

# The Steeple

AUGUST 2025



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY  
208 Eustis Avenue  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801  
[www.nativity-hsv.org](http://www.nativity-hsv.org)  
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The Reverend Bob Serio, MD

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Marlin Wilder- Assistant Facilities Manager

**[Click HERE for the  
most recent  
Vestry minutes.](#)**

# Daughters of the King



The Daughters of the King are an Order for women who live by a rule of prayer and service. Our chapter here at Nativity is looking for new members. The next meeting is Thursday, August 7th at 5pm in Joffrion Library. Come enjoy light snacks, fellowship, and a presentation from Cherelle Locke-Crisis Services of North Alabama.



## Acolyte Training

Are you interested in becoming an Acolyte?  
It's time for ACOLYTE TRAINING!

ALL Prospective and Returning Acolytes in grades 5-12 will meet Sunday, August 17th following the 11am service (about 12pm) in the Nave for this year's training session.  
The training will last about an hour (less for returning acolytes)

Please let Nativity Ministry Coordinator, Rachael Samples know if your child will be attending by signing up [HERE](#). Lunch will be served and we want to make sure we have enough food!

We're excited to have you all take part in this important ministry at Nativity!

Nativity Ministry Coordinator, Rachael Samples  
256.533.1128 ~ [rsamples@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:rsamples@nativity-hsv.org)

Acolyte Leaders: Nina Putt, Clay Sherrill, Mike Ward, Shari Williams

## Misplaced Treasures

By Paul Whitehouse



Litany Desk constructed of salvaged parts from the original (1859) pulpit and used until replaced with a matching pair of litany desks. It would be sad to have lost these original elements of our church.  
If you know what has become of this desk, please contact Paul Whitehouse. ([whitehousegiles@comcast.net](mailto:whitehousegiles@comcast.net))

# Stewardship of Creation

## St. Cuthbert, Bishop of Lindisfarne and a visionary steward of God's Creation

By David Chadwick

My wife Jill and I recently visited Lindisfarne, an island in the very north-west corner of England. Lindisfarne is known as a center of Celtic Christianity and as the home of St. Cuthbert. Sitting in the ruins of Lindisfarne Priory, we felt the deep spirituality of this beautiful site that has seen centuries of prayer and monastic living, and a close connection to the rugged landscape of this corner of God's Creation.



We also learned more about St. Cuthbert, one of Britain's most beloved saints. Cuthbert is widely venerated for his deep piety, his connections with both Kings and ordinary working

people, and his affinity with nature. Cuthbert viewed the natural world as a reflection of God's Creation and believed in the responsibility of humans to care for it. He spent significant periods of his life as a hermit, sometimes preferring nature to people. Stories recount how otters would warm his feet after his nightly prayers in the cold sea, and how he protected animals and shared his food with them. It was St. Cuthbert who proclaimed one of the first ever bird protection



laws in 676AD for the Eider Duck, known locally as "Cuddy's Duck," a distinctive bird of the northern coasts of Europe and America.

On a more ecclesiastical note, St Cuthbert played an important role in unifying the Roman and Celtic traditions in Britain after the Synod of Whitby. Cuthbert had been brought up in the Celtic tradition

but accepted the decision in favor of the Roman Usage. His gentle patience coupled with his own devotion to the Mass eased the transition for those in the Celtic tradition. After St. Cuthbert's death in 687AD, he was initially buried at Lindisfarne. When his body was examined 11 years later, it was perfectly preserved. 200 years later, just before the Vikings ransacked the Priory, his body was removed for its protection and after being moved around Northern England for many years eventually found its forever home at Durham Cathedral.

I recently read "Cuddy" by Benjamin Myers, a fictional retelling of the story of St. Cuthbert that illustrates his ongoing presence through the centuries since his death in 687AD. Throughout the book we hear St. Cuthbert as he speaks to the characters, his voice carried in the wind and in the sound of the waves. The final chapters are set in the present day where a young man Michael, who works as a laborer on building sites while caring for his dying mother, gets a job at Durham Cathedral. His personal story combines with St. Cuthbert's presence in the Cathedral and his eyes are opened to a world that was previously unknown to him. I highly recommend this book, although I suggest you have some knowledge of the story of St. Cuthbert first.



# Summer at Nativity



We are blessed to have so many members of our Parish who are talented musicians who generously shared their time and talent this summer. The Alleluia III songbook is filled with joyful and moving music that touches our souls in so many different ways. It has been sheer delight to incorporate this music into our worship this summer. It was a particularly special blessing to have Sharron Bennefield Finn join us. As one of the leaders of the group that put the AIII songbook together, Sharon brought a passion and appreciation for these songs that made the experience all the more special.

by Mike Ward

*Band members:Sharon Bennefield Finn, Mike Ward, Margaret Bibb, Michael Shipley, Michael Brown, Tommy Lotz, Lou Durnya, Jim Reddy, Brynnan Reddy, Pierce Reddy, Justin Stroud, Q Wirtz, and Daniel Walker*

## Vacation Bible School

Under Construction VBS welcomed more than 120 children throughout the week and introduced many exciting new elements. The Club 56 group, designed for fifth and sixth grade, engaged in meaningful community service. They partnered with Second Mile, an organization committed to connecting individuals with the love of Jesus, strengthening schools and families, and bridging gaps in our neighborhoods. Club 56 also served with The Caring Link, assembling hygiene bags for students in need. At Nativity, the younger children participated in a variety of activities, including STREAM rotations (Science, Technology, Religion, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). Each day, children heard a Bible story and then engaged in a hands-on STREAM activity. These interactive experiences catered to different learning styles and enriched the spiritual and intellectual development of each child.



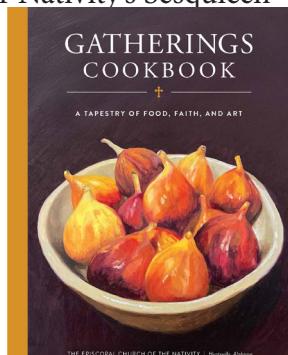
One child in particular experienced a meaningful transformation during the week. He attended another VBS earlier each day and often arrived at Nativity feeling tired. Our newly added Sensory Room provided a quiet and calming environment for him to decompress. One volunteer who worked closely with this child told me how meaningful the space was for him. In total, the Sensory Room served more than 20 children, offering a safe space to reset and regroup. It is a vital step in making our church more accessible to families who may otherwise find it difficult to participate fully in the life of the church. The Nativity Children's Formation program remains strongly committed to opening wide the doors of our church—to welcome, include, and support all of God's children.



## **"Gatherings" — A Cookbook Born from Fellowship and Faith**

### **It All Began on a Porch**

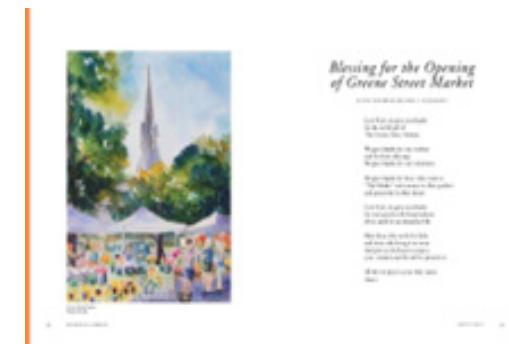
It all began on Sally Stockton's porch on Labor Day weekend, 2021! Life was beginning to return to normal after the pandemic, and Emily Rodgers had an idea. She gathered a group of interested women - Sally Stockton, Lane Tutt, Sherry Boyer, and Lea Ann Barnett to discuss a new Nativity Cookbook. After all, it had been nearly 30 years since ECW published a cookbook in 1993 to honor Nativity's Sesquicentennial. Emily envisioned the cookbook as a way to reconnect after months of isolation, and a chance to support a good cause. Lea Ann Barnett suggested proceeds from the new cookbook benefit our One Body Accessibility Capital Campaign, a much-needed facilities improvement effort which had been paused during the pandemic.



### **The Team Behind the Table**

As interest in the project increased, the original group expanded. Lea Ann Barnett agreed to chair the project. Lane Tutt, Emily Rodgers, and Mickey Ellis became the Advisory Board. Sherry Boyer suggested including artwork from Nativity artists and became the Artist Chair. Janet Robbins soon joined as Recipe Curator. After the initial meeting, followed by several focus groups with members of the congregation, the vision for our cookbook began to take shape. It would be a modern book featuring recipes, stories, prayers, and artwork. At the heart of this project was a clear mission: "To honor, preserve, and pass on to future generations the long-standing traditions at Nativity which have nourished our parishioners and inspired us to gather around the table for food, faith, and fellowship."

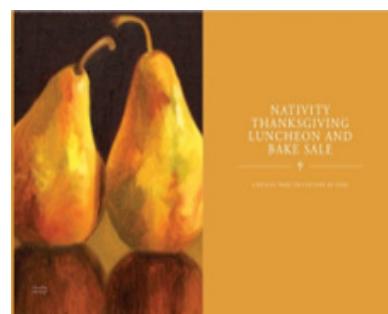
Requests began to go out to the congregation asking for contributions and we were off and running!



Mickey Ellis contributed the cookbook's perfect name, Gatherings. We welcomed Jewell Reynolds and Sally Ann Culver to curate

classic recipes from Nativity cooks of years past for a special Heritage section. Peter Cobun, a retired journalist, added historical gems in the form of "Did You Know?" notes scattered throughout. Elaine Calhoun helped select recipes for six festive, church-based holiday menus in the Celebrations section. Beth Thames became the Stories Editor, writing, encouraging, and interviewing our story tellers.

Over the course of a year, over 100 parishioners submitted recipes. During our Summer Lunch series in 2023, volunteers prepared selected recipes each week which were served buffet-style to parishioners after the late service. Not only was this a great way to test our recipes, but it was also a way to build community and create excitement about our cookbook. Months later, when the first draft of our book was completed, thirteen dedicated proofreaders volunteered to comb through the pages to finalize the content before publication.



### **A Cookbook Filled with Color and Creativity**

We invited local artists in the congregation to join the effort and the results were stunning. Some pieces directly illustrate stories and memories, such as the "Consecrated Bear" painted by June Denson. Others reflect the unique themes of each section, especially Celebrations. One artist, Denise Schiber, was commissioned to paint a charming scene of Greene Street Market Day for the Farm to Table section.

## A Mission with Heart

Rather than the usual sections, appetizers, meats, vegetables, desserts, we chose a thematic approach. The book is divided into 7 sections relating to different types of gatherings:

- The Family Table
- What Can I Bring?
- Farm to Table (featuring Greene Street Market)
- Company's Coming
- Nativity Thanksgiving Luncheon and Bake Sale (a 140-year tradition!)
- Heritage
- Celebrations

## Stories that Feed the Soul

The cookbook includes 20 heartfelt stories from within Nativity's walls, stories of laughter, love, tradition, and grace. Some recall cherished events, like our beloved Thanksgiving Luncheon and Bazaar, or antics from acolyte masters. Others are sentimental tributes, like Beth Thames' interviews with parishioners, and reflections from our clergy on baptisms, confirmations, and the holy seasons of Christmas and Easter. These stories capture the essence of Nativity life. They are a living record of our shared journey, a legacy now beautifully preserved and ready to be passed on. As Father Michael Goldsmith says in the foreword of Gatherings, "There is joy, laughter, and deliciousness waiting for you in this book."

Pre-sales for Gatherings are now open through November 15th! The pre-sale price is \$40. The regular sale price is \$48. Buy early and save 20 percent. Delivery is expected to be mid to late November. Perfect for holiday gifts! Click on the links below to pre-order your copy today or take a sneak peek into the cookbook pages!



## How It's Going

Pre-sales of Gatherings, our beautiful new coffee table style cookbook, are soaring! Every week since we launched our pre-sales on June 8th (6 weeks ago), orders have steadily continued to be placed on-line or in person on Sunday mornings in Ridley Hall. We are so grateful for the generous response we have received so far and are excited to share that we have sold almost 600 copies to date. Most of the orders are local; however, we have seen some come in from out of state so we know that people are spreading the word for us!

We will continue to take pre-sale orders in Ridley Hall each Sunday morning through August. The pre-sale price of \$40 will continue through November 15th. After that date, books will be sold at the regular sale price of \$48. We urge you to place your orders soon to take advantage of the 20 percent discount! There are several ways you can order a book if you are unable to do so on Sundays or if you want to wait until September or later.

- Nativity Scene Email - you can order by clicking on the link contained in the cookbook article in this weekly email.
- Facebook – you can order by clicking on the QR code on the picture of the Gatherings Cookbook announcement on the church's Facebook page.
- Sunday Service Leaflet – you can order by clicking the QR code in the Nativity cookbook announcement in your service leaflet.
- Contact Lea Ann Barnett (256-797-5158, email [leabarn@comcast.net](mailto:leabarn@comcast.net)) or Janet Robbins (256-797-4236, email [janet@masonrobbins.com](mailto:janet@masonrobbins.com))
- Contact the church office at 256-533-2455 for assistance if you have any issues with any of the above options.

Click [HERE](#) for the full update including advertising for Fall.



## A note from the Director of Music

Nativity has an enriching and lively sacred music program lined up this Fall! Take note of these events, and let our new Music Director Aaron Tan know if you would like to get involved! [atan@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:atan@nativity-hsv.org), (734) 707-7143. You can keep up to date on all the musical happenings at Nativity on the music page, [www.nativity-hsv.org/music-ministry](http://www.nativity-hsv.org/music-ministry).

### Rehearsal startups for Fall 2025

Wed Aug 20 - first adult choir rehearsal, 7-9p in chancel (ends Dec 17)

Wed Sep 3 - first Nativity Choristers rehearsal, 5-6p (ends Dec 17)

### Evening services and concerts

Sun Sep 28, 4:30pm - Organ Recital (4:30pm) and Evensong (5pm) for Michaelmas

Fri Oct 10, 7pm - Aaron Tan, Organ Concert: Widor's L'orgue moderne—organ music from the Paris Conservatoire at the dawn of the twentieth century

Sun Oct 19, 11am - Eucharist with Nativity Choristers and adult choir

Sun Nov 2, 4:30pm - Organ Recital (4:30pm) and Evensong (5pm) for All Saints

Advent Compline series: Sun Nov 30, Dec 7, Dec 14, 8pm

Sun Dec 21, 6:30pm - Organ Recital (6:30pm) and Lessons & Carols (7pm) with Nativity Choristers and adult choir

## Nativity Choristers (3rd to 12th grade)

Rehearsals Wednesdays, 5-6pm (beginning September 3)

The Nativity Choristers provides an opportunity for young voices to participate in learning and making music at Nativity. During the school year, our choristers rehearse weekly for select Sunday morning Eucharists and the occasional evening service. Our choristers begin learning music theory, musicianship skills, vocal technique, and the "ins and outs" of liturgy during these rehearsals. They also develop a deeper appreciation for the centuries-old tradition of sacred music that enriches the weekly worship at Nativity. More senior members also serve as mentors and role models for more junior members, fostering a sense of community and mutual respect for one another.

To join, please complete the enrollment form for 2025-2026 [here](#).

Director of Music Aaron Tan will then set up an informal meeting with you and your child. For more questions, contact Aaron at [atan@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:atan@nativity-hsv.org).

## Join us this Sunday

PLEASE JOIN US AS WE  
WELCOME

Dr. Aaron Tan  
reception following the  
11am service

SUNDAY, AUGUST 3rd  
in Ridley Hall



## Volunteer Workday

Many thanks to these volunteers who cleaned sidewalks, parking lots and spread mulch. From left to right: Rhonwyn Watson, Chris Singer, Mike Knight, Charles Ray, Carter Wells, Alex Jones, Robert Rodgers, Elizabeth Knight, Emily Rodgers. Not pictured Carolyn Brooks, Joe Cooper, and Frederick Lanier.

## Memorial Garden Lights

New lighting was installed to illuminate the beautiful Memorial Garden. Photo credit to the installer, Josh Stalin.



## Meet Our New Seminarian!

I'm Jessi Lane Johnson (Jessi Lane), and I'm delighted to be spending time with the Church of the Nativity. I'm currently a seminarian at the School of Theology at Sewanee (The University of the South), pursuing a Master of Divinity and discerning a call to the priesthood in the Episcopal Church.

Before (this) seminary, I received my Master's of Theological Studies from Iliff School of Theology. My formation has been shaped by a deep love for the sacraments, a passion for justice, and a desire to help create spiritual spaces where people feel safe, known, and challenged to grow.

What drew me to Nativity, among many things, is the joy of being in a community that values beauty and tradition.

When I'm not reading theology or writing papers, I play guitar, restore vintage motorcycles, and spend time with my partner Molly and our pets.

Thank you for welcoming me so warmly. I look forward to learning and worshiping alongside you!

# Education for Ministry

Are you tired of getting beat by the Baptists?

Are you tired of losing a discussion about bible trivia because the closest you can find something in the bible is “it’s either in the front, the middle part or near the end”. Do you wonder how some of the stories in the bible ever made it there in the first place? If God didn’t take paper and pen and write the King James Bible, then who did? Why do we even study the bible---how does reading stories that are 2000 to 10000 years old helpful to me now?

If these and other questions have been nagging at you, maybe it is time for EFM (Education for Ministry).

EFM Classic is a 4 year course of study, offered by Sewanee, where we explore the Hebrew bible (the Old Testament), the New Testament, Christian history over the past 2000 years and look at current theories of ethics, theology and orthodoxy. Along the way we will explore how these foundations of our faith interact with our daily lives through a process called Theological Reflection.

We meet once a week (currently on Monday nights) during the academic year for about 3 hours (36 sessions). We share a common meal (like the old Christians), share updates on our lives, we review our readings for the week and spend time in reflection based on our shared life stories and end with a collect or prayer based on our discussions. During the year we will explore ways to interact with God that may be new for some such as Centering prayer, praying the rosary, walking the labyrinth and lectio divina. Preparation for the seminar usually involves 2-3 hours of reading, journaling or watching prepared videos.

If you think this may be too much for your schedule but still want to get a feel for EFM, Sewanee offers



EFM Wide Angle. It covers highlights of the 4 year program in smaller segments that can be done in one year. The seminar time(weekly meeting time) is the same but the prep time is usually only 1-2 hours.

We are going to offer an information session on August 10 between the services (around 10:15am). Grab some breakfast in Ridley Hall and come down to the library for further discussion.

Classes will be starting September 8. If there is enough interest we may be able to offer a daytime seminar.

More information about the program can be found at EFM Classic or EFM Wide Angle.

If you have questions about the program before our meeting, please contact Ted Briggs ([ted.l.briggs@gmail.com](mailto:ted.l.briggs@gmail.com)) or Deacon Bob Serio ([rserio001@gmail.com](mailto:rserio001@gmail.com)).

If it has been a while since you took EFM or are new to EFM, now may be the time to join a group. EFM can now be experienced in two ways: EFM: Classic (the program people have known and loved for 50 years) and EFM: Wide Angle (a one-year taste of EFM: Classic's four years).

This new voice – EFM: Wide Angle takes a narrative approach and introduces participants to the EFM Classic by touching on elements of all four years of the classic program in one year. Anyone can take Wide Angle at any time. Click [HERE](#) to learn more about Wide Angle. Click [HERE](#) to see more about EFM Classic at 50 years!

## Youth Rafting Trip



Nativity youth joined with St. Thomas Episcopal for our 2025 rafting trip! We had a lovely two nights full of fellowship, rafting, lots of laughter, and Little Debbie's! Will Knight led the group on a hike at the Chilhowee Overlook, and Sloan Dill taught line dancing in the evening. Nineteen (19) youth from Nativity and three (3) youth from St. Thomas made the trip. We are so proud of everyone who tried rafting for the first time, and thankful for our group's welcoming attitude. Our trip would not have been possible without our amazing chaperones, Ethan Evans (St. Thomas youth director), Tommy Cantey, Derek Cantrell, Vivian Hinton, and Norah Connell. This trip was the perfect start to a new program year!

AGAPE! - Madeleine Bell-Colpack



*Some of our Nativity Youth serving as summer staff at Sawyerville.*

# Youth and Children Quarterly Calendar

*Sign up for the weekly Children's Newsletter [HERE](#).*

*Sign up for the weekly Youth and Parent email [HERE](#).*

*Sign up for the Club 56 email [HERE](#).*

*Questions about Children's Ministry? Contact Emily Cantrell  
[ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org)*

*Questions about Youth Ministry? Contact Madi Bell-Colpack  
[mbcolpack@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:mbcolpack@nativity-hsv.org)*



# Youth & Children @ Nativity in September

**07** Sunday School Kick-off @ 10am

**07** EYC Kick-off w/ Parent Meeting @ 5pm

**14** EYC & Club 56 @ 5pm

**21** EYC @ 5pm

**24** Spaghetti Supper

**26** 8<sup>th</sup> - 12<sup>th</sup> Lock in

**28** No EYC

|    |    |    |    |    |    |    |
|----|----|----|----|----|----|----|
| S  | M  | T  | W  | T  | F  | S  |
| 1  | 2  | 3  | 4  | 5  | 6  |    |
| 7  | 8  | 9  | 10 | 11 | 12 | 13 |
| 14 | 15 | 16 | 17 | 18 | 19 | 20 |
| 21 | 22 | 23 | 24 | 25 | 26 | 27 |
| 28 | 29 | 30 |    |    |    |    |

We can't wait to see everyone!

# Youth & Children @ Nativity in October 2025

| Sun | Mon | Tue | Wed | Thu | Fri | Sat |
|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| 28  | 29  | 30  | 1   | 2   | 3   | 4   |
| 5   | 6   | 7   | 8   | 9   | 10  | 11  |
| 12  | 13  | 14  | 15  | 16  | 17  | 18  |
| 19  | 20  | 21  | 22  | 23  | 24  | 25  |
| 26  | 27  | 28  | 29  | 30  | 31  | 1   |

Happy HALLOWEEN



One Room Schoolhouse // No EYC! Happy Fall Break



EYC & Club 56 @ 5pm



EYC Trash Competition @ 5pm



Derek Hill from Camp McDowell @ 10am in Bibb // EYC Halloween Trivia @ 5pm



Spaghetti Supper w/ Trick or Treating on Angel Lane



Greene St Market



Greene St Market



Greene St Market



## Parish Engagement

JOIN US FOR  
*Breakfasts in August*  
Sundays at 10am  
Ridley Hall  
*Served by Nativity Ministry Groups*

### Breakfasts in August

Come enjoy breakfast every Sunday in August during the formation hour (10am). Nativity ministries will be serving breakfast. On August 10th, we will have one big ministry fair where you can see what our ministries have to offer!



### Nativityfest

Join us for food, fellowship, music, and FUN!

Sunday, August 24th

4-6pm

Nativity Courtyard

\*Please bring a side to share as you are able and the church will provide the rest!

**Saue  
the  
Date**



**SUNDAY, August 24**

**MUSIC, FOOD  
& fellowship**

**208 Eustis Avenue**



**RESTORE  
REWIND  
REVIVE**

**BUILDING FAITH  
TOGETHER**

**SAVE THE DATE FOR  
PARISH RETREAT 2025  
AT CAMP McDOWELL**

**NOVEMBER 14-16**



## Nativity Parish Retreat

Save the date for Nativity Parish Retreat! For the first time in five years, we're returning to Camp McDowell for our parish retreat! We hope you'll join us in rekindling this beloved tradition of family fun at Wonderful, wonderful Camp McDowell.



**Are you interested in attending a Cursillo weekend? We have one remaining weekend in 2025 and the 2026 schedule was released recently.**

**2025:**

- ◊ October 9-12 (application deadline Sept. 4)

**2026:**

- ◊ April 9-12 (application deadline March 5)
- ◊ May 28-31 (application deadline April 23)
- ◊ October 8-11 (application deadline Sept. 3)

*Contact David or Debbie Collette if you have questions or would like to sign up!*

## Cursillo

## Parish Engagement



MEN'S FELLOWSHIP AT NATIVITY

# Monthly Men's Breakfast

SECOND TUESDAY OF THE MONTH  
7:00 am  
Ridley Hall

AUGUST 12TH  
SEPTEMBER 9TH  
OCTOBER 14TH

JOIN US FOR FELLOWSHIP AND FOOD THE SECOND TUESDAY OF EVERY MONTH IN RIDLEY HALL. BRING A FRIEND!

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



The Episcopal Church of the Nativity



Circle stickers 3"X3"

\$2



Clear car decal  
4.35"X5"

\$3



Gildan Soft-Style  
Short Sleeve T-Shirt

\$15

Adult: S-XXXL

Canvas tote bag  
\$10



Magnet 4.35"X5"  
\$3

SCAN AND PAY US-  
ING THE QR CODE  
OR LEAVE PAYMENT  
IN THE BASKET!

THANK YOU!

## New Nativity Church Merch!

Coming Soon!! Stop by the Ministry Fair on August 10th to purchase new Nativity merch. On August 11th we will open it up to online orders while supplies last! Click [HERE](#) or scan the QR code to order after the 10th of August!



## Bible Studies

**MEN'S BIBLE  
STUDY**  
**WEDNESDAYS**  
**10:30AM**  
**IN JOFFRION LIBRARY**

The Good Book Bible Study meets Wednesdays at 1:00pm in Joffrion Library beginning September 3rd. For more information, please contact The Rev. Rosie Veal Eby.

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

*Reflections  
Bible Study*

Led by:  
Mem Bryant, Lisa Caprio, Debbie Collette,  
Kana Goldsmith, and Shelley Whitney

Thursdays 9:30-11:00am  
in the Banister Room  
All are welcome!  
\*\*beginning August 21st

The Men's Bible Study meets weekly, beginning September 10th, at 10:30am in Ridley Hall. Need more information? Contact Bob Serio.

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

**The Good  
Book Bible  
Study**

Wednesdays @ 1:00pm  
Joffrion Library

Beginning September  
3rd!

Reflections Bible Study meets weekly, beginning August 21st from 9:30-11am in the Banister Room. This group is led by Mem Bryant, Lisa Caprio, Debbie Collette, Kana Goldsmith, and Shelley Whitney. For more information, please contact Stephanie Ortel.

[steph@ortel.us](mailto:steph@ortel.us)

# Adult Formation Classes

## The Book Class

Joffrion Library – Ted Briggs

Come join us for a weekly discussion of Richard Rohr's latest and possibly last major book, *The Tears of Things: Prophetic Wisdom for an age of Outrage*, which has also become a New York Times best seller. Discussion leaders alternate by week, providing some background and summarizing the major topics, although the class ultimately sets its own agenda for discussion.

The book offers a wholehearted and hope-filled model for the world today, grounded in the timeless wisdom of the Hebrew prophets. How do we live compassionately in a time of violence and despair? What can we do with our private disappointments and the anger we feel in such an unjust world?

Rohr focuses on the spiritual development of selected Hebrew prophets and what we can learn from their journeys. This is an introduction and overview to the prophets and what they were trying to say. Each chapter focuses on one or two prophets. We often tend to overlook the prophetic book in favor of easier to read books of the Bible. However, they have inspired generations as well as many in our own era to action – MLK, Desmond Tutu, Howard Thurman, and even Thomas Merton. Rohr offers a method to read the prophets and trace their path from righteous anger to lamentation and grief in humanity's injustices and oppression and movement into a position of compassion for all.

Come join us as we learn about the prophets and discuss how we can live compassionately in today's world.

## The Zimmerman Bible Study,

The Banister Room – Elise Taylor

Join us on Sunday mornings for an exploration of the letters of Paul. This group covers a chapter each class; discussing insights into these New Testament letters, their historical context, and relevance to our collective current spiritual journey. The group meets on Sunday mornings from 10:00am - 10:45am in the Bannister Room. If you have questions please email [Elise.H.Taylor@gmail.com](mailto:Elise.H.Taylor@gmail.com).

## Men's Study Group

J2E – Rev. Rosie Veal Eby

This group is geared towards the XYZ generation of guys, the group will meet Sunday mornings at 10 am in J2E. They will be studying the lectionary readings for Sunday.

## The Sacraments

Bibb Chapel – Rev. Dr. Melissa Hartley

We will be exploring the sacramental rites of Reconciliation (Confession) and Unction (Healing) Sept 14-Oct 19. Fr Michael will discuss the Eucharist on Sept 7.

## Special Speakers:

Oct 26 – Derrick Hill, CEO Camp McDowell

Nov 9 – Holly Anderson, Medical Mission Trip to the Dominican Republic

***Classes begin September 7th! Stop by the breezeways of Ridley and Joffrion for a donut on your way to class!***

## Summer Photos





The Episcopal Church of the Nativity  
208 Eustis Avenue  
Huntsville, Alabama 35801

### Parish Financial Report June 2025

|                       | <u>Budget for Period</u> | <u>Actual for Period</u> | <u>Budget YTD</u>   | <u>Actual YTD</u>   |
|-----------------------|--------------------------|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------|
| Pledges Received      | \$132,934.59             | \$107,417.09             | \$797,607.46        | \$804,349.19        |
| Plate                 | \$15,312.50              | \$16,602.69              | \$91,875.00         | \$108,068.69        |
| Other Revenues        | \$12,225.34              | \$8,143.81               | \$73,351.96         | \$58,888.85         |
| <b>Total Income</b>   | <b>\$160,472.43</b>      | <b>\$132,163.59</b>      | <b>\$962,834.42</b> | <b>\$971,306.73</b> |
| Diocese & Missions    | \$17,789.67              | \$13,389.54              | \$106,737.98        | \$107,757.88        |
| Outreach              | \$14,823.80              | \$14,626.30              | \$88,947.70         | \$95,732.70         |
| Personnel             | \$88,378.38              | \$88,088.11              | \$530,270.05        | \$502,016.14        |
| Other Expenses        | \$39,476.01              | \$41,902.11              | \$236,875.94        | \$224,278.05        |
| <b>Total Expenses</b> | <b>\$160,467.86</b>      | <b>\$158,006.06</b>      | <b>\$962,831.67</b> | <b>\$929,784.77</b> |
| <b>Net</b>            | <b>-\$0.43</b>           | <b>-\$25,842.47</b>      | <b>\$2.75</b>       | <b>\$41,521.96</b>  |

### Weekday Services

#### Wednesdays

12pm- The Holy Eucharist, Rite II, with healing  
prayers  
in Bibb Chapel

#### Thursdays

6pm- The Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
in Bibb Chapel

#### Sundays

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

8:45am- The Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
with Children's Chapel  
In the Nave

11am- The Holy Eucharist, Rite II  
with Children's Chapel  
In the Nave