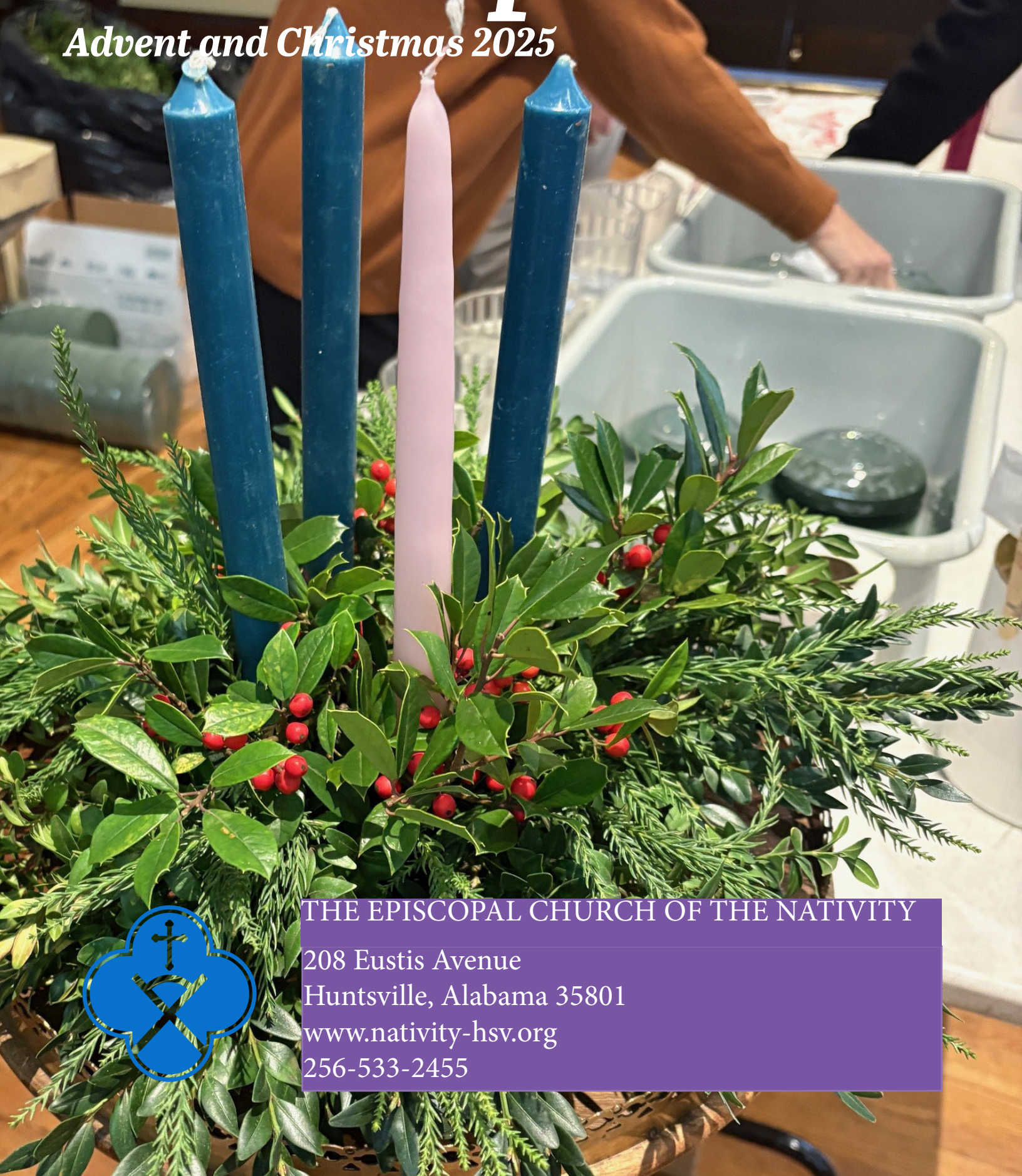


# *The Steeple*

*Advent and Christmas 2025*



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

208 Eustis Avenue

Huntsville, Alabama 35801

[www.nativity-hsv.org](http://www.nativity-hsv.org)

256-533-2455



## Advent and Christmas Services

### Compline

Nov. 30, Dec. 7th and 14th  
8pm in the Nave

### Children's Christmas Pageant

December 14th following the 11am service  
Ridley Hall

### Lessons and Carols

December 14th 7pm in the Nave  
Reception to follow in Ridley Hall

### Christmas Eve

4pm- Holy Eucharist Rite II with Children's Chapel  
7:30pm- Holy Eucharist Rite II  
10:30pm- Holy Eucharist Rite II (incense used)

### Christmas Day

10am- Holy Eucharist Rite II

## Clergy

The Reverend Michael Goldsmith  
Rector  
mgoldsmith@nativity-hsv.org

The Reverend Melissa M. Hartley, PhD  
Priest Associate  
mhartley@nativity-hsv.org

The Reverend Rosie Veal Eby  
Priest Associate  
rvealeby@nativity-hsv.org

The Reverend Deacon Bob Serio, MD  
Deacon  
bserio@nativity-hsv.org

## Staff Directory

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Sally Stockton- Director of Kitchen Ministries

Veronica Love- Weekend Sexton

Aaron Tan, PhD- Director of Music  
atan@nativity-hsv.org

Lane Tutt- Groundskeeper  
ltutt@nativity-hsv.org

Keke Warren- Nursery Manager

Marlin Wilder- Assistant Facilities Manager

## Advent Wreaths

*Join us Sunday, November 30th as we make Advent wreaths for the first Sunday in Advent! Please bring your own greenery and some to share if you are able. Donations of \$10 are appreciated but not required. One per family, please!*

### Advent Wreath Making



Sunday, November 30th  
10am in Ridley Hall

## Celebrating Nick and Lucy Day

by The Rev. Melissa M. Hartley, PhD

Here at Nativity, we have a tradition of celebrating Nick and Lucy Day every December (this year on Sunday, December 7). But who, exactly, were Nick and Lucy? Well, Nick, of course, is Saint Nicholas, or, more accurately, Nicholas of Myra. He died in 342, and is remembered for being the patron saint of children. He would secretly give gifts to children in need, and his legacy lives on in Santa Claus. Lucy is perhaps less known. She was Lucy of Syracuse, who died in 304. She is remembered for her purity and gentleness. Her name (Lucia) means light, and her day on the Church calendar fell on the shortest day of the year. It was on this day that the sunlight would start to lengthen as the days began to grow longer. Lucy's day is celebrated particularly in Scandinavia where young girls dress up like Lucy - all in white with a crown of lighted candles. In the Episcopal Church, Nicholas of Myra is celebrated on December 6, and Lucy of Syracuse is celebrated on December 13. We hope you will join us on December 7, for pancakes in Ridley Hall at 10am, when we will have a visit by both Nick and Lucy.

### You're Invited!

**ALL AGES & SUNDAY  
SCHOOL CLASSES ARE  
INVITED TO A PAJAMA  
PANCAKE BREAKFAST IN  
CELEBRATION OF  
NICK & LUCY DAY!**



**Sunday, December 7th  
10:00 a.m.**



**Available for pickup in Ridley Hall  
beginning November 23!**

Questions? [ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org)

## *Season of Advent*

by Mother Melissa

Happy New Year! Yes, the season of Advent begins a new year in the life of the Church. This year, the season of Advent begins on November 30, and lasts until Christmas Day. This season, which was traditionally one of penitence, has shifted to a season of joyful anticipation and preparation for our yearly celebration of the birth of Christ. The four Sundays of Advent have set themes. This first Sunday is always about the eschaton, or the end-times, when Christ will return with power and great glory to set right the world. This first

Sunday of Advent is about both the coming of Christ at his birth on Christmas Day and about the coming of Christ on the "Last Day" at the end of time. The second and third Sundays of Advent are always about

John the Baptist, who dutifully prepares the way for Jesus. Finally, the fourth Sunday is about Mary, Jesus' mother, as she prepares to be the

"Christ-bearer." The Season of Advent also features the Advent wreath. As the daylight this time of year grows shorter, the light from the Advent wreath pierces the darkness and reminds us of the coming light of Christ.

## Children's Advent Dates to Remember

### **Advent Wreath Making**

November 30

**10.00 Ridley Hall (There is no Children's  
Formation this day.)**

### **Nick & Lucy Day Pajama Party**

December 7

**10.00 Ridley Hall (There is no Children's  
Formation this day.)**

### **Children's Christmas Pageant**

December 14

**12.15 Ridley Hall (Children will follow the  
cross in the 11.00 service to Angel Lane to  
prepare for the pageant. If your family is  
not attending the 11.00 service, please  
have your child to the Craft Room by  
11.20.**

### **Christmas Eve Service with Children's Chapel**

December 24


**4.00 Nave**





## Music in Advent

COMPLINE



A meditative service of night prayer sung by a schola

Sundays in Advent at 8pm:  
November 30  
December 7  
December 14

Church of the Nativity ♦ 208 Eustis Ave ♦ Huntsville, AL ♦ 256-533-2455

JOHANNES BRAHMS ♦ PETER WARLOCK

JEAN LANGLAIS ♦ RACHEL LAURIN ♦ KENNETH LEIGHTON

### A Service of Nine Lessons and Carols



Sung by the Chancel Choir and Nativity Choristers

Sunday, December 21, 2025  
6:30pm, Organ recital  
7:00pm, Service

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY  
208 Eustis Ave. SE, Huntsville, AL  
256-533-2455  
nativity-hsv.org

KERENSA BRIGGS ♦ HEALEY WILLAN ♦ STEPHEN JACKSON

CRAIG PHILLIPS ♦ MICHAEL DELL

## ChoirNews

### Join the expanded Nativity Chorister program in 2026!

Our chorister program is expanding to enrich the lives of our young members with music! Aside from weekly rehearsals on Wednesdays at 5pm, each chorister will receive a free half hour lesson in either voice, piano, or organ. This will further develop each chorister's proficiency in and understanding of music and also allow those with different previous experiences to receive individual instruction at an appropriate level. Take advantage of this exciting opportunity this semester, and contact Director of Music Aaron Tan if you are interested: [atan@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:atan@nativity-hsv.org).

### New Choir at Nativity starting on January 25, 2026

Do you enjoy singing but don't feel like you can commit to a regular weeknight rehearsal? Consider joining the new Parish Choir which will sing at the 8:45am service starting January 25, 2026. The repertoire will be more straightforward and the only rehearsal will be at 8am, immediately before the service. Please contact Director of Music Aaron Tan if you are interested: [atan@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:atan@nativity-hsv.org).

## ***Music Events in Spring 2026***

Sunday, January 25, 8:45am: launch of Nativity's new Parish Choir at 8:45am

Compline @8pm on first Sundays, sung by a schola:

February 1

March 1

May 3

Evensong @4:30pm on third Sundays (4:30p organ recital, 5p service)

February 15: sung by the Sewanee chapel choir; Mark Ardrey-Graves, director

April 19: sung by the Chancel Choir

May 17: sung by the Nativity Choristers

February 27, Time TBD: Chamber Concert by the Signum Quartet

March 15, 3:30pm. Mendelssohn and friends: a concert of German Romanticism featuring music for choir, organ, and orchestra by Mendelssohn, Brahms, and Rheinberger, including Rheinberger's Organ Concerto No. 1. This concert is presented in collaboration with the American Guild of Organists and sung by the Chancel Choir and Nativity Choristers. Aaron Tan, organist/conductor; Aaron Jackson, guest conductor.

May 31, 2026. Choral Mass for Trinity Sunday: featuring the Missa sanctissimae trinitatis, op. 117, by Josef Rheinberger

## ***ECW at Nativity***

by Mother Rosie

For the past year and a half, we have had a strong women's fellowship group here at Nativity. We have focused on building fellowship, community, and friendships within the group. This group has included all ages from 25-96! We have enjoyed crafting, reading, ghost walks, and even worship together. In an effort to support the ECW, Episcopal Church Women, Nativity' Women's Fellowship group will become a chapter of the ECW, bringing back a long tradition of women in leadership roles in the church.

We will continue to meet once a month, for the most part we will meet on the 4th Sunday of the month, with a few exceptions. There are no membership fees or forms you have to fill out to become a member of ECW, every woman at Nativity is included in ECW.

One of the big projects the Diocesan ECW support is the ECW Scholarship for youth. Many of our Nativity youth have benefited from this college scholarship. We will be supporting this effort by having a Souper Bowl Sunday Soup and baked goods sale on February 8, after both services. The women will meet the Saturday before and are encouraged to bring cakes or cookies to package individually for the Sunday sale.

I am excited to be a part of this tradition and to continue to grow the fellowship of the women here at Nativity as we all strive to carry out Christ's work throughout the world. Click [HERE](#) for the ECW monthly schedule for 2026!



# Stewardship

by Carter Wells, Sr. Warden of the Vestry

"Stewardship is the process of the transformation of church, community, and self."

As we near the end of Nativity's stewardship season, let us reflect on the blessings we have received and how we are called to share them. Stewardship is not simply a task on the church calendar but a spiritual practice rooted in our understanding that all we have comes from God. Our giving is one of the ways we live out our call to serve Christ and to support our church.

Pledges are essential in shaping the life of our parish. At Nativity, the stewardship campaign is how we responsibly plan our budget and set priorities for the coming year. Your pledge directly supports the work that will guide the church in 2026: our worship; clergy and staff; music; children, youth, and adult formation programs; outreach ministries; care for the elderly, and the daily rhythms of parish life. Without pledged commitments, the Vestry cannot faithfully craft a budget or make informed decisions about how we will serve God and our neighbors in the year ahead.

This commitment extends beyond our walls. Nativity is known for our community presence by welcoming, feeding, providing beds and shelter for those in need; supporting local partners; offering space for recovery groups; and other activities directed from within our church. Many in our town look to Nativity as a steady and compassionate presence. Your giving ensures that these efforts are not only maintained but strengthened.

Our stewardship also includes caring for the spaces entrusted to us. Nativity is a National Historic Landmark and our buildings and grounds are cherished by our members and admired by many throughout the community. These spaces serve as places of worship, formation, and fellowship. Your pledge helps maintain these spaces so they remain vibrant, safe, and welcoming for generations to come.

Please prayerfully consider your pledge as giving is personal and based in gratitude. A pledge is more than a financial statement; it is an offering of thanksgiving, a sign of commitment to this church, and a reflection of the role this community plays in your life and faith. It supports far more than operations and maintenance, it supports our serving and living in Christ.

I am grateful for the ways each person strengthens our church, whether through time, talent or treasure. Stewardship in any form shows gratitude and deepens our shared commitment to God's work among us.

Click [HERE](#) to make your 2026 pledge.

## Vestry Slate

On behalf of the Vestry Nominating Committee, I would like to thank our slate of candidates for their willingness to serve. Your Vestry represents your voice as critical decisions are made about this great church. We are pleased to present this year's group of candidates who will be voted on at our annual Parish Meeting on Sunday, January 25th. This year, we will be voting for six candidates who will replace the six 3rd year Vestry members completing their term. This will make sure we have eighteen members, who each serve a three-year term.

Our nominating committee is made up of our Senior Warden and the previous three Senior Wardens along with three more "at-large" members voted on by the Vestry. The at-large members serve for three years. This year's committee was comprised of Margaret Day Baker (at-large year 3), Rachel Dingess (at-large year 2), Greg Whitehead (at-large year 1), Carter Wells (Sr. Warden '25), Chris Singer (Sr. Warden '24), Walt Bradford (Sr. Warden '23), Jerry Nutt (Sr. Warden '22), .

The nominating committee is grateful for the thoughtful responses from parishioners who are willing to offer their time and talents and who represent's a broad spectrum of Nativity's membership. We believe that the proposed slate of nominees have the talent to work with the clergy and staff to do God's work in Huntsville. Please join us at the annual parish meeting to vote on your new Vestry members and hear other important updates. Once again, congratulations to our nominees, and a sincere 'thank you" to the committee for their hard work.

Jerry Nutt - Nominating Committee CHair

## Jennifer Dill



Jennifer Dill was born in Huntsville and baptized at Nativity. Her family moved away when she was two years old and she spent her childhood and early adult years in Birmingham. During that time, she was a member of St. Luke's Episcopal Church, where her mother, Susan Sloan, was the Christian education director. As a child, Jennifer regularly attended Sunday School, served as an acolyte, and was an active member of EYC. As a young adult, she volunteered as a VBS teacher and as an acolyte leader, and was an active member of the young adults group. Jennifer was a social studies teacher at Hoover High School for 14 years before moving back to Huntsville in 2008 when she married Randy Dill, who was living in Huntsville and working as a prosecutor in the Madison County District Attorney's Office. They welcomed their daughter, Sloan, in 2009, and joined Nativity when Sloan was a toddler. Jennifer taught online for ACCESS for several years while Sloan was in preschool and then went back to classroom teaching in 2015. She worked at

Huntsville Junior High School teaching 8th grade history until 2024 when she retired. Jennifer is currently working as a part-time receptionist for UAB Family Medicine and is enjoying having a more flexible schedule and learning the ropes in an entirely different type of workplace. Over the years at Nativity, Jennifer has served as an adult Sunday School teacher, a VBS volunteer, a lector and an usher. She has helped provide food for the EYC suppers and First Stop breakfasts. One of the reasons Jennifer retired from full-time teaching was to be able to have more time for her family and for giving back to the community. She is currently volunteering as the president of the Huntsville High School Swim and Dive Team Booster Club to support her daughter, now a sophomore student-athlete. Jennifer is now looking forward to doing more to serve Nativity as a member of the Vestry. This parish has been a second home for her and her family, and she has been very excited about all of the growth the church is experiencing. Whether it be increased membership, increased outreach endeavors, or increased physical footprint in the form of the One Body campaign, Nativity is growing and thriving, and Jennifer is excited to be a part of this growth by serving on the Vestry.



## Jim Gaines



I was born and raised in Birmingham, Alabama. My father was raised a Roman Catholic and my mother a Southern Baptist. We were not really a family until, when I was a teen, we discovered the Episcopal Church and it has been a love affair ever since.

I graduated from Auburn University with a degree in Accounting and received my J. D. law degree from the University of Alabama where I later also received a Master of Laws (in taxation) degree.

I practiced law in Huntsville from 1969 to 1994 with my wife, Nancy and her father Jeff D. Smith. While in Huntsville I served as the part time United States Magistrate Judge until Nancy and I retired to Magnolia Springs, Alabama. There we attended St. Paul's Episcopal Church. While there I served on the Vestry, prepared the monthly church newsletter and the weekly service bulletins and acted as legal counsel for the church. Also, while living in Magnolia Springs I served

on the Board of Directors of the South Alabama Land Trust, the Dauphin Island Bird Sanctuary and the Baldwin County Master Gardeners among others.

After my wife of 54 years passed away last year I moved back to Huntsville where I joined Church of the Nativity and I immediately found a home. While only a member for less than a year, in addition to regular attendance at the 11:00 service I have volunteered to help Lane Tutt and her committee with the grounds around the church. I also attend Deacon Bob Serio's Men's Bible Study and I have helped out with the Wednesday night spaghetti suppers. I look forward to serving on the vestry and to support it's amazing outreach programs and the church's ever expanding needs.

## Andrea Jernigan



Andrea is just 3 years shy of being a Huntsville native. She was raised in a church of Christ, and has fond memories of her mother bringing her to organ concerts at Nativity throughout her childhood. Andrea joined the Nativity Choir in 2017, and was confirmed in 2021. She also serves as a Lay Reader. Her husband Richard was confirmed at Nativity as a teenager. They have been married for 21 years. They have two Yorkshire terriers who never miss getting blessed each October! Andrea has a BS in Language Arts Education from the University of Alabama and an MS in Communicative Disorders from Alabama A&M University. She works as a speech-language pathologist for the Huntsville Hospital Outpatient Therapy department in the Parkinson's Care Clinic. The highlight of her work week is leading a choir for people with Parkinson's at Parkinson's Dynamics. Andrea is looking forward to serving Nativity as a vestry member and is excited for the opportunity to become more broadly involved in parish life.

## Michael Miller



I was born in Macon, Georgia into a Southern Baptist family going back to my great-great grandparents. I have lived in Huntsville since my marriage in 1999 to Mary Beirne (Arnold) Miller (who has been a lifelong member at Nativity). We have two daughters, Lauren Regan, who is finishing her 2nd year of Pharmacy School at Samford University in Birmingham and Emma Lane, who is a 7th grader at Buckhorn Middle School.

I am a 1997 graduate of Mercer University in Macon, GA with a BBA in Business Administration/ Marketing. I also graduated in 1999 from Armstrong Atlantic State University in Savannah, GA with my master's degree in Health Care Administration. I have been employed at Huntsville Hospital in the Professional Services Revenue Cyle Department as a Provider Enrollment/ Credentialing Team Lead since 2014.

I was confirmed at Nativity back on March 30, 2025. I am currently serving the parish as an 8:45 am Sunday Usher and I am also on Team 3- Brotherhood of the Biscuits. I enjoy serving on both teams and have met some wonderful church members especially on the Men's Retreat and at the Parish Family Weekend at Camp McDowell.

## Stephanie Ortel



Stephanie Vought Ortel was born and raised in Huntsville and attended Nativity part-time with her dad who was a long-time member. Stephanie and her husband Jeff were married at Nativity in 1990 before moving to Washington, DC where she worked on Capitol Hill for a US Senator and Members of Congress from Alabama. They then moved to Raleigh, North Carolina where Stephanie worked as director of government relations for a national not-for-profit organization. Since returning home to Huntsville and Nativity in 2009, Stephanie has volunteered on several local boards (PTA, band, etc.), was appointed to a state regulatory board for six years, and serves as assistant director for Alabama Girls State. Stephanie served on the Nativity Stewardship Committee and has been part of the Reflections Bible Study for 15 years.



## Ben Tieslau



Ben Tieslau grew up in Alpharetta, GA and was born, baptized and confirmed at Lord of Life Lutheran Church where his mother served as organist and director of music. Ben was involved in all aspects of the church from a young age, serving as a member of the choir, youth group, cantor, church summer secretary, and many other roles. He moved to Huntsville in the summer of 2014 and spent 9 years as a middle school teacher at Randolph before switching careers to work in Business Development for KBR. Ben and his wife Rachel were married at Nativity in July of 2023, and they both have served as staff singers since the fall of 2023. Ben also served as interim choir director during the first part of 2025 as Nativity searched for our new Director of Music. When not working, Ben enjoys hiking, playing pickleball and disc golf, and playing with his dog Welly. Ben and Rachel welcomed their first child Margot just a few weeks ago and are looking forward to raising her in the Nativity family.

Please join us for the



# Annual Parish Meeting

Sunday, January 25

10AM in the Nave

Childcare provided

Lunch to follow in Ridley Hall

We will have the  
7:30am and 8:45am  
services that morning.

# 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)





# JANUARY 2026

SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				01	02	03
04 SUNDAY SCHOOL & EYC LUNCH // EUCH. INSTR CLASS BEGINS	05	06	07 EYC BFEST CLUB	08	09	10
11 SUNDAY SCHOOL & EYC // CLUB 56	12	13	14 EYC HONEST COFFEE	15	16	17
18 SUNDAY SCHOOL & MLK JR SERVICE	19	20	21 EYC BFEST CLUB	22	23 5TH - 7TH LOCK OUT	24
25 PARISH MEETING (NO SS) & EYC	26	27	28 EYC HONEST COFFEE // SPAGHETTI SUPPER	29	30	31



Join the diocesan Youth Department for our annual Christmas Conference at Camp McDowell! All 10-12th graders are invited to gather Dec 28-30 for The \*Christmas\* Tree of Life, a program led by Rev. Tom Poynor + friends. Cost to attend is \$225 and financial assistance is available. For more information or questions, please contact Nick Mielke, YD Advisor and Christmas Conference Registrar, at [alabamayouth@gmail.com](mailto:alabamayouth@gmail.com).

Space will fill up fast, so please share this widely with your youth. Registration for seniors will open at 5pm on October 30. Registration for all opens at 5pm on Nov 6. Click [HERE](#) to register!



Click [HERE](#) to RSVP for the Young Adult Party!



## Flower Dedications

Christmas Flower Dedications are open! Flower dedications are \$20 each and may be submitted by clicking [HERE](#), or by filling out a form. The forms will be located in the Banister room on the table next to the drink cooler, the table next to the Chapel interior entrance or the foyer of the Nave. The deadline to submit a Christmas Flower Dedication is December 14th.

### 2025 Christmas Flower Dedications

Christmas dedications are \$20 each

Please complete this form with your check made payable to Nativity Flower Guild and return it no later than **Sunday, December 14th** to:

Andrea Vandervoort, 434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801

PLEASE PRINT ALL INFORMATION. If you have questions, you may call Andrea at 256-539-2673.

Your Name as it is to be listed in Christmas service leaflet (if you do not wish your name listed, please indicate)

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_ Name for this dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

Please check the box next to the dedication you desire. All dedications read *To the glory of God and....*

☐ In loving memory of... ☐ In thanksgiving for ☐ In celebration of... ☐ In honor of...



2026 Altar Dedications will open on November 9th! Flower dedications are \$40 each and may be submitted online or by filling out a form. The forms will be located in the Banister room on the table next to the drink cooler, the table next to the interior entrance of Bibb Chapel, the foyer of the Nave or on the back of the Steeple. There is no deadline, however the form will close once all dates are filled.

To submit dedications online click [HERE](#).

#### 2026 Altar Flower Dedications:

Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Name(s) for dedication: \_\_\_\_\_



**Please choose one:**

\_\_\_ in loving memory of... \_\_\_ in thanksgiving for...

\_\_\_ in celebration of... \_\_\_ in honor of...

Will you share this dedication? \_\_\_YES \_\_\_NO

Can we list your name in the bulletin? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_NO

Dedications are \$40 each

Make check payable to:

*Nativity Flower Guild* and mail your check along with this form to:

Andrea Vandervoort

434 Locust Ave. Huntsville, AL 35801

Questions? Call Andrea: 256-539-2673



## Cursillo

DISCOVER THE JOY: 2026 dates for Alabama Cursillo are available!

The Cursillo Community at Nativity and in the Diocese of Alabama is excited to announce the 2026 Cursillo Weekend dates. We invite you to prayerfully considering attending one of these weekends and discover the incredible joy that hundreds of Nativity parishioners and nearly 9,000 Episcopalians across our Diocese know as a result of their participation in Cursillo. Dates for 2026 are as follows:

April 9-12, 2026 – Cursillo #239

May 28-31, 2026 – Cursillo #240

October 8-11, 2026 – Cursillo #241

All Cursillo weekends are held at wonderful! wonderful! Camp McDowell, beginning on Thursday evening and concluding on Sunday evening. If you are interested in finding out more about the Cursillo Community or would like to sign up for a weekend, contact Nativity's lay Cursillo leaders David Collette (256-527-2560) or Debbie Collette (256-527-5050). Applications are due approximately six weeks before each weekend begins and space is limited due to Camp capacity.

## Parish and Community Engagement

by Kayela Allen

### Nativity Membership

Church of the Nativity has grown by more than 200 people over the past two years—a blessing that spans every age group, with especially strong growth among young and middle-aged families.

Our community loves gathering for meals, Bible studies, and social groups, where real connections form and friendships deepen. Every event is filled with joy, laughter, and a true sense of belonging.

We're grateful to continue welcoming new visitors and those exploring what the love of God and authentic Christian community can look like.



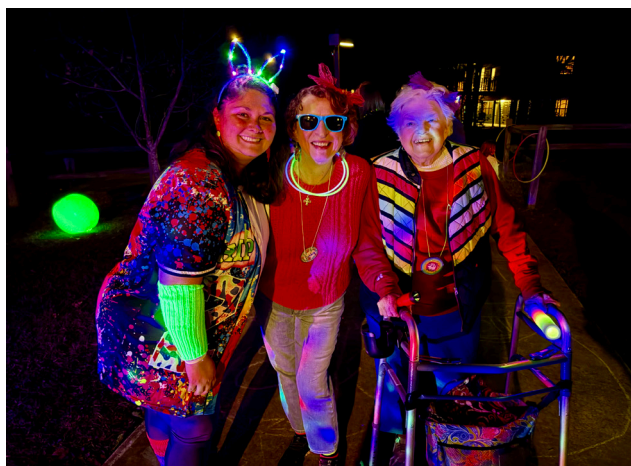
## Nativity Parish Retreat 2025

Our first Parish Retreat Weekend in years was a wonderful success, with an impressive turnout of 145 attendees. It was a joy to reconnect, make new friends, and spend meaningful time together in such a beautiful setting. Participants enjoyed a wide range of activities—fishing, hiking, canoeing, and a fascinating tour of Camp McDowell's Farm, where many learned about the gardens and the resident cows, goats, and pigs. We also enjoyed an incredible raptor and reptile show, where we learned about snakes and birds, watched a hawk soar right over our heads, and even had the chance to gently pet a snake.

One of the weekend highlights was the lively kickball game, where Mother Rosie's team triumphed over Father Michael's in a friendly but spirited match.

We wrapped up the festivities with an unforgettable '80s-themed glow party and cookout, which brought plenty of laughter, dancing, and nostalgia.

We're already looking forward to doing it all again next year!





## *Warming Center*

by Mother Rosie

As we begin to notice a change in the weather, it reminds us of our commitment to help the Community Warming Center for the Homeless. We will begin collecting frozen casseroles to have on hand when the warming center opens. Because the opening is dependent on the weather, which is hard to predict, we try to have several casseroles stocked up. Also, during severe weather conditions it is difficult to drive and drop off casseroles at the center.

We will have two drop off locations for casseroles this year. The first one will be in Ridley Hall in the small chest freezer, it will be marked, Warming Center Casseroles. The second drop off location will be at ROSS Community Center at 8211 Stephanie Drive; they are open from 12pm until 7pm.

We are asking for breakfast casseroles, any recipe is fine, however please clearly label the casserole and include heating instructions.

We are also asking for chicken and rice casseroles and baked spaghetti casseroles. Again, please label the casseroles and include the heating instructions.

If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. Once the center is open, I will be asking for help with serving directly at the center. I appreciate your commitment to loving our neighbors.

## *Outreach Update*

We wanted to give the congregation a brief update as we figure out how we can help during this very difficult time. Our Outreach budget has a line item for Emergencies. We think this qualifies as an emergency. We voted at our November meeting to give \$5000 to the North Alabama Food Bank, We also voted to give additional funding for the Clergy Discretionary fund.

We will revisit how we can help at our December meeting. This is why your pledge matters. Without your Stewardship Pledge we would not be able to do what we do.

Thank you and God Bless  
Michael Shipley  
Nativity Outreach



## Becoming One Body

Fite Construction is making tremendous progress on our accessibility project! Elevator shafts are now being excavated, and the new ADA-accessible bathrooms—located on the third floor of Joffrion, in the choir room, and next to Bibb Chapel—have all been roughed in. Thank you for your continued patience as we navigate this season of growth together.



The Becoming One Body Capital Campaign is still underway, and we have not yet reached our amended goal of \$5 million. As you consider your end-of-year giving, we invite you to reflect on how your gift can help us fully realize our vision of an accessible church where every person can enter, participate, and belong. When all are able to take part in the life of the church, we are truly One Body in Christ.

There are several ways to give, including Qualified Charitable Distributions (QCDs) from your IRA, gifts of stock, or contributions made by cash or check. Please remember that, for 2025 tax purposes, gifts must be post-marked or received in the parish office by December 31, 2025. If you have any questions, please contact Austin Cook, Director of Finance at 256-533-2455 or [acook@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:acook@nativity-hsv.org). Click [HERE](#) to make a pledge to the Becoming One Body Campaign.

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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY

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

*Click [HERE](#) for the October  
Vestry Minutes*

**Parish Financial Report October 2025**

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$132,934.59	\$104,773.56	\$1,329,345.82	\$1,245,722.78
Plate	\$15,312.50	\$14,957.00	\$153,125.00	\$171,350.42
Other Revenues	\$12,225.34	\$8,014.78	\$122,253.32	\$148,029.67
Total Income	\$160,472.43	\$127,745.34	\$1,604,724.14	\$1,565,102.87
Diocese & Missions	\$17,789.67	\$14,355.68	\$177,896.66	\$168,260.76
Outreach	\$14,823.80	\$13,001.30	\$148,246.90	\$149,387.90
Personnel	\$88,378.38	\$87,938.96	\$883,783.57	\$849,519.46
Other Expenses	\$39,476.01	\$36,678.53	\$394,795.98	\$380,798.06
Total Expenses	\$160,467.86	\$151,974.47	\$1,604,723.11	\$1,547,966.18
Net	(\$0.43)	(\$24,229.13)	\$1.03	\$17,136.69