



# The Steeple

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity  
.....where faith holds wide the door



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# HOLY WEEK

## PALM SUNDAY- APRIL 13

7:30AM- THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I,BIBB CHAPEL

8:45AM- THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II,NAVE

11:00AM- THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II,NAVE

## MONDAY APRIL 14 & TUESDAY APRIL 15

NOONDAY PRAYER,BIBB CHAPEL

## WEDNESDAY APRIL 16

12:00PM- THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II, WITH HEALING, NAVE  
SOUP LUNCH TO FOLLOW IN RIDLEY HALL

## MAUNDY THURSDAY- APRIL 17

7:00PM- THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II, NAVE

## GOOD FRIDAY- APRIL 18

12:00PM- GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY, NAVE

5:30PM- STATIONS OF THE CROSS, MEMORIAL GARDEN

7:00PM- GOOD FRIDAY LITURGY, NAVE

## HOLY SATURDAY- APRIL 19

7:00PM- THE GREAT EASTER VIGIL\*, NAVE

## EASTER SUNDAY- APRIL 20

7:30AM- THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE I,BIBB CHAPEL

8:45AM- THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II, NAVE

10:00AM- EASTER EGG HUNT FOR CHILDREN, COURTYARD

11:00AM- THE HOLY EUCHARIST RITE II\*, NAVE

\*INCENSE IS USED IN THIS SERVICE

# Holy Week

Holy Week begins on April 13, with Palm Sunday, as we remember Jesus entering Jerusalem and being hailed as king. We begin with the blessing of palm branches, representing the palms that would have been laid down before Jesus. This festive service takes a somber turn during the reading of the Passion Gospel, which serves as a foreshadowing of the events to come.

Maundy Thursday begins what is known as the “Triduum,” meaning the “Great Three Days,” as these are the most significant days in the Christian calendar. “Maundy,” meaning commandment, calls to mind Jesus’ commandment for us to love and serve one another. Jesus demonstrated this by washing the feet of his disciples. During this service, those who wish will have the opportunity to participate in the foot washing ceremony. This service also commemorates the Lord’s Supper, as we remember it was on this night that Jesus instituted the sacrament of his body and blood. Following the Eucharist, the altar is stripped, remembering that Jesus was stripped of his garments.

Good Friday is a quiet and solemn day, as we remember Jesus’ crucifixion. John’s Passion Gospel will be read, and we will pray the Solemn Collects. There will also be time for personal reflection before the cross.

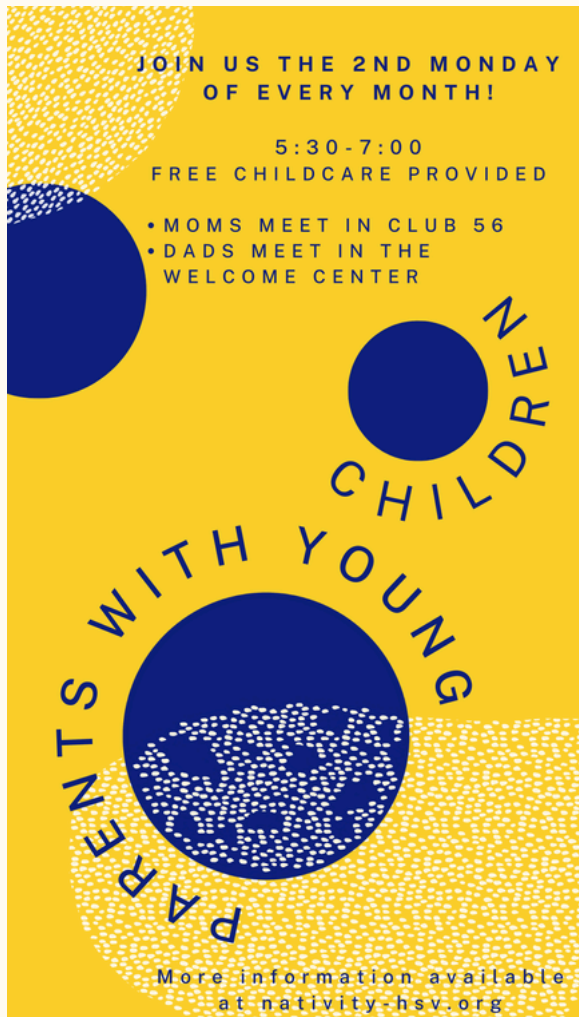
Holy Saturday is the day we remember Jesus in the tomb... until the time of the Great Vigil of Easter on Saturday evening. On this night, the congregation enters the church in darkness as though we were entering the tomb. The Paschal Candle (representing the light of Christ) leads the way into the church and the Exsultet, one of the oldest liturgical texts, is sung. Several readings follow, as we hear of God’s saving deeds in history. Baptism is part of this service, as it was the primary day for baptism in the ancient Church. Following baptism, the lights come on, the organ strikes up, joy abounds, and the first Eucharist of Easter is celebrated. Many regard this service as the holiest one of the year as we witness the resurrection of Christ and pass over, with him, from death to life.

Easter Day continues the celebration of the Resurrection the next morning as we herald the good news of the Gospel with the words, “Alleluia. Christ is risen. The Lord is risen indeed. Alleluia.”

-Mother Melissa

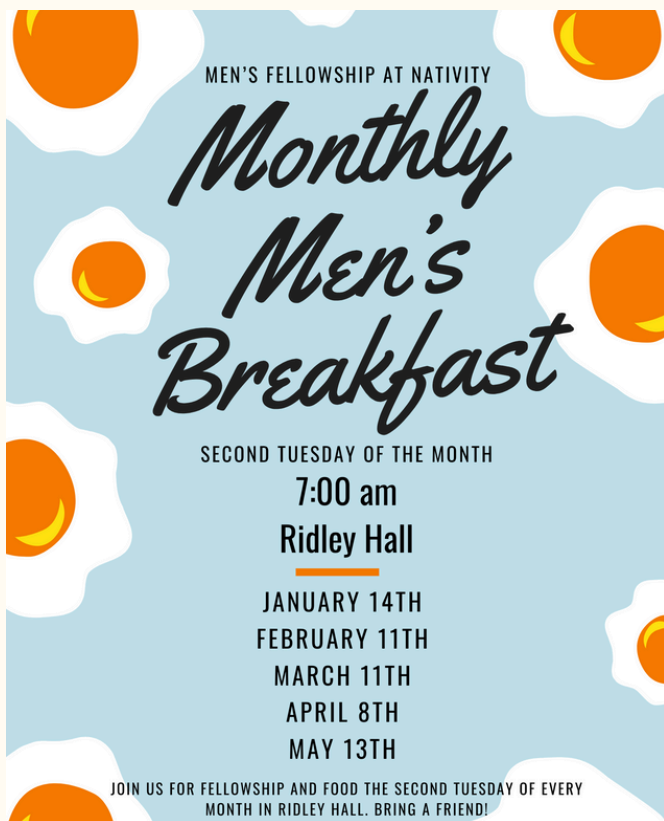


# PARISH ENGAGEMENT



## PARENTS OF YOUNG CHILDREN

Calling all parents of young children! This group meets on the 2nd Monday of every month. Free childcare and dinner for the kids are provided. Moms meet in Club 56 and Dads meet in the Welcome Center. This month's meeting is April 14th from 5:30-7pm.



## Men's Breakfast

Join us for the Men's Breakfast group on Tuesday, April 15th at 7:00am. All are welcome for food and fellowship!



# PARISH ENGAGEMENT

## CNW

Join the Nativity women  
Sunday, April 27<sup>th</sup> from 5-7pm  
as they cook for the youth  
group! Meet in Ridley Hall!



## Lunch Bunch

The Lunch Bunch is a group,  
usually ages 55+ who enjoy food,  
fellowship, and outreach  
projects. Click [HERE](#) to let us  
know you are coming or call the  
church office 256-533-2455.



## Lunch Bunch

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Join the lunch bunch in Ridley Hall  
Tuesday, April 22nd at 12pm for food  
and fellowship! Questions?  
Deacon Bob bserio@nativity-hsv.org



# PARISH ENGAGEMENT

LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH IS

## CHURCH NIGHT

**April 30th**

**FREE SPAGHETTI SUPPER SERVED  
FROM 5:30-6:30 IN RIDLEY HALL**

**NURSERY & DROP IN ACTIVITIES FOR  
CHILDREN OF ALL AGES 5:30-7:00**

**\*NURSERY OPENS AT 5:00PM**

**MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE FOR  
COMMITTEES, REUNION GROUPS AND  
BIBLE STUDY GROUPS**



[CLICK HERE](#)  
TO LET US KNOW  
YOU ARE COMING

# OUTREACH

## SHOE COLLECTION



### First Stop

We are collecting new tennis shoes for First Stop for the Maundy Thursday Shoe Cleaning/Give Away Event. Please place shoes in the marked bins in Ridley Hall. If you are able to help with the event on Thursday, April 17<sup>th</sup> at 10am, please contact Mother Rosie.

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

Click [HERE](#) for the article featuring last year's even.

## sawyerville

### Swimsuit Collection



*Girls Size M (8-9)*



*Boys Size M (30)*

*Please place them in the bin in  
Ridley Hall.*



# STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

“Flowers appear on the earth; the season of singing has come; the cooing of dove is heard in our land.” Song of Solomon 2:12.

Spring is here. Whether you mark it by calendar, wildflowers, rain, or groundhog; spring is here. All the tell-tale signs have passed except the most important marker – Easter. While the natural world has begun to resurrect from winter, the celebration of our spiritual resurrection has not yet come. It seems our liturgical calendar is running a little late this year. As the Lenten season starts to close, we have God’s Creation to look to for hope of our restoration and also as an opportunity to Steward.

Lent is a time for piety and humility in preparation for Easter. A time both to reflect on our shortcomings, and also strive to follow closer to Christ. This theme was tackled in relation to God’s Creation in the Stewards of Creation Sunday school. For nine weeks, we learned the ways that our ignorance has damaged the natural world, but we also discussed hope for its restoration. Nativity has made its own strides towards harmony with God’s Creation through recycling, emphasis on reusable plates and utensils, water refill stations, and sustainability audits. After Lent, Nativity will continue to promote Stewardship with Creation Care Sunday.

On April 27th, Nativity will host Creation Care Sunday, a celebration and acknowledgement of God’s first wonders. As part of the event, Nativity will host a guest speaker. John Gatta, PhD will be speaking on the theme of Stewardship of Creation at 10 am. Dr. Gatta is the professor emeritus of English at Sewanee: The University of the South and an author of several books including Green Gospel: Foundations of Ecotheology. Please mark your planners support this event! Perhaps Creation Care Sunday will mark yet another sign of spring.

-Jack Fitzpatrick

# Greene Street Market by Pattie Cline



Greene Street Market began in 2010 with an idea, a purpose, a lot of hard work, and many prayers. After 15 years, we have evolved into a 501(c)3 organization, managed entirely by volunteers. Over \$350,000. has been donated to organizations in need in the Huntsville community. Groups such as Boys and Girls Clubs of North Alabama, Manna House, First Stop, Meals on Wheels, Kids to Love and many more have received our gifts. These funds are generated from sponsors, donations, and income from our tent/space rental to vendors. Our volunteers give their time and talents year-round to create a special place where all are welcome.

If you enjoy GREEN STREET MARKET and what it offers, become a GSM VOLUNTEER by calling Marilyn Evans at 256-682-4429. If you prefer to DONATE, send a check ( made to GSM ) to the church, 208 Eustis Avenue, 35801. Your donations will purchase market equipment and repair items we have (tents, tables, chairs ). These donations also are distributed to people in need each year through our community gift. If you are interested in sponsoring a market, contact Pattie Cline at 259-651-6497.

Most importantly, your support in any capacity greatly benefits our farmers, shoppers, and our beloved Huntsville community. This helps strengthen the healthy food system we have been building for 15 years.




# BIBLE STUDIES

THE GOOD BOOK  
**WOMEN'S BIBLE  
STUDY**

Wednesdays  
Starting January 8  
1:00-2:30pm  
Joffrion Library

Led by:  
The Rev. Susan Sloan  
The Rev. Dr. Virginia Monroe  
Jill Chadwick  
Marina Prucha

Book:  
Short Stories of Jesus  
by Amy Jill Levine



## *Reflections Bible Study*

Thursdays

9:30-11:00am



The Banister Room



Isaiah by Melissa Spoelstra

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


Led By: Mem Bryant, Lisa Caprio, Debbie  
Collette, Kana Goldsmith, Shelley Whiteney

## MEN'S BIBLE STUDY

 Wednesdays  10:30 AM  
Joffrion Library

**The Lectionary**  
led by Deacon Bob  
[bserio@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:bserio@nativity-hsv.org)





# CURSILLO

**Please pray for our Nativity parishioners who are participating in Cursillo #236 @ Camp McDowell, April 3-6:**

**PILGRIMS:**

- Derek and Emily Cantrell
- April Denney
- Susanna Hamner and Jeff Ridlehoover
- Janet Robbins

**MUSIC STAFF:**

- Mike Ward
- Q Wirtz



**Are you interested in finding out more about the Cursillo Community?**

Cursillo is an incredible intentional community whose goal is the share the love of Christ and raise up Christian leaders for the Church.

The Cursillo journey begins with a weekend at Camp McDowell, followed by small group meetings in your parish, with other churches in your area, and across the Diocese of Alabama.

If you have questions about Cursillo or would like to register for a Cursillo weekend, please contact David or Debbie Collette. Available weekends are as follows:

June 5-8, 2025 (application deadline April 27)

October 9-12, 2025 (application deadline September 4)

*All Cursillo weekends are held at wonderful! wonderful! Camp McDowell*

## **Reminders for members of the Nativity Cursillo Community**

- \* Diocesan Ultreya—April 4-6 @ Camp McDowell<sup>#</sup>
- \* Welcome Back—April 13 in Ridley Hall @ Nativity
- \* Staff Training—May 3 @ Holy Apostles in Hoover<sup>#</sup>
- \* Music Workshop—May 17-18 @ Camp McDowell<sup>#</sup>

*# You can register for these events on our website:  
[alabamacursillo.org](http://alabamacursillo.org)*

# CONFIRMATION



## **2025 Confirmands**

**Youth: Kellen Blalock, Matthew Brown, Sloan Dill, JR Faherty, John Collier Lotz, Tommy Noblitt, Carter Proud, Jefferson Retzke, Diana Sommer, Brooks Whitehead,**

**Adults: Chase Allen, Kayela Allen, Joel, Boyce, Paige Hill, Christopher Fendley, Doug Fitzgerald, Joe Fitzgerald, Robin Flachbart, Dillie Meeks, Michael Miller**

**Received: Kim Board, Martha Boggs, Amanda Boyce  
Reaffirmed: Paige McClellan**





**Thank you to everyone who  
made Sunday so special!**



# NATIVITY CHILDREN

Click [HERE](#) to  
sign up for the  
Children's  
Newsletter!

## HOLY WEEK FOR KIDS

**Sunday, April 13**  
**Palm Sunday**

8:45am The Holy Eucharist Rite II  
with Children's Chapel  
10:00am Palm Cross Making  
11:00am The Holy Eucharist Rite II  
with Children's Chapel

**Saturday, April 19**  
**The Great Vigil of  
Easter**

7:00pm The Great  
Vigil of Easter For Kids

**Sunday, April 20**  
**Easter Sunday**

8:45am The Holy Eucharist Rite II with Children's Chapel  
10:00am Easter Egg Hunt  
11:00am The Holy Eucharist Rite II with Children's Chapel

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



## Nativity Egg Hunt

Children will line up behind the ribbon and wait for the hunt to begin. There is a special section for ages 3 years and under along the side of the Nave. Each child will collect 8 wooden eggs and trade them in for a prize.

**Sunday, April 20**  
**10:00 am in the  
Courtyard**

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



## EASTER VIGIL FOR KIDS

**Saturday, April 19 7:00 pm**

**Drop off before the service in  
Craft Room on Angel Lane.**

# NATIVITY CHILDREN



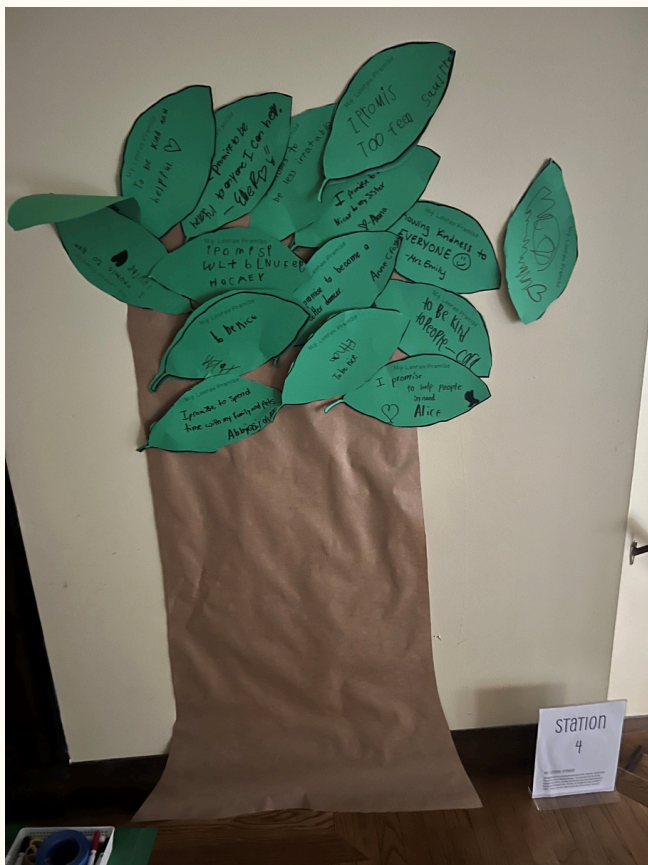
## PLANNING COMMITTEE 2025

### VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

HELP US PLAN AN AMAZING VBS FOR OUR NATIVITY KIDS!

email  
[ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org)  
to sign up!

MEETINGS WILL  
BE AT NIGHT--  
YOU DO NOT  
HAVE TO BE  
AVAILABLE VBS  
WEEK TO HELP  
PLAN!



## Ash Wednesday for Kids!



# NATIVITY YOUTH



Would you like to provide dinner for EYC? [Sign up HERE](#). Message Madi for more details  
mbellcolpack@nativity-hsv.org



## Events at Camp McDowell

Click [HERE](#) to sign up for Spring Conference!

Click [HERE](#) to register for Summer Outreach!



# NATIVITY YOUTH

## RESERVE STUDY SPACE @ NATIVITY

Rooms can be reserved in 1 hour increments.

All youth + college students are invited to use our spaces to study for exams!

Snacks & brain boosts provided!

**Click this image for the sign up!**



*Burning Ashes  
for Ash Wednesday!*

# YOUNG ADULTS

## NATIVITY YOUNG ADULTS

**MAR  
4**

### SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE PARTY

@5:30PM // Come enjoy free  
pancake dinner!

### COOKING FOR COLLEGE GROUP @ 5:30

Come help prepare a meal and St.  
Patrick's themed punch & dessert

**MAR  
17**

**APR  
10**

### TOUR W/ ALTAR GUILD

6:30 PM // Enjoy a tour w/ Altar Guild then  
dinner @ Sam & Greg's (provided by Nativity)

### EVENING W/ FLOWER GUILD

7:00 - 9:00PM // Take home a  
floral arrangement after a visit w/  
Flower Guild!

**MAY  
8**



**MORE INFO:**

**[MBELLCOLPACK@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG](mailto:MBELLCOLPACK@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG)**



### Parish Financial Report February 2025

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$132,934.59	\$187,072.04	\$265,869.10	\$324,085.38
Plate	\$15,312.50	\$14,034.50	\$30,625.00	\$39,002.52
Other Revenues	\$12,225.34	\$8,160.86	\$24,450.60	\$15,521.20
Total Income	\$160,472.43	\$209,267.40	\$320,944.70	\$378,609.10
Diocese & Missions	\$17,789.67	\$24,120.40	\$35,579.30	\$43,558.17
Outreach	\$14,823.80	\$18,001.30	\$29,648.50	\$33,002.50
Personnel	\$88,378.38	\$79,084.15	\$176,756.53	\$161,961.14
Other Expenses	\$39,476.01	\$30,428.91	\$78,955.90	\$68,630.51
Total Expenses	\$160,467.86	\$151,634.76	\$320,940.23	\$307,152.32
Net	(\$0.43)	\$57,632.64	\$4.47	\$71,456.78

**CLICK HERE**  
**FEBRUARY**  
**VESTRY MINUTES**

### Expecting Families

We want to add you to the prayer list!  
Once the baby is born, we want to bring  
you a meal and a little gift!



Contact Rachael Samples to be  
added to the list.  
rsamples@nativity-hsv.org



**CLICK HERE TO**  
**SUBMIT AN EASTER**  
**FLOWER**  
**DEDICATION**

**WE ARE HIRING**

**SENSORY ROOM  
WORKERS**

**SUNDAYS 8AM-12PM**

For more information contact  
**Austin Cook**

256-533-2455  
acook@nativity-hsv.org







The Episcopal Church of the Nativity  
208 Eustis Avenue SE Huntsville, AL 35801  
256.533.2455 Fax: 256.533.2374  
[nativity-hsv.org](http://nativity-hsv.org)

2025 Altar Flower and Easter Flower Dedications  
Available Dates: August 17, 24, 30 September 7, 14, 28  
Easter: April 20, 2025  
The deadline for Easter Dedications is April 13th



Your Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone #: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dates requested: \_\_\_\_\_

Check this Box for Easter: ☐

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

Please choose one:  
\_\_ in loving memory of... \_\_ in thanksgiving for...  
\_\_ in celebration of... \_\_ in honor of...

Will you share this dedication? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO Can we list your name in the bulletin? \_\_\_ YES \_\_\_ NO

Dedications are \$40 or \$20 for Easter Dedications  
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