

The Steeple

November 2025



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
208 Eustis Avenue
Huntsville, Alabama 35801
www.nativity-hsv.org
256-533-2455

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

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 Bob Serio, MD
Deacon
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Lane Tutt- Groundskeeper
ltutt@nativity-hsv.org

Keke Warren- Nursery Manager

Marlin Wilder- Assistant Facilities Manager

The Building Always Wins... or does it?

by The Rev. Melissa M. Hartley, PhD

Most of us are familiar with the saying, “The building always wins,” in regards to liturgical space. Today, of course, many buildings that we have inherited may not reflect the vision of the 1979 prayer book which encourages the participation of the people – all the people. What do we do when our beautiful, historic space no longer supports the current mission of the parish? We have to be creative in finding ways to not allow the building to win.

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity is a vibrant, growing parish located just off the square in downtown Huntsville, Alabama. Founded in 1843, the current nave was completed in 1859. The building is on the historic register and is a lovely example of church architecture during this time. Unfortunately, steps that lead up to the chancel and sacristy prohibit anyone with mobility issues from being a lector, acolyte, eucharistic minister, chorister, serving on the altar or flower guild, or from receiving communion at the altar.

Several years ago, Nativity adopted a set of core values for the parish. It reads, in part: “Worship is at the center of all that we are and do; Accessibility is essential to respecting the dignity of all who enter our doors; Christian Formation is vital to our spiritual lives; we believe in Community Outreach as we strive to serve all; Care of Creation allows us to be good stewards of God’s gifts.” It became clear that the lack of accessibility was prohibiting full participation in worship and, in order to hold these two core values together, change would need to happen.

The parish set out on a \$4.5 million capital campaign not only to make the nave accessible, but the entire campus, as well. This includes numerous ramps, walkways, two elevators, and additional restrooms. The campaign adopted the title, “Becoming One Body,” from Romans 12:5, “We, who are many, are one body in Christ, and individually, we are members of one another.” Staying focused on the core values of the parish, the campaign states: “Becoming One Body is more than just making our worship and meeting spaces accessible. It is removing barriers so that all people can participate fully in the

life and ministry of this parish. Making these changes will ensure that we stand on a firm foundation to carry out our mission to serve all people.”

Part of Nativity’s mission is to be a place, “where faith holds wide the door,” which comes from the Phillips Brooks poem and later hymn O Little Town of Bethlehem. The parish has been very supportive of the accessibility campaign, recognizing that many of the doors have not been open to everyone, but faith will lead its members to open them widely. As the campaign notes: “Buildings don’t reach people, we do! The building has always been, and will continue to be, the place from where we do God’s work. We are a place ‘where faith holds wide the door.’ We need our buildings to express the warmth and welcome of our people.”

As a part of the accessibility campaign, Nativity has also taken on two related projects. There is now a state of the art sound system with hearing assist so that everyone can hear and more fully participate in worship. Additionally, a Sensory Room, especially for children who are sensitive to light and sound, has been added for those who need a break during worship or program times. The Sensory Room is staffed by behavior therapy technicians.

One Body Construction Underway!

by Minda Alexander

If you have been to church in the past few weeks, you have seen changes everywhere you look. The long-anticipated construction is happening, and it's exciting to see. The hole for the elevator shaft has been partially dug. This is crucial to the entire project as the elevator cannot be ordered until the shaft is complete so that precise measurements can be made. Elsewhere, walls have been removed in Ridley to prepare for the bathroom upgrades and renovations. There are blocked hallways, unusable bathrooms, and directional signs every which way you turn.

There are some minor inconveniences, but our parishioners have been champions making adjustments and finding their way to alternative restrooms and meeting areas. Please be respectful of the construction areas for your own safety when you are in the building(s). We will all be utilizing improved and accessible spaces before we know it, and updates will be posted here as the changes happen.



Click [HERE](#) to see the current gallery of construction photos!



Click [HERE](#) to pledge to the Becoming One Body Campaign



Stewardship

Dear Fellow Parishioners,

If you have attended any Nativity event over the last several weeks, you know that our 2026 Stewardship Season is now in full swing. During this time, we've invited those who call Nativity "home" to spend time in prayer, discerning their pledges for the coming year.

This year, the Stewardship Committee has adopted the following as our mission statement:
"Stewardship is the process of the transformation of church, community, and self."

Over the years, your gifts have provided a safe space for the city of Huntsville to play, rest, and worship. They have made possible countless opportunities for fellowship and service — from sharing meals and ministering to the homebound, to building beds for children and fostering meaningful, life-changing relationships. Most importantly, your generosity has created an environment where lives are continually being transformed by the love of Christ.

If you've read any of my previous letters for this year's campaign, you already know a little about my family and how we were drawn to Nativity. I believe it's important to recognize the light this congregation shines into every corner of our city. I also want to acknowledge that many of you receiving this letter have been long-time members of Nativity, faithfully giving year after year. It would be remiss of me not to thank you sincerely for your continued generosity. My family, along with so many others in this community, have been the grateful beneficiaries of your faithfulness.

My deepest hope is that, as we reflect on the past and look forward to the future, you are able to see the evidence of how God has transformed this church, this community, and your own life more and more into God's likeness. I pray that you recognize how your gifts—regardless of size—have been instruments of that transformation.

Included with this letter is a link to a pledge card, and the ask is simple: seek the Lord through this process and be faithful. We are praying that each of us would give from a place of joy, eager to participate in the restorative work of loving God and loving our neighbors.

Grace and Peace,
Joel Boyce
Stewardship Committee Chair

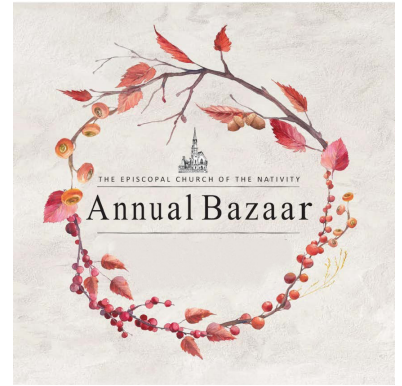


Click [HERE](#) for the 2026 Pledge Card

Nativity Bazaar

We are excited to be able to have the Bazaar even if it will be modified due to construction. This year we will have takeouts only for \$28 each. Delivery options are available for orders of 15 or more. You can also purchase chances to win prizes from Topiary Tree, Terrame, Walker's Market, Brooks and Collier, The Toy Place, Little B's embroidery, and more! The Bazaar will benefit Merrimack Huntsville. If you are interested in volunteering, please reach out to Lauren Chenweth

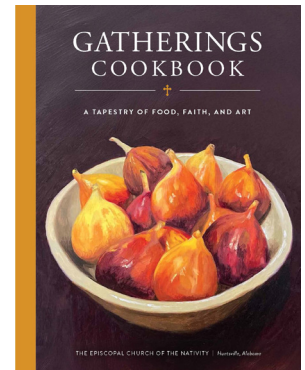
laurenchenoweth0@gmail.com. Click [HERE](#) to purchase or visit the Bazaar table in Ridley Hall between the 8:45 and 11am services.



Nativity Cookbook Update

by The Cookbook Committee

After taking pre-sale orders each Sunday in Ridley Hall from June through August, pre-sale offerings of Gatherings continued at Greene Street Market during September and October. This was our first venture outside the walls of Nativity, and we were delighted with the interest shown by members of our community who stopped by our tent, perused the pages of the preview books, and placed their orders. The pre-sale phase ended on October 1 after we were notified by our publisher that our cookbook order was being delivered to Huntsville on October 6th! At that time, we had sold almost 1,000 copies and the orders continued to pour in! To date, we have sold almost 1,200 copies.



We also gained publicity at the diocesan level with a 2-page article published in the September 2025 issue of The Alabama Episcopalian, titled "Gatherings - A Cookbook Born from Fellowship and Faith". Special thanks to Amy Brooks who spearheaded the formulation of the content of the article which told the story of how the idea for a new cookbook was born out of the isolation of the pandemic, the many volunteers involved in its creation, and the inclusion of prayers from our clergy and artwork and stories from the congregation.

The Cookbook Committee would like to express our sincere gratitude to the following people who volunteered their time and muscle to unpack the 375 boxes of books that were delivered on eight pallets by an 18-wheeler on October 6th: Michael Shipley, Tom Lydon, Justin Eby, Chris Singer, and Debbie Collette. The committee is also grateful for the gracious generosity of Lynne Berry who donated warehouse space for the storage of our cookbook shipment. It has facilitated the distribution of the pre-sale books with its close proximity to the church. Special thanks also goes out to Sharon Darty, Dottie Crawford, and Jeannette McCullar who have been present in Ridley Hall each Sunday in October to assist us in distributing pre-sale cookbooks to the congregation. If you have not yet picked up your pre-sale book, you may do so by stopping by the church office during the week.

Cookbook are still available for purchase online. The sales price is \$48. Here are several ways you can place an order:

- (a) Nativity Scene Email - you can order by clicking the link in the weekly cookbook article.
- (b) Episcopal Church of the Nativity Website (www.nativity-hsv.org) - you can order by clicking on the image of the Gatherings Cookbook on the home page.
- (c) Sunday Service Leaflet - you can order by clicking the QR code in the Nativity cookbook announcement.
- (d) Contact Lea Ann Barnett (256-797-5158, email leabarn@comcast.net) or Janet Robbins (256-797-4236, email janet@janetmasonrobbins.com)
- (e) Contact the church office at 256-533-2455 for assistance if you have any issues with any of the online options above.

Online orders will be delivered to the church office for pickup on Mondays and Wednesdays between 9 am to 12 pm.

If you would like to purchase a cookbook in person, we have reserved a tent for the Greene Street Market Holiday Markets - the first holiday market is on Sunday, November 16th, and the second holiday market is Sunday, December 14th! Also, the cookbook is currently for sale in the following local shops: Lawrens on Regal Drive, Please Reply on Whitesburg Drive, and Walker's Market on Wellman Avenue. It is also available in Arab at Fine Things. Please consider the purchase of this cookbook as a gift for Christmas, birthday, anniversary, wedding, Mother's Day, or "just because." Help us reach our goal of selling all of our cookbooks to benefit our One Body Accessibility Campaign.

We would like to leave you with a few comments and reactions we have received from people who have purchased Gatherings. Their kind and gracious words have made worthwhile the hours of hard work over the last 4 years:

"My husband handed me my copy of Gatherings last night after the Market and I have only spent about 30 minutes looking through it, but started at the beginning, read the Dedication, Forward, and the first few recipes and stories--you guys knocked it out of the park! I had flipped through your samples some months ago in Ridley and was impressed, but holding the finished product has made me so proud of your work, our artists, our cooks, and our entire church family."


"All I can say is WOW!!!! The cookbook is a real treasure of beautiful things. I haven't read the recipes but have read the stories. My favorite is the one about Emile and the hot sauce mix up. What a hoot! Please pass on to everyone involved that they have done a wonderful job. It is absolutely beautiful, and brought back so many memories from decades ago."

"It is astonishing!" - a patron at Greene Street Market

"My teenage daughter was looking through the cookbook and she has written on the inside cover a list of the recipes with page numbers she plans to make! She has been inspired!"

"The amazing GATHERINGS arrived today and I think it is absolutely wonderful! I am honored to be a part of this stellar project. Thank you and all those who worked on it for including my paintings as part of it. I'm eager to sit with it this weekend and read all the stories. What a wonderful gift I have to give my daughter and daughter-in-law for Christmas!!"


Music



*Choral Evensong for the
Feast of All Saints
November 2, 2025*

4:30pm, Organ recital, Aaron Tan
Contemporary Organ Works from England and America
Wild Mossy Mountains, Judith Weir
The Tree of Peace, Judith Weir
Pastorale and Aviary, Myron Roberts
Jesus Loves Me (*Gospel Preludes*), William Bolcom
Fugue: Con moto (*Sonata No. 1*), Basil Harwood

5:00pm, Choral Evensong
Preces and Responses, Richard Ayleward
Magnificat and Nunc dimittis in C, Sir Charles V. Stanford
Psalm 148, Thomas Walmisley
Justorum animae, Stanford
Hymn: In our day of thanksgiving (ST. CATHERINE'S COURT)
Postlude in D Minor, op. 105, no. 6, Stanford



The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
208 Eustis Street • Huntsville, AL 35801 • 256-533-2455
www.nativity-hsv.org

Organ Concert at 4:30pm
Evensong at 5pm
****Reception to follow in Ridley Hall.**

Vestry Nominations 2026-2028

The Vestry nomination process is underway and will be completed by November. The Nominating Committee is grateful for the thoughtful responses from parishioners who are willing to offer their time and talents to serve this parish. The committee will propose a slate of six candidates to assume the responsibilities of the six who are completing their three-year term and rotating off the vestry at the end of this year. We are looking for active church members who would like to represent our diverse and growing parish and are willing to commit to serve a three-year term.

The nomination period will end in November. The six candidates proposed by the Nominating Committee will be voted on at the annual Parish Meeting in January 2026. If you would like to be considered for the 2026 slate of Vestry nominees, please read and complete the questionnaire, which you can download [HERE](#) or pick up a paper copy at the office or in Ridley Hall. The office is open Monday-Friday from 9:00 am until 4:00 pm. You may also fill out the application online by clicking [HERE](#).

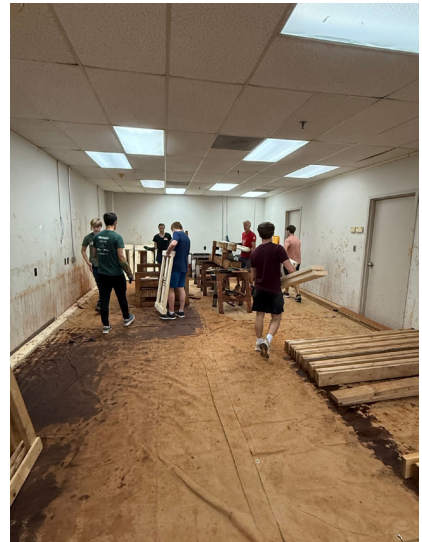
All respondents will receive an acknowledgement for their submission. Please contact Nominating Committee Chair Jerry Nutt (256-509-1836, jerry.nutt@gmail.com) if you have any questions or if your response has not been acknowledged.

Sleep in Heavenly Peace Bed Build

About Sleep in Heavenly Peace:

(SHP) is a volunteer-driven nonprofit dedicated to building and delivering hand-made, fully furnished beds to children in need. SHP's mission is to tackle childhood bedlessness, which we estimate to affect nearly 3% of the population.

This year, the Nativity bed build was dedicated to the memory of John Cline, a dedicated volunteer for SHP. We partnered with St. Thomas Episcopal Church and together we built 60 beds in 1.5 hours. Volunteers are still needed to deliver beds! We are still taking monetary donations and twin bedding sets. To help with bed delivery, please contact Bob Serio (bserio@nativity-hsv.org). To make a financial contribution, please click [HERE](#) or send a check to the church office with SHP in the memo line. Bedding may be dropped off at the church office or in Ridley Hall.



Parents with Young Children

by Douglas Rathel

The Parent's Group with Small Children meets monthly on the second Monday of each month. We have this date marked and circled on our calendars and look forward to it each month. Our group meets from 5:30 p.m until 7:00 p.m. While the moms and dads meet in their respective groups, the children enjoy dinner and playtime in the nursery.

Our group has been meeting consistently for over two years. During this time our group has grown with new families and many babies! It is exciting watching this group evolve with new members- of all ages. While the children play the parents enjoy much needed adult fellowship. We often spend time reading an article or devotion that relates to our daily lives as parents. This usually sparks great conversations. One neat thing about our group is that we have kids from new born all the way to second graders. It is really valuable listening to advice from moms and dads who have walked before us in these different seasons.

While we only meet once a month, this group has become close friends outside of the church walls. The parents have special bonds with each other as do our kids. We are excited for our kids to have these cherished friendships as they grow up at Nativity.

This group is open to all families with young kids and we would love to have you join us!

Christmas Conference

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.

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!



Advent Activities for Kids

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

Youth Ski Trip

Click [HERE](#) to join the waitlist!



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

Questions about Youth Ministry? Contact Madi Bell-Colpack
mbcolpack@nativity-hsv.org

<div></div> <div>NOVEMBER 2025</div> <div></div>						
Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
30 Intergenerational Advent Wreath Making NO EYC						01
02 Sunday School + EYC	03	04	05 EYC Bfast Club	06	07	08
09 Sunday School + EYC+ Club 56	10	11 EYC serves @ Veterans' Day Breakfast	12 EYC Honest Coffee	13	14 PARISH RETREAT	15 PARISH RETREAT
16 PARISH RETREAT (No SS & EYC)	17	18	19 EYC Bfast Club	20 Bizaar take out	21	22
23 Sunday School NO EYC	24	25	26	27 Thanksgiving	28	29



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 BFAST 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 BFAST 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

The Feast of All Saints

by Mother Melissa

In the Church calendar, All Saints' Day is celebrated on November 1. All Saints is a feast day that recognizes all the saints of God. Who are the saints of God? Broadly defined, all the baptized are considered the saints of God, both past and present. On All Saints' Day, we particularly remember not only the famous saints of the Church, but also those in our own lives who have gone before us in the faith. In the Episcopal Church, All Saints' Day is a principal feast, which means that it ranks right alongside Easter Day and Christmas Day. In fact, All Saints is the only day in the Church calendar that is

celebrated on its day, November 1, and also on the Sunday following (so, for us this year, November 2). Additionally, All Saints is one of only four days that the prayer book notes as "especially appropriate" for baptisms. All Saints is a unique day in the Church because it intentionally reaches across time – back in time to remember saints of old, in our current time recognizing the saints among us, and forward in time by baptizing those who will carry on the faith. Saints that were – saints that are – saints that will be. Here at Nativity, we will celebrate the Feast on All Saints on Sunday, November 2, with baptisms at both the 8:45am and 11:00am services, as well as the renewal of baptismal vows at 7:30am. We also will read the names of all those members of Nativity who have died since All Saints' Day 2024. We hope you will join us on this special day in the life of the Church as we celebrate all the saints of God.



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.



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

Parish Engagement

VETERAN'S DAY PANCAKE BREAKFAST

Join us for a
pancake breakfast
before the parade in honor
of our veterans!

Pancakes served from
9:30-10:30

Tuesday, November 11th

Advent Wreath Making



Sunday, November 30th
10am in Ridley Hall

stop by
for

CHRISTMAS PARADE HOSPITALITY

The Welcome Center
208 Eustis Avenue

Tuesday, December 2nd
6-8pm

Stewardship of Creation

by Clarissa Sharp

How about a 2 degree shift?

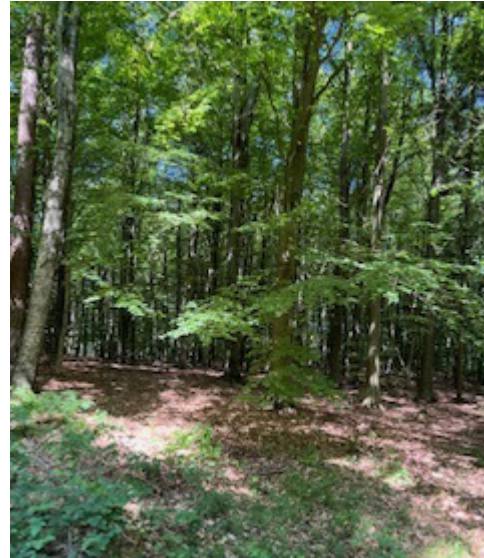
On the radio recently, someone said they were so very grateful they “got in to life”. They were invited to the party of beautiful life! This thought gives pause. We are all here, chosen to be here, as were all the other living things, natural wonders, and magnificent earthly miracles.

Thinking of our earthly life with this perspective not only brings gratitude, but may help us believe in the notion of caring for our Earth island. It sounds like a big task made for people more important and powerful than us. But how about a 2 degree shift? A small choice, that over time leads to a substantial change.

It is amazing how important Nature is to our health, Physical and Mental. Some have said that our living depends on nature. From birth we are soothed by being outside. The benefits of the natural world carry on throughout our lives. This modern world is full of so much information, making it hard to focus our attention, to pay attention, and is affecting our ability to direct our attention. When you get attention fatigue a walk outside can restore our directed attention by activating our involuntary attention. There is science to prove we need our earth.

Maybe God knew in order to make it at this party, we needed a beautiful earth

A 2 degree shift may look like....no more plastic bottles, mindfully thinking about the 4 R's before a purchase(Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle), decreasing christmas gifts or decorations. There is not one way, but everyone can probably make a small change. Just imagine what a collective 2 degree shift could accomplish for our earth, our health, our happiness.



Here are some videos for inspiration:

- “Apollo 8”: Bishop Curry. Sermon from 50th Anniversary of the Apollo 8 Moon Landing <https://www.c-span.org/video/?455787-2/50th-anniversary-apollo-8> (begins at 21:00 time stamp)
- Film: “Three Seconds” | Spencer Sharp & Prince Ea (4 minutes) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sacc_x-XB1Y

During 2025, your Nativity Stewardship of Creation Committee hosted, sponsored, or participated in the following:

- *Winter Sunday School Class “Love god, Love God’s World”
- *April Creation Sunday, John Gatta, Author of The Green Gospel
- *Bud Cramer Park Spring Clean up with our youth
- *Greene Street Market Booth, October 23. Providing Native plants and information
- *A variety of books in Joffrion Library: left back wall with Green dots

In January of 2026, we are providing a 10-12 week Sunday School Class exploring John Gatta’s book, The Green Gospel. He has provided material for us to watch, discuss, and to learn.

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 the foyer of 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.

How Can I Help?

It is difficult to know how we can help during this time of government shut down and potential disruption of benefits from SNAP and EBT. One way we can help is to keep our little pantry stocked in the Greene Street Parking lot or by donating to any of the clergy's discretionary funds which will assist people with rent, utilities or other needs. .

Huntsville Learning Center has also expressed concern for their families because many of them are dependent on EBT for their food, if you would like to drop off items there directly, they can make sure they get to those in need.

The Russell Erskin apartments also have an area set up for non-perishable food donations and have a refrigerator for milk and egg donations, if you are interested in dropping food off there, please contact Sara Jane Tartar, 256-337-9541.

The families at New Futures Family Homeless Shelter are also in need and you can deliver directly to the shelter, located at 3419 Verona Ave NW.

Huntsville Assistance Program also distributes food every week, we have bins for them in Ridley Hall, and you can drop off their or directly at the organizations office, Monday/Wednesday/Friday 1:00 to 3:00 PM at 1001 Monroe Street SW.

If you have any questions or are in need of help yourself, please reach out to Mother Rosie at the church office.

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.



Sawyerville

by Kana Goldsmith

I'm excited to share two things with you: a short video and our most recent program report. Both offer a glimpse into the joy, learning, and growth that happen each summer because of the generous support of partners like Nativity.

Nativity plays such a vital role in making Sawyerville sustainable—not only financially, but through the spirit of love, service, and commitment. Nativity's continued support ensures that children and youth in Hale County have opportunities to learn, grow, and thrive year after year, and that our Nativity high school staff gain invaluable leadership experience as they dedicate their summers to serving others.

We are grateful for Nativity!

Click [HERE](#) for the Annual Report

Click [HERE](#) for the 2025 Thanks Be to God Video



Delegates for Convention Needed

The Episcopal Diocese of Alabama 195th Annual Diocesan Convention will be Feb. 5-7, 2026, at Camp McDowell.

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 November 21, 2025.



THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE
NATIVITY

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

Parish Financial Report September 2025

Click [HERE](#) for the September Vestry Minutes

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$132,934.59	\$81,438.61	\$1,196,411.23	\$1,140,949.22
Plate	\$15,312.50	\$15,962.28	\$137,812.50	\$156,393.42
Other Revenues	\$12,225.34	\$7,876.36	\$110,027.98	\$140,014.89
Total Income	\$160,472.43	\$105,277.25	\$1,444,251.71	\$1,437,357.53
Diocese & Missions	\$17,789.67	\$11,688.11	\$160,106.99	\$153,905.08
Outreach	\$14,823.80	\$15,001.30	\$133,422.10	\$136,386.60
Personnel	\$88,378.38	\$89,059.93	\$795,405.19	\$761,580.50
Other Expenses	\$39,476.01	\$35,790.03	\$355,315.97	\$344,119.53
Total Expenses	\$160,467.86	\$151,539.37	\$1,444,250.25	\$1,395,991.71
Net	(\$0.43)	(\$46,262.12)	\$1.46	\$41,365.82