

THE STEEPLE

September 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. Rose Veal Eby

Priest Associate

The Rev. Susan Sloan

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 September 2023: In this issue...

Fall Worship Schedule	page 3
Nativityfest	page 4
Dinner Church	page 5
Parish and Community Engagement	page 7-9
Outreach	page 10-12
Centering Prayer	page 13
Diocesan Convention	page 14
Vergers and Ushers	page 15
Cookbook Committee	page 16
Hymnfest	page 17
Cursillo Lunch	page 18
Bell Tower	page 19
EFM	page 20
Adult Formation	page 21
Youth Formation	page 22
Children's Formation	page 23
Young Adults and Stewardship of Creation	page 24-25
Parish News and Financials	page 26
August Worship Schedule	page 27
Flower Dedications	page 28

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.219 or acook@nativity-hsv.org.



On the cover... Mother Susan and children at the 9am summer service.

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

Fall Worship Schedule

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*

*Nursery available

I continue to be excited about our Fall Schedule which starts on Sept. 10. It has been wonderful to have a full church during August and I look forward to that continuing. But a full church does present a few challenges. I encourage you all to continue to be welcoming and invite people to share your pew, or slide in towards the middle. It is also helpful to fill up the front pews first.

Also, as we continue to strive to make our services accessible to all, I realize that a crowded church is not something that all of our church family finds comfortable. Therefore, beginning on Sept. 10, Bibb Chapel will be open during the 10:30 service as another place to participate in worship. There will be a large TV on a movable cart at the front of the chapel that will allow you to watch, pray, and sing with those in the nave. Communion will be brought in at the appropriate time. My hope is that parishioners of all abilities and neurotypes will find this to be a welcoming and affirming space where they will be better able to be centered in worship.

Remember that the foyer of Ridley Hall serves as a “cry room” for babies and parents that might need a minute. There is a TV there that will allow you to continue to follow the service. Both Ridley Hall and Bibb Chapel will be available for overflow seating if needed.

I'll see you Sunday!

God's Peace,

Father Michael

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY INVITES YOU TO

Nativityfest 2023

Sunday, September 24
following the 10:30 service
NativityCourtyard

LIVE MUSIC FROM MILLTOWNE
FOOD
FUN & GAMES

WE WILL PROVIDE THE FRIED CHICKEN, WATERMELON & BANANA
PUDDING AND YOU PROVIDE THE SIDES!



**Mark your calendars for a day of
worship, food, music, and friends!**

Vestry

By Wendy Wilson

Nativity Needs You!

As we approach the final months of 2023, it is once again time to select candidates to serve on our vestry for the 2024-2026 term. Have you ever considered participating in this important ministry?

The vestry is the elected representative body of the parish that deals with all matters of Nativity's organization and planning, finances and resource management. The basic responsibilities of the vestry are to help define and articulate the mission of the congregation and to support the church's mission by word and deed. Nativity's vestry is comprised of eighteen members, each of whom serves a three-year term. This lay body meets monthly, along with our clergy, to oversee the business and day-to-day operations of our parish. We need vestry members with diverse backgrounds and varied talents to make this body representative of our parish and the greater community. Please consider what talents you have that would contribute to the mission of this church in our community.

I am grateful for the opportunity I have had to serve on the vestry from 2018 to 2020. I am grateful for the friendships formed, the bonds with the clergy and staff that were strengthened, and for the connections with so many of you that I otherwise would have missed. If you would like to help guide the mission of this parish and represent your fellow parishioners in this way, please prayerfully consider volunteering for this important ministry.

Questionnaires for vestry candidates are available in electronic form [HERE](#), or in paper form in the church office and in Ridley Hall. The form can also be completed and submitted online using this [LINK](#). The nominating committee will review all submitted forms and will recommend a slate of six nominees to the parish for election at the annual parish meeting in January 2024.

We have so many great things happening at Nativity! Please help us by sharing your talents and being a part of the vestry that will continue to guide our growth in the greater Huntsville community.

If you have questions or want to know more about the vestry nominating process, please contact Wendy Wilson at 256-683-0923 or wwilson@aerothermo.com or Walt Bradford at 615-804-3261 or waltonbradford@gmail.com.

Thank you from the vestry nominating committee!

Jerry Nutt	Virginia Caruso	Wendy Wilson
------------	-----------------	--------------

Sr. Warden 2022	Sr. Warden 2021	Sr. Warden 2020
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Walt Bradford	Jeff Johnson	Elizabeth Foster	Margaret Day Baker
---------------	--------------	------------------	--------------------

Sr. Warden 2023	At Large Member	At Large Member	At Large Member
-----------------	-----------------	-----------------	-----------------

Dinner Church



Sleep in Heavenly Peace

We want to thank everyone who contributed to our recent bed build for Sleep in Heavenly Peace. With over 40 volunteers helping we were able to build 45 beds in under 3 hours. We also had 50 bed sets donated and had donors who provided over \$6000 in financial support. Through our efforts there will be 45 kids in Madison County who will not be sleeping on the floor tonight.

Events like this help us see Jesus in our neighbors.

If you are interested in helping to deliver the beds to these kids please let Deacon Bob or Mother Rosie know and we will get you in contact with the delivery teams.

We will try to arrange another bed build in the early spring.

Peace,

Deacon Bob and Mother Rosie




New Member Sunday

On Sunday, August 27th, we celebrated our new members. Nativity is growing, and we are happy to welcome new members into the Nativity family! If you have questions about membership, please contact Austin Cook, acook@nativity-hsv.org



EPISCOPAL CHURCH

OF THE NATIVITY



Nativity goes to the ballgame!

VS


ROCKET CITY TRASH PANDAS

PENSACOLA BLUE WAHOOS

SUNDAY, SEPTEMBER 10 @ 2:30 PM

TRASH PANDA STADIUM

TICKETS ARE \$17 EACH



[CLICK HERE TO BUY TICKETS](#) | **SEE YOU THERE!** | OR CALL 256-533-2455

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Join us for an afternoon of fun!
All happily leashed or carrier-contained pets are welcome!
We will be collecting donations of pet food for the Greater Huntsville Humane Society.



PET BLESSING SERVICE
BEGINS AT 4:00 PM!

- Vegan food truck
- Live music from Chris Cook & Worth Stuart
- Pet Treats
- People Treats
- Farm friends

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 8
4 PM - 6 PM
NATIVITY COURTYARD

NATIVITY-DIOALA.ORG

256-533-2455

@NATIVITYHSV

MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT NATIVITY

Monthly Men's Breakfast

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH
Ridley Hall

SEPTEMBER 12 @ 7:00 AM

CONTACT BOB SERIO FOR MORE INFORMATION.
BSERIO@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG

MOTHERS MONTHLY MONDAY MINUTE

MOTHERS WITH YOUNG CHILDREN THIS IS FOR YOU!

Join other mothers with young children the first Monday of every month for respite, thoughtful conversation and free childcare!

SEPTEMBER 11

WE WILL MEET ON THE SECOND MONDAY IN SEPTEMBER DUE TO LABOR DAY!

5:30 UNTIL 7:00

RIDLEY HALL

CHILDCARE AVAILABLE IN THE NURSERY.
CHILDREN WILL BE SERVED PIZZA AND APPLESAUCE FOR DINNER

LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH IS

CHURCH NIGHT

@ NATIVITY

**FREE SPAGHETTI SUPPER SERVED
FROM 5:30-6:30**

**SPECIAL PROGRAMMING EVERY MONTH!
NURSERY AVAILABLE FROM 5:00-7:00**

**CHILDREN'S MINISTRY 6:00-6:45
5 YEARS OLD THROUGH GRADE 5
HOLY TROUBLEMAKERS! ON ANGEL LANE**

**YOUTH MINISTRY 6:30-7:30
6TH-8TH GRADE SMALL GROUP IN THE LOFT
9TH-12TH GRADE SMALL GROUP IN CLUB 78**

**ADULT FORMATION
SPIRITUAL DEVELOPMENT SPEAKER SERIES
6:00-6:45 IN BIBB CHAPEL**

**SACRED GROUND BOOK CLUB
6:00-6:45 IN JOFFRION LIBRARY
YOUNG ADULT GAME NIGHT
6:30-7:30 IN THE WELCOME CENTER**

**MUSIC MINISTRY
JUNIOR CHORISTERS 4:30-5:30
SENIOR CHORISTERS 5:00-6:00
ADULT CHOIR 7:00-9:00
(ALL MUSIC MINISTRY GROUPS MEET WEEKLY)**

Second Annual Day of Recovery

at R.O.S.S. Recovery
Community Center

8211 Stephanie Dr SW UNIT A, Huntsville, AL
35802

Saturday, September 23rd
9am-12pm

Healthcare Resources
Free Haircuts
Shower Up Trailer
Free Clothing and Food

How can you help?

**Donate a new or gently used backpack! You can place them in the
marked bins in Ridley Hall. Questions? Mother Rosie
rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org**

Jonathan Daniels Pilgrimage

By Dennis and Jodie Clements

'Pilgrimage' is often used to describe an individual's journey through life, sometimes as a general description of personal growth and exploration, sometimes, as in Christianity, outlining a particular spiritual focus or pathway which it is believed will lead to encounter with God -<https://www.york.ac.uk/projects/pilgrimage/intro.html>

On Saturday, August 12, 2023, Rev. Rosie drove several members of the current Sacred Ground Class to the 26th Annual Pilgrimage in Hayneville, AL, sponsored by the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama, The Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast, Hayneville, and the Lowndes County Commission. The pilgrimage typically draws 300-500 people and is in remembrance of a horrific Civil Rights incident that occurred on August 20, 1965.

In preparation for the trip, Dennis and Jodie Clements googled “Hayneville, Civil Rights” and read some of the details. On August 16, 1965, many Civil Rights volunteers were in Deposit, AL to picket the “Whites Only” stores there and help with black voter registration. Twenty-nine of the picketers were arrested and transported to the Hayneville prison via garbage truck. Among those arrested were a 17-year-old black female, Ruby Sales, and a 26-year-old white seminarian, Jonathan M. Daniels.



The name “Ruby Sales” jumped out at Jodie and Dennis. They know her as a friend and a Civil Rights Activist, but they know her even more as a dear friend and colleague of Jodie’s late father, Rev. Charles Demere. Jodie has known Ruby since the 70’s. Ruby even hosted the farewell party for Charles when he was moving away from his long-time home of Washington, DC. What Jodie and Dennis didn’t know were the details of the events on Aug 20, 1965.



That was the day the detainees in Hayneville were suddenly released without explanation, and without transport back to where they were arrested. Ruby, Jonathan, and 2 others went to a nearby store to get something to drink. As Ruby opened the door, she was confronted by an angry white man with a shotgun who was cursing at her. Jonathan quickly stepped between Ruby and the shotgun, taking a full blast at point blank range and died. Ruby managed to get away (you can read more details at https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Jonathan_Daniels).

John 15:12, 13 says; “This is my commandment, that you love one another as I have loved you. Greater love has no one than this, that someone lay down his life for his friends.”

The martyrdom of Jonathan Daniels created a powerful shock-wave through the US and around the globe, strengthening the resolve of those committed to the full implications of that phrase:

“We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal, that they are endowed by the Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty and the pursuit of Happiness...”

At the annual pilgrimage in Hayneville, participants retraced the steps of Jonathan Daniels on the day he was martyred, pausing to offer prayers in the City Park, the old jailhouse, and in front of the former shop where Jonathan was killed. At that stop, many participants took advantage of kneeler pads provided for the occasion. For Jodie, this was a time for pouring out her thanks to God for saving Ruby, thanking God that her father had not met the same fate as Jonathan despite his life-long advocacy for Civil Rights, and crying many tears in anguish for the hatred and bigotry of those events that are not yet fully purged from our American life.

From the store, Pilgrims moved on to the courthouse to share in a service commemorating not only the martyrdom of Jonathan Daniels, but 15 others martyred in Alabama in the struggle for Civil Rights. Then all shared in The Eucharist which reminds us that we are loved by God, “who did not spare his only Son, but gave him up for us all” (Romans 8:32) and calls us to love all people the same way.

“We love because God first loved us.” (John 4:19)

After the pilgrimage Jodie called Ruby to talk about it. Ruby has attended it many times. She passionately urged Jodie, and all of us, to share our convictions and concerns for justice with our children and grandchildren.

The Sacred Ground Class and the Annual Pilgrimage in Hayneville are two ways Church of the Nativity is helping to further our ability to meet God and live into the greatest commandments:

³⁶ “Teacher, which is the greatest commandment in the Law?”

³⁷ Jesus replied: “Love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.”

³⁸ This is the first and greatest commandment. ³⁹ And the second is like it: ‘Love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ All the Law and the Prophets hang on these two commandments.” Matthew 22:36 – 40

Upon hearing of the murder in Hayneville, AL, The Rev. Martin Luther King Jr. stated that “one of the most heroic Christian deeds of which I have heard in my entire ministry was performed by Jonathan Daniels.”



Centering Prayer at Nativity

Centering Prayer is a contemporary form of prayer of the heart, and is an exercise of faith, hope, and love. Centering Prayer groups have now been meeting at Nativity for 30 years. We are grateful for the support and encouragement we have received from clergy, staff and especially the Spiritual Development Committee. Participation in our groups is ecumenical, and everyone is welcome!

Centering Prayer offerings for the 22-23 calendar year are listed below. Beginning September 5, the Monday Centering Prayer group will join the Tuesday meeting and no longer meet on Monday. The new format for Tuesday is as follows:

Those who would like to attend two 20-minute sessions of Centering Prayer can come at 5:00. Those who prefer one 20-minute session may come at 5:30 and enter the circle in silence. Following the second prayer period there will be 30 minutes for group reading and discussion. If you are interested in Centering Prayer as a way to deepen your spiritual life or add a practice as part of a 12-step program, contact Maggie Little (256)509-4766 email: maggie.little1805@gmail.com.

We also offer Lectio Divina every Thursday at noon in the chapel. The reading is from the following Sunday's gospel. This is read four times and is followed by a 20-minute session of centering prayer (see guidelines below).

Want some extended prayer time? Come to the chapel the second Saturday of each month at 8:00 a.m. for a 1-hour mini-intensive session where we gather in silence for 3 consecutive sits, with a meditative walk between sits 1 and 2. Afterward we go out for breakfast and visiting at Mason-Dixon Bistro at 415 Church St. Prior experience of Centering Prayer is helpful. For additional information about the Thursday or Saturday meetings, contact: Jim Payne, (941)993-5603 email: jhpayne05@gmail.com or Lora Arnold, (256)653-1152 email: larnold1607@gmail.com

GUIDELINES FOR CENTERING PRAYER

Choose a sacred word as the symbol of your intention to consent to God's presence and action within.

Sitting comfortably and with eyes closed, settle briefly, and silently introduce the sacred word as the symbol of your consent to God's presence and action within.

When you become aware of thoughts, return ever-so-gently to the sacred word.

At the end of the prayer period, remain in silence with eyes closed for a couple of minutes.

GUIDELINES FOR GROUP LECTIO

In a group setting, the first reading is followed by silence, a moment of rest.

The second reading is followed by a spoken word or phrase, if desired.

The third reading is followed by short comments if desired i.e. what I hear is....

The fourth reading is followed by 20 minutes of Centering Prayer.

Delegates for Convention Needed

By Austin Cook

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama 193rd Convention will be in **Montgomery Feb. 8-10, 2024.**

The Diocesan Convention is the primary representative governing body of the diocese. It convenes annually to conduct diocesan business, including election of officers and members of various leadership bodies; approval of a budget for the upcoming year; setting mission strategy; and establishing diocesan policy and procedure by considering and voting on resolutions and approving changes to the diocesan constitution and canons. It is also an occasion for communication and teaching from the bishops; learning about and participating in shared mission and ministry; fellowship, community building and common prayer; and celebration of the Holy Eucharist together as a diocesan community.

Everyone participates in the worship, ministry, leadership and governance of the Episcopal Church. Delegates to Diocesan Convention play an important leadership role as they not only represent to the wider church the particular character of God's mission as it is expressed in their local contexts, but also connect their local congregations with the wider church. Diocesan Convention is one way of gathering as a church and then being sent out to be that church in the world, answering God's urgent call, together.

Nativity can have up to 8 delegates and 8 alternates to Diocesan Convention. If you would like to be considered to serve as a delegate for Diocesan Convention, please contact Austin Cook at acook@nativity-hsv.org or call the church office. The deadline for submissions is September 30, 2023.



A New Verger Has Joined Nativity

By Terry Clevenger

If you have attended the recent Sunday services you may have noticed a new verger in training. Nativity is thrilled to announce that Gina Taylor has joined the Verger Ministry and will soon be leading processions. Gina first came to Nativity in 2017 and fell in love with its architectural uniqueness and beauty and, more importantly, with the love and acceptance that she received from its parishioners. She has actively supported services as an usher and LEM and has served on the staff for the Welcome Center for Pride. Gina was confirmed at a special service at Camp McDowell by Bishop Sloan. She and Alicia were married in 2020 at Nativity. Together, they attended Cursillo #215 in 2019 and later served on staff for #223 and have hosted Welcome Backs. Gina served in the Navy as a Hospital Corpsman, then as a Nurse for many years which led to her current position at Huntsville Hospital as a Clinical Specialist on the Cardiac Rhythm Management team for Boston Scientific. She and Alicia are active in many hobbies that include golfing, snorkeling, and cruising, just to name a few. When you get a chance introduce yourself and give her a warm welcome in her new role as Verger.



Ushers Needed

Have you ever thought about being an usher on Sunday mornings? We are looking for anyone who is friendly, welcoming, and willing to help be one of the first faces that people meet when they walk through our doors on Sunday mornings. If you are interested in becoming an usher or want to learn more about the ministry of ushering at Nativity, contact Vicky Hinton or me at the church office.

Thanks and Peace,
Father Worth



Cookbook Update A final call for ART

If you are an artist in our Nativity family and have not been contacted about submitting art for the cookbook please contact Sherry Boyer at sherry@castlemedia.net if you are interested.



*A Fun day with our Second
Mile Preschool friends*



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY INVITES YOU
TO

A FESTIVAL OF HYMNS: The Liturgical Year

Presented by the Nativity Choir and
Dr. Patrick Scott, organist

SEPTEMBER 26, 2023 • 7:00PM
THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
208 EUSTIS AVE. SE HUNTSVILLE, AL 35801

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CONTACT CHRISTIAN CROCKER,
DIRECTOR OF MUSIC AND ORGANIST AT 256-533-2455 OR
CCROCKER@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG



The Nativity Bell Tower

By Richard Hamner

Nativity had a visitor the other day, a bell historian. His name is Tim Verdin, and he is the president of The Verdin Company, which manufactured all of Nativity's bell striking equipment. Tim is the sixth generation Verdin to own and operate the company, so he naturally knows a lot about bells.

Justin Stroud and I took him up to the bell, and once he saw the bell he immediately noticed the very ornate scrollwork cast into the top of the bell. He sent some inquiries to his colleagues in Britain where the bell was cast in 1865, and he told us this story about what they said:

The folks in England say that the bell foundry, Naylor Vickers, reserved the bells with the ornate scrollwork only for customers in England. All bells cast for export were plain around the top. But somehow Nativity got one of the more decorated bells. So it turns out that Nativity's bell is even more special than anyone realized! Whoever purchased our bell just after the Civil War must have had connections in England. Who that person was remains a mystery.



Also, Mr. Verdin looked at the support stands that support our bell and immediately confirmed that they were not Vickers manufacture, but rather from the Meneely foundry in West Troy, NY. It confirms our assumption that the supports most likely supported Nativity's first bell in the tower of the first church building and were brought over to the new bell tower sometime later.

This is further verified by the misalignment of the holes in the bell's yoke and the holes in the A-frame support on the right side of the bell.



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.

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?



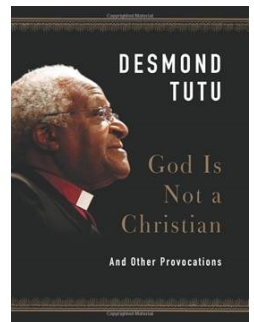
2022/23 EFM Class (L to R) David Hardy, Allen Daniels, Ted Briggs (mentor), Lisa Hardy, Gina Hannah, Natalie Rushing, Q Wirtz, Miki Heaton, Lee Nation, Don Lambert, Jo Goldasich (co-mentor)

Adult Formation

Have you heard the news? We have an exciting new schedule for Sunday morning! Beginning September 10th, we will have a 7:30 am service in Bibb Chapel, free biscuits in Ridley Hall beginning at 8:30, Christian Formation for all ages at 9:30 and Holy Eucharist with Children's Chapel at 10:30. During the Christian Formation time we will offer some wonderful Adult classes for you to choose from! Throughout the year there will be special series, but our main classes for this fall will be:

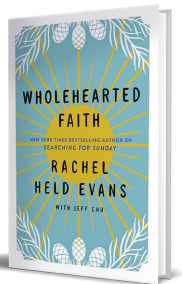
The Zimmerman Class: The Letters of Paul. This class will study cover the letters of Paul in the order they were written (not the order in the Bible). This will be a three-year journey in total, but this year we anticipate covering: Galatians, 1 Thessalonians, 2 Thessalonians, and 1 Corinthians. The class will be led by Elise Taylor, The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe, and The Rev. Basye Holland Shuey. Will meet in the Banister Room, located between Ridley Hall and the Nave. Class materials will be provided. Contact Elise Taylor for more information, taylor536@comcast.net.

The Book Class: *God Is Not a Christian: And Other Provocations* by Desmond Tutu. This collection of the late Archbishop Desmond Tutu's profound and controversial historic speeches, interviews and sermons is very accessible, and encompasses a little of everything. This book is not based on a single theme, so you can easily drop in at any point. This will be a discussion based class, no slides or detailed chapter summaries. Simply bring your book and be prepared to talk about the chapter, or simply come and listen. Moderators including Ted Briggs and The Rev. Bob Serio will be there to encourage discussion. This class will meet in Joffrion Library located on the main floor of Joffrion Hall. A small number of books are available at the church for \$12, or can be purchased online with major retailers. Please contact Vicky Hinton if you need assistance acquiring a book, vhinton@nativity-hsv.org.



20's & 30's Class: The Book of Acts. We will begin the year studying the book of Acts. If you are in your 20's or 30's, you are welcome to join us as we explore Scripture and engage in relaxed yet meaningful conversation. No homework. No prep. Grab coffee and a biscuit and join us! This class will meet on the second floor of Joffrion Hall in the J2West classroom. For more information contact Father Worth for wstuart@nativity-hsv.org.

Wholehearted Faith: A class inspired by the book written by Rachel Held Evans with Jeff Chu. "This book is for the doubter and the dreamer, the seeker and the sojourner, those who long for a sense of spiritual wholeness. Through theological reflection and personal recollection, Rachel wrestles with God's grace and love in an imperfect world, looks unsparingly at what the Church is and does, and explores universal human questions about becoming and belonging.", Maggie Smith, The Washington Post. We will use the book as a guide for a casual conversation. You do not have to read the book to enjoy this class! This class will be led by The Rev. Rose Veal Eby and Vicky Hinton, along with other special guests. We will meet on the second floor of Joffrion Hall in the J2East classroom. For more information contact Vicky Hinton, vhinton@nativity-hsv.org.



The Lectionary Class with Father Michael and Friends. This class will meet in Bibb Chapel. The Sunday Lectionary Class is a "no prep" time to gather and discuss the readings for each Sunday. The clergy leader will provide context and a theological framework for the texts and be ready to answer your questions. We will read all of the lessons in the class, but if you would like to preview them you can go to lectionarypage.net to find the readings for each Sunday.



2023 EYC RAFTING TRIP

6th-12th Grade
September 22-24

Cost: \$150(scholarships available)

Contact Madi Bell-
Colpack for more
information!

mbellcolpack@nativity-hsv.org



- Youth and families! Please purchase your tickets TODAY for the Trash Pandas game! Can't wait to see you all there!
- High school breakfast club will be on TUESDAYS September 5th-19th in the Loft @7-8am
- Youth pickleball (all ages) will be on WEDNESDAYS September 6th-20th at Sandra Moon Community Complex @7-9pm

Children's Formation

CHILDREN'S FORMATION
plant grow bloom

you're invited!

CHILDREN'S SUNDAY SCHOOL

There's a place for everyone to experience God's love at Church of Nativity. Join our loving, welcoming, vibrant Sunday school community where we explore our faith through story, play and friendship. More info and registration for children 3 years through 6th grade at link below.



Sunday school Registration
tinyurl.com/NativitySSreg

CHILDREN'S CHAPEL

All children 4 through 4th grade are invited to chapel during the 10.30 service. In chapel, we pray, sing, play and hear God's story together. It's a great time of spiritual growth and community. Children follow the cross out of church during the sequence hymn and return at the Peace. No registration is required.

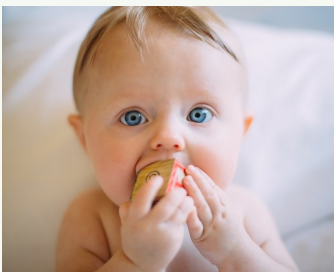
+++++

Chapel depends on the caring adults who lead each week. Folks without chapel-aged children are especially invited to help, allowing younger parents a few minutes of "grown-up" church. It's an easy way to serve our church: no prep or time outside of the church service is needed.

[More chapel leader information here.](#) [Leader sign up here](#)



NURSERY IN JOFFRION HALL

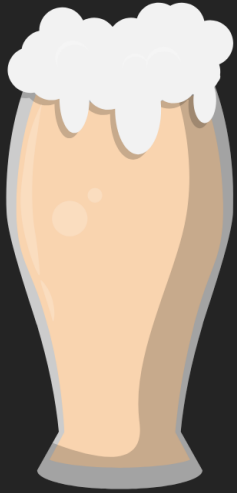


The nursery is ready to welcome your child on Sunday mornings. Run by trained, paid staff, our nursery provides a safe and loving environment for our youngest church members age 6 weeks through 4

Nursery Registration
tinyurl.com/23NurseryReg

Young Adults

Pub Theology



Monday, September

11th

6-7:30pm

Melt
Downtown
Huntsville

Questions? wstuart@nativity-hsv.org

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

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



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY
• NATIVITYHSV

Stewardship of Creation

Season of Creation Care Event

Saturday September 30th 2023



10am: Short hike on Monte Sano with bird and tree ID. Meet at Land
Trust Trailhead parking lot on Bankhead Pkwy @10am

12 noon: Lunch in Ridley Hall, Church of Nativity

12:30: Short presentations on SoC themes

2:30: Finish

Please contact David Chadwick drchadwi@yahoo.com if you are
interested in joining us – or interested in giving a short
presentation!

Stewardship of Creation

By Noah Fitzpatrick

“Where were you when I laid the earth’s foundation?

Tell me, if you understand.

Who marked off its dimensions? Surely you know!

Who stretched a measuring line across it?

On what were its footings set,

or who laid its cornerstone—

while the morning stars sang together

and all the angels shouted for joy?” Job 38: 4-7

All-powerful. All-knowing. All-present. All-good. The “omni” characteristics of God deal with infinity, and are therefore rather hard to wrap our heads around. They are described in many ways throughout the Bible, but in these words to Job, they sound rather matter-of-fact, poetic yet blunt. God is reminding Job who created the universe. That is as omnipotent as it can get. Job 38: 4-7 is also the opening of the 2011 film, *The Tree of Life*, which compares a family’s development to the destructive creation of the universe. It is an interesting comparison, and a good reminder God’s creation is equally important no matter the scale. However, the film left me thinking about a different creation from Genesis.

It is not the first of His creations. It is not His biggest either. It is his very last. In the likeness of His own image, God created mankind. In chapter two, Genesis describes God creating mankind “from the dust of the ground.” It is easy to pass over this detail either as an abstract metaphor, or taking it literally, as a single-instance miracle. It is a miracle, but it is not singular. Every minute God is performing this miracle around the world. Human embryonic and fetal development has got to be the most complex of all of His creations. Starting with brainless matter, over forty weeks (give or take) you get a creature with a self-sustaining body, an ever-absorbing mind, and an eternal soul. All breathed from dust. Maybe the most common miracle, but also the most extraordinary.

I was fortunate enough to witness this miracle with the birth of my first child, Evelyn, this August. Humbled like Job before God, how could I ever comprehend the complex processes required to bring this beautiful child before me? Even my wife (who had a much bigger part in her creation than I did) said she felt more like she tending to the baby rather than making it herself. God knew Evelyn before us, and will know her more than we ever could. Like all of His creation, our job is to appreciate her beauty and steward her the best we can.

Parish News

August Youth Birthdays:

Emma Angelichio	Lane Wells
Ashley Ortel	Molly Manning
Courtney Ortel	Oliver Fitzgerald
Patrick Ahearn, Jr	Emily Rowe
Rhett Fitzgerald	
Tate Dollman	
Mary Ceil McClung	
Samantha Rowe	
James Mauldin	
Micah Watts	
Grace Twitty	
Lillian Retzke	
Reed Peters	
Jefferson Retzke	
Sarah Cote	
William McCurry	

In memory of the departed:

Bill Clarke

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	The Reeves Family
Rene Milligan	
Tammy Eskridge	
Ann Yates	

Financial Update

Parish Financial Report July 2023

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$120,049.48	\$156,287.34	\$480,197.92	\$565,960.51
Plate	\$14,583.34	\$10,161.11	\$58,333.28	\$64,919.16
Other Revenues	\$8,835.51	\$15,750.10	\$35,341.92	\$33,377.63
Total Income	\$143,468.33	\$182,198.55	\$573,873.12	\$664,257.30
Diocese & Missions	\$16,155.93	\$19,492.02	\$64,623.56	\$75,101.38
Outreach	\$13,463.33	\$19,609.67	\$53,852.36	\$68,929.46
Personnel	\$80,843.51	\$81,004.39	\$323,373.76	\$314,548.38
Other Expenses	\$33,005.88	\$39,121.25	\$132,019.96	\$125,040.80
Total Expenses	\$143,468.65	\$159,227.33	\$573,869.64	\$583,620.02
Net	-0.32	\$22,971.22	\$3.48	\$80,837.28

September 2023 - WORSHIP SCHEDULE

updated 8/24/23

SUNDAY, September 3					
Service	Preacher	Celebrant	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Stuart		Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson	Sue Johnson
10:00 am	Stuart	Goldsmith	Sloan, Veal Eby, Serio	Lynn Sparks-Lewis, Mike Innes	Deborah Alexander
Wednesday, September 6					
Service	Preacher/ Celebrant		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Sloan		Peter Cobun		
Thursday, September 7 *Baptism					
Service	Preacher /Celebrant		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Veal Eby		Charles Morley		
SUNDAY, September 10					
Service	Preacher	Celebrant	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Veal Eby		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
10:30 am	Veal Eby	Sloan	Johnson, Stuart	Allison Proud, John Nelson	Rhonwyn Watson
Wednesday, September 13					
Service	Preacher /Celebrant		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Stuart		Guy McClure		
Thursday, September 14					
Service	Preacher /Celebrant		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Sloan		Peter Bobun		
SUNDAY, September 17					
Service	Preacher	Celebrant	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Johnson/Veal Eby		Don Lambert	Don Lambert	Don Lambert
10:30 am	Johnson	Stuart	Sloan, Serio	Elaine Hamner, Jennifer Dill	Melissa Kirkindall
6:00 pm	Veal Eby		DINNER CHURCH		
Wednesday, September 20					
Service	Preacher /Celebrant		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Veal Eby		Peter Cobun		
Thursday, September 21					
Service	Preacher /Celebrant		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Stuart		Charles Morley		
SUNDAY, September 24					
Service	Preacher	Celebrant	LEM	Lector	Intercessor
7:30 am	Sloan		Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett	Ken Barnett
10:30 am	Sloan	Goldsmith	Stuart, Veal-Eby, Serio	Mickey Ellis, Debbie Collette	Marcia Cobun
Wednesday, September 27					
Service	Preacher /Celebrant		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
12 noon	Sloan		Peter Cobun		
Thursday, September 28					
Service	Preacher /Celebrant		LEM/ Lector / Intercessor		
6:00 pm	Goldsmith		Sally Ann Culver		

FLOWER GUILD

B = Bibb C = Church B: Beth Dumya, Gail Brown C: Sara Ahearn, Jean Warren

ALTAR GUILD

September 3	Sue Johnson, Jewell Reynolds, Margaret Lotz, Peggy Serio, Sasha Gillis
September 10	Heather Stroud, Emily Moody, Nancy Colin, Wanda Cobb, Linda Watts
September 17	Beth Pugh, Gail Brown, Alice Lanier, Caffey Litkenhous, Sophia Samogray
September 24	Debbie Joyner, Amanda Keip, Anne Chelekis, Judy Vann, Mary Johnson

CLERGY ON CALL SCHEDULE

Sept. 4- Sept. 10	Sept. 11- Sept. 17	Sept. 18- Sept. 24	Sept. 25- Oct. 1
The Rev. Michael Goldsmith	The Rev. Worth Stuart	The Rev. Rose Veal Eby	The Rev. Susan Sloan

VERGER SCHEDULE

	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
10:30 am	Lea Ann Barnett	Gina Taylor	Terry Clevenger	Lea Ann Barnett

VESTRY PERSON OF THE DAY

	September 3 (10:00)	September 10	September 17	September 24
10:30 am		Gary Anglin	Tommy Cantey	Mary Coral Murphree

USHER SCHEDULE

	September 3	September 10	September 17	September 24
7:30 am	Peter Barber	Peter Barber	Peter Barber	Peter Barber
10:30 am	Ted Spratt-Hall, Jim Spratt-Hall, Mike Brown, Sandy Brown	Ted Spratt-Hall, Jim Spratt-Hall, Mike Brown, Sandy Brown		Ted Spratt-Hall, Jim Spratt-Hall,

ACOLYTE LEADER & ACOLYTE SCHEDULE

	September 3
10:30 am	Leader Nina Putt- Alana Putt, Anna Lane Evans, Diana Sommer, Lily Cantey, Waring Cantey
	September 10
10:30 am	Leader: Mike Ward- Caroline Bradford, Eleanor Gleason, John Gleason, Brendan Proud, Luke Ham, Jack Ham, Abby Ham, Anna Kate Bradford
	September 17
10:30 am	Leader: Nina Putt- Lily Cantey, Alana Putt, Anna Lane Evans, Diana Sommer, Drew Dodgen, Daniel Starnes, Waring Cantey
	September 24
10:30 am	Leader: Shari Williams- Eleanor Gleason, John Gleason, Brendan Proud, Evelyn Jones, Diana Sommer, John Collier Lotz, Sophie Lotz, Clara Williams

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 JULY VESTRY
MINUTES](#)

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



Coming Soon.....
Flower Dedications for
2024!