointed out that the development of friendships and the ability to become involved is a compelling reason for her participation. All of this influences her spiritual journey. She said, "The Sunday experience (church) is just the tip of the iceberg. Just do one thing to help others." Part of her daily prayer is "Lord, show me what is mine to do".



This committee does not meet monthly and is not a long-term commitment. Vicky Hinton (vhinton@nativity-hsv.org) and Mother Rosie Veal Eby (rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org) organize events and provide a sign-up link for volunteering in **The Nativity Scene** and **The Steeple**. These events change regularly so check for opportunities to engage in your community.

Parish News

August Youth Birthdays:

Caroline Brooks	Eleanor Nicely
Caroline Cooper	Ford Whitfield IV
Evan McCarty	John Dieterich
Drew Dodgen	Nathaniel Swillie II
Henry Keener	Atkins Connelly
Hunter Ray	John Cowan
Emily Cook	Margaret Fortune
Moss Fleming	Anna Abney

In memory of the departed:

Christian Ray

Weddings

New Members (since January 2023):

James Fitzgerald	The Hatcher Family	Austin Nash
Charlotte Anne Dingess	The Hale Family	Caroline McCrary
Brendan Proud	Jennifer Manning	Donna Maze
Charlotte Klos	Guy McClure	Mallory Maze
Read Klos II	The Todd Family	Rickey Tate
Warren Towry	Debbie Clendenny	The Reeves Family
Frances Fortner	Rene Milligan	
Wren Guffey	Tammy Eskridge	
	Ann Yates	

Financial Update

Parish Financial Report June 2023

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$120,049.48	\$112,685.01	\$720,296.88	\$761,348.23
Plate	\$14,583.34	\$19,995.69	\$87,499.96	\$93,327.55
Other Revenues	\$8,835.51	\$5,704.40	\$53,012.94	\$44,842.63
Total Income	\$143,468.33	\$138,385.10	\$860,809.78	\$899,518.41
Diocese & Missions	\$16,155.93	\$15,969.60	\$96,935.42	\$102,003.33
Outreach	\$13,463.33	\$10,214.92	\$80,779.02	\$87,859.30
Personnel	\$80,843.51	\$79,284.93	\$485,060.78	\$473,284.47
Other Expenses	\$33,005.88	\$33,543.05	\$198,031.72	\$188,501.28
Total Expenses	\$143,468.65	\$139,012.50	\$860,806.94	\$851,648.38
Net	-0.32	-\$627.40	\$2.84	\$47,870.03

August 2023 - WORSHIP SCHEDULE

updated 7/20/23 – AEK

Wednesday, August 2 nd					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Goldsmith		Walter Thames		
Thursday, August 3 rd					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Veal Eby/ Johnson		Taylor Johnson		
SUNDAY, August 6 th - Baptism					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Goldsmith		Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
10:00 am	Stuart	Goldsmith	Sloan, Veal Eby, Serio	Marcia Cobun, Lynn Sparks-Lewis	
Wednesday, August 9 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Stuart		Peter Cobun		
Thursday, August 10 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Goldsmith		Charles Morley		
SUNDAY, August 13 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Veal Eby		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
10:00 am	Goldsmith	Veal Eby	Sloan, Stuart, Serio	Jennifer Dill, Walter Thames	Deborah Baker
Wednesday, August 16 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Stuart		Walter Thames		
Thursday, August 17 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Sloan		Sally Ann Culver		
SUNDAY, August 20 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Sloan		Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
10:00 am	Goldsmith	Sloan	Stuart, Veal-Eby	John Nelson, Melissa Kirkindall	Clay Sherrill
Wednesday, August 23 rd					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Veal Eby		Guy McClure		
Thursday, August 24 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Stuart		Charles Morley		
SUNDAY, August 27 th					
Service	Celebrant	Preacher	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Goldsmith		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
10:00 am	Stuart	Goldsmith	Sloan, Veal-Eby, Serio	Allison Proud, Adam Proud	Shirley Hale
Wednesday, August 30 th					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Goldsmith		Walter Thames		
Thursday, August 31 st					
Service	Celebrant / Preacher		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Sloan/ Johnson		Taylor Johnson		

FLOWER GUILD

B = Bibb C = Church B: Kate Noble Purvis, Mary Morton C: Mark Brubaker, Joe Whitaker

ALTAR GUILD

August 6 th - Baptism	Jewell Reynolds, Emily Moody, Mary Johnson, Debbie Joyner, Nancy Colin
August 13 th	Wanda Cobb, Margaret Lotz, Peggy Serio, Alice Lanier, Gail Brown
August 20 th	Mary Johnson, Sue Johnson, Caffey Litkenhous, Sophia Samogray, Heather Stroud
August 27 th	Amanda Kiep, Bath Pugh, Judy Vann, Linda Watts, Anne Chelekis

CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE

July 31 st – August 6 th	August 7 th – August 13 th	August 14 th – August 20 th	August 21 st – 27 th	August 28 th – September 3 rd
The Rev. Michael Goldsmith	The Rev. Worth Stuart	The Rev. Rosie Veal Eby	The Rev. Michael Goldsmith	The Rev. Susan Sloan

VERGER SCHEDULE

	August 6 th	August 13 th	August 20 th	August 27 th
10:00 am	Terry Clevenger	Lea Ann Barnett	Terry Clevenger	Gina Taylor

USHER SCHEDULE

	August 6 th	August 13 th	August 20 th	August 27 th
7:30 am	Peter Barber	Peter Barber	Peter Barber	Peter Barber
10:00 am	Chad Hinton, Greg Whitehead, Brandon Smith, Ray Morring	Chad Hinton, Read Windham, Robert Mullins, Ray Morring	Chad Hinton, Read Windham, Brandon Smith, Ray Morring	Chad Hinton, Greg Whitehead, Brandon Smith, Ray Morring

ACOLYTE LEADER & ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

	August 6 th - Baptism
10:00 am	Leader Mike Ward – Charles Wells, Lane Wells, Lily Cantey, Waring Cantey
	August 13 th
10:00 am	Nina Putt TBD – Diana Sommer, Clara Williams, Charles Wells, Lane Wells
	August 20 th
10:00 am	Leader Mike Ward – Luke Ham, Abby Ham, Jack Ham, Sloan Dill, Eleanor Gleason, John Gleason
	August 27 th
10:00 am	Leader Shari Williams – Anna Kate Bradford, Caroline Bradford, Brendan Proud, Clara Williams, Carter Proud, Daniel Starnes, Diana Sommer



[CLICK HERE FOR
THE JUNE 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 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