



The Steeple

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



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Save the Date

**Annual Parish Meeting
and Campaign Kickoff Party!
January 12, 4:00pm**

**There will be nursery as well as kid and
youth activities!**



We will have a van available to bring people to the parish meeting and One Body Capital Campaign kick off Sunday January 12. The meeting starts at 4 pm so pick up will begin about 3:15 pm. If you would like a ride, please contact Deacon Bob (256-509-5931) or call the church office. Availability will be limited.

VESTRY NOMINATIONS

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 group of qualified and committed leaders to be voted on at our annual Parish Meeting on Sunday afternoon, January 12, 2025 at 4:00 pm in the Sanctuary. The Parish will be voting for 5 candidates to replace the 6 Vestry members completing their terms at the end of 2024. The total Vestry consists of 18 members with each member serving a 3 year term.

Our Nominating Committee was composed of 4 Sr. Wardens (the current Sr. Warden plus the previous 3 Sr. Wardens) and 3 At-Large Members. The At-Large Members are voted on by the Vestry and serve a 3 year term. Nominating Committee Members included the following:

Virginia Caruso - Sr. Warden 2021 Elizabeth Foster - At-Large Member (3rd yr)
Jerry Nutt - Sr. Warden 2022 Margaret Day Baker - At-Large Member (2nd yr)
Walt Bradford - Sr. Warden 2023 Rachel Dingess - At-Large Member (1st yr)
Chris Singer - Sr. Warden 2024

A sincere thank you to this Committee for their hard work over the past several months.

The Nominating Committee is grateful for these candidates who represent a broad spectrum of Nativity's membership and who are willing to offer their time and talents in this leadership role. We believe that the proposed nominees have the ability and desire to work with the clergy, staff and current Vestry members to do God's work in Huntsville through our church.

Virginia Caruso - Nominating Committee Chair

VESTRY SLATE

Pamela Briggs



I was born in Austin, Texas into an Episcopal family. My husband Ted and I have been in Huntsville for 30 years and have attended Nativity since (it seems) the day we arrived! As have many before us, we moved to Huntsville for Ted's job in the tech sector. We have two grown sons, Ian and Cord, now 33 and 38 years old.

As a volunteer at Nativity, I have been a lector, an usher, a Sunday School teacher, and I organized the coffee hour after the 11:00 service for many years. I also chaired the drink waitresses for the Bazaar for many years (and this year have happily moved on to being just an "Indian"!) My children have grown up in the Church, and I was active with Youth activities. Currently, I work with The Funeral Hospitality Ministry, I deliver food for Feed My Sheep, and I help to cook breakfast for the homeless at First Stop.

I am an EFM graduate and credit those classes with opening my eyes through a close reading and analysis of the Bible and enriching my understanding of Christianity and religion in general. Upon moving to Huntsville, Ted and I began attending Evie Spearman's Book Class. That class has meant a lot to us. Ted and I also enjoyed attending Cursillo number 183. I love reading and was active on the Board of the Huntsville Literary Association.

I am a graduate of the University of Texas at Austin, and the Southern Methodist University School of Law. I practiced civil law for several years in Austin, and have passed the Alabama Bar, though I have not worked as a practicing attorney for many years.

At this point in my life, I feel that I have the time and inclination to serve and give back to the Church that has meant so much to me and my family over the years. I look forward to serving and participating in the future of this Church Family in a meaningful way.

Gail Brown



I grew up in Louisiana and attended Louisiana Tech and then graduated from LSU/NO with a degree in Elementary Ed. Before marrying Michael I taught remedial math and reading to Mexican American children in south Texas and then kindergarten in Shreveport, La. Michael and I moved to Huntsville 38 years ago and were confirmed at Nativity shortly thereafter. Nativity is dear to our hearts! I have been involved in numerous Nativity activities over the years: taught first grade Sunday School, volunteered at reception desk, EFM, Stephen Ministry, Cursillo, Flower Guild, Altar Guild, DOK, reunion group, prayer shawl ministry, on vestry years ago, ECW and their Thanksgiving meal offered to the public, Outreach Committee, I have enjoyed watching Nativity grow and offer programs and services to so many diverse groups within and outside of the church. I have seen many priests come and go and been thankful for each and every one of them and what they offered Nativity with their talents. I am often reminded of sweet Emile Joffrion standing in the pulpit and saying, "Give til it feels good." So many of our parishioners practice that in their gifts to the church and community. I am proud to be a part of Nativity.



Elizabeth Knight

Originally from south Alabama, Elizabeth Knight grew up in Southern California and attended Redeemer Lutheran Church. Elizabeth and her husband, Mike, have called Huntsville and The Church of the Nativity home since 2007. They have three children: Jackson lives in Denver, Caroline lives in Dallas, and Will is a junior at Huntsville High. Elizabeth participates in EYC event planning and Meals on Wheels. She has also been involved in Children's Sunday School, VBS, Homebound Parishioner Visits, Inner City Learning Center, and Sleep in Heavenly Peace.

Elizabeth received a BS in marketing from the University of Alabama and an MA in elementary education from the University of North Alabama. Elizabeth currently works part-time as a Dyslexia Interventionist at The Loft Literacy Center. She serves on the Loft Literacy Foundation Board and previously served on the board of Habitat for Humanity of Marion County. Elizabeth looks forward to serving on the vestry and supporting the needs of Nativity's growing parish.



Tommy Lotz

Tommy and his wife Margaret have been married for over 30 years and are parents to their four children, Shep, Spencer, John Collier, and Sophie. After living in Hoover, AL for 26 years and being a part of the starting of a new parish (Church of the Holy Apostles) where Tommy participated in a multitude of ministries including Vestry as Sr Warden, Tommy and his family moved to Huntsville on April Fool's Day 2022 and immediately changed their letter to The Church of the Nativity. Tommy has a long history with Huntsville and Episcopal churches. Tommy's Father moved to Huntsville in the late 50's and grew up going to St. Thomas. His great-grandfather was a plank member of St. Thomas as it began as a mission church of Nativity in the late 50's. His Aunt has been a member of St. Stephens since the early 70's. Many of his summer camp friends from his youth called Nativity their home, which influenced his family to join this wonderful parish.

Tommy serves as Regional Vice President of Operations for Alliance Technical Group, based in Decatur, a multidisciplined National Environmental services company focusing on air emissions solutions for various industrial facilities throughout the United States and Canada. In his role as RVP, Tommy uses his experiences as a lifelong Diocese of Alabama Episcopalian. Using the influences of Camp McDowell, Diocesan ministries, and parish family life to build communities, promote operational excellence, and drive sustainability initiatives.



Ward Wilson

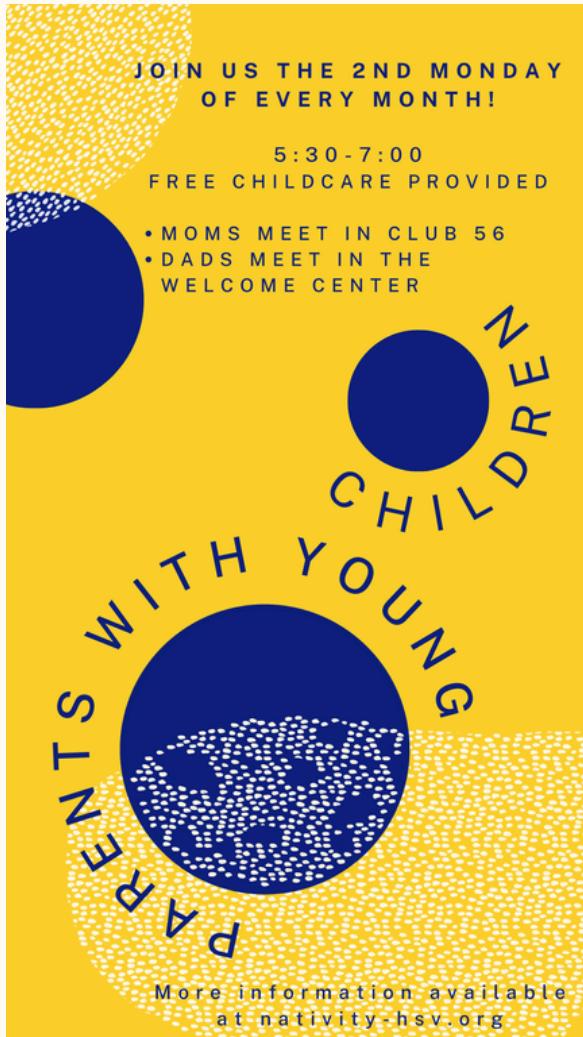
I was born and raised in the Episcopal Church in Knoxville, Tennessee at St. John's Cathedral. After moving to Huntsville in 1993, I joined Nativity, where Mary Beth and I were married in 2001 and our children, Hunter (22) and Anne Louise (17) were baptized and confirmed. At Nativity, I have served on the Stewardship Committee, taught Sunday School for the Sr. EYC and with Mary Beth made a lot of popcorn in Angel Lane. I served as a chaperone on many wonderful EYC trips to NYC, skiing and the Pilgrimage to England in 1999. We attended Cursillo in 2007 and I usher and help as part of the Men's Biscuit crew. I have practiced law in Huntsville for thirty one years, the first nineteen with Lanier Ford and the last twelve with Tatum Wilson P.C, where my practice centers on mediation and insurance defense.

Our son is an Eagle Scout and I was very active with his troop, serving as Advancement Chair for four years and completing a Philmont trek in 2017. Anne Louise is a soccer player. I am on the Board of the Huntsville High Soccer Booster Club and a member of the HHS PTA. I enjoy hiking, exercising, coin collecting, University of Tennessee sports and barbecuing.

I look forward to helping this wonderful Parish in any way I can.

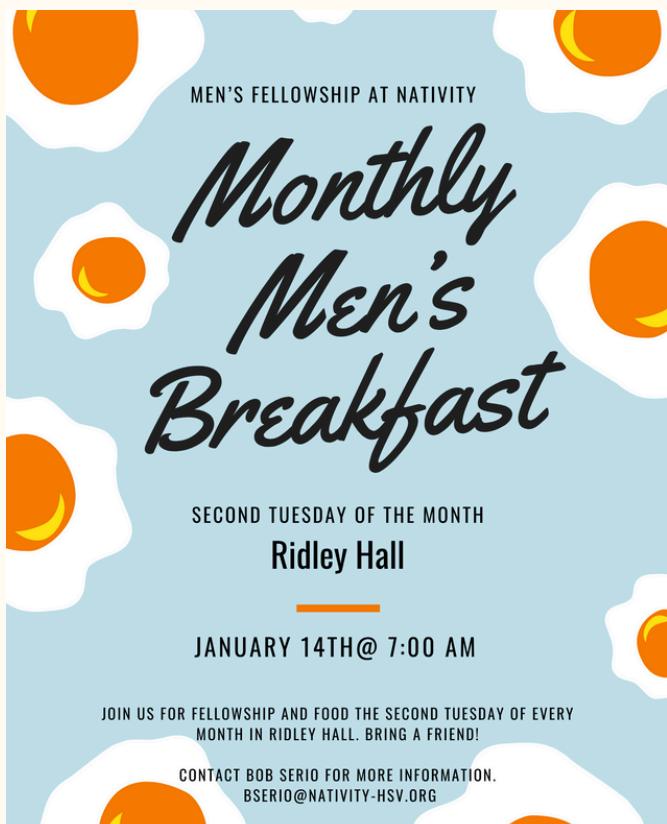


PARISH ENGAGEMENT



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 January 13th from 5:30-7pm.



Men's Breakfast

Join for the Men's Breakfast group on Tuesday, January 14th at 7:00am. All are welcome for food and fellowship!

PARISH ENGAGEMENT



Celebrating Nativity Women

Join the Nativity women as they gather for a bread making class on January 26th from 5-7pm in Ridley Hall. BYOB and a snack to share.

[READ MORE](#)

A flyer for Church Night. At the top, a blue bar contains the text "LAST WEDNESDAY OF THE MONTH IS". Below this, in large blue letters, is "CHURCH NIGHT". A smaller blue bar at the bottom contains the text "WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 29TH". In the center, there is a photograph of a group of people at a spaghetti supper. Overlaid on the photo are several lines of text in blue: "FREE SPAGHETTI SUPPER SERVED FROM 5:30-6:30 IN RIDLEY HALL", "NURSERY & DROP IN ACTIVITIES FOR CHILDREN OF ALL AGES 5:00-7:00", and "MEETING SPACE AVAILABLE FOR COMMITTEES, REUNION GROUPS AND BIBLE STUDY GROUPS".

Click [HERE](#) to let us know you are coming!

PARISH ENGAGEMENT

NATIVITY MEN'S RETREAT

FEBRUARY 22 & 23

@CAMP McDOWELL

Single room \$200 Double shared room \$100
Scholarships available

Join us for a weekend of rest, fun and reflection with friends at the 2025 Nativity Men's Fellowship Retreat at Camp McDowell.

Arrive between 10:00-11:00 am on Saturday and depart after Eucharist on Sunday morning.

Contact Bob Serio for more information, bserio@nativity-hsv.org.

Use the QR code to register today or call the church office 256-533-2455





Scan the QR code or click [HERE](#) to sign up for the Men's Retreat!

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



PARISH ENGAGEMENT



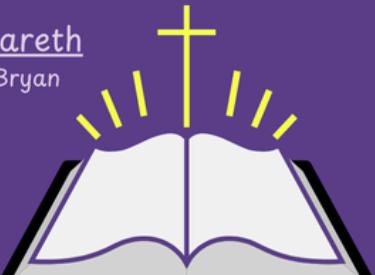
BIBLE STUDIES

THE GOOD BOOK WOMEN'S BIBLE STUDY

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

Book:
Mary of Nazareth
by Christopher Bryan

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



The Good Book Bible Study

Join the women's Good Book Bible Study beginning January 8th. They meet in Joffrion Library every Wednesday from 1-2:30pm. This month's book is Mary of Nazareth by Christopher Bryan

MEN'S BIBLE STUDY



Wednesdays

10:30 AM
Joffrion Library



The Lectionary
led by Deacon Bob
bserio@nativity-hsv.org



Adult Sunday School

Beginning in January.....

Book Class (Joffrion Library) - Resumes January 5

Zimmerman Class(Banister Room)- Resumes January 5

Choose Your Own Adventure Bible Study Class (second floor Joffrion) - Resumes January 5. No preparation is required for this class led by Mother Rosie.

Creation Care Class (Welcome Center) - Begins January 19, with the theme "Love God; Love God's World". This follows an Episcopal Church curriculum that has a similar structure to Sacred Ground and includes films, readings and discussion focused on creation care and eco-justice.

Adult Confirmation Class (Bibb Chapel) - Begins January 26. Do you want to learn more about the Episcopal Church? Mother Melissa will lead a class on the basics of the Episcopal Church for all adults. Those interested in being baptized, confirmed, received, or reaffirming baptismal vows during Bishop Glenda's visit on March 30, are highly encouraged to attend.





Who and What are Daughters of the King?

The Daughters of the King (DOK) is an Episcopal order of women, that is a spiritual community within their home parish. We take a vow to follow the Rule of Life, that is a pledge to incorporate a lifelong program of prayer, service and evangelism.

Prayer: We promise to pray daily for God's blessings on individuals and the spiritual growth of our Church.

Service: we regularly take part in worship and in the work of our Church.

Evangelism: we live our life through words and deeds as an example of our relationship with God and our fellow man.

We wear the Cross of the order as a constant reminder of our vows. It is a silver pin that is worn over the heart or on a chain, and is a modified Greek Fleury cross...the horizontal Latin inscription translates to "with heart, mind, and spirit uphold and bear the cross" at the base of the Cross, the initials "FHS" mean "FOR HIS SAKE"

Any woman at Nativity can be a member, you just have to be baptized, and take a vow to follow the Rule of Life.

We meet as a group once a month (third Sunday after 11 service) in the Library for Lunch, a program, and Prayer..

If interested in learning more about the DOK at Nativity..please contact Kay Tate, kktate554@gmail.com or Laura Pierce, lauraapiercel@gmail.com

Stewardship of Creation

by Clarissa Sharp



Wait patiently.

Times, they are a changing.

This fragile Earth, our island home. (Eucharistic Prayer C)

Give us all reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your glory. (Prayers of the people BCP, page 388)

These words we heard during Advent.

Slow yourself down. Father Michael asked us 'what changes are we being called to make?' Mother Rosie reminded us 'the times were a changing' How do we know what to change? How can our Faith help us adapt to the changes that are coming? Slow yourself down to understand the divine connection to our earth and to all

creation. Our choices have impacts, and often we make choices without a thought, too quickly. Slow yourself down.

The Stewardship of Creation Committee is offering a 10 week Sunday School Class beginning January 19th. We will explore 5 of the 9 sessions of Love God, Love God's World. The film based Curriculum was designed for Episcopalians anywhere on the journey with creation care.

Here is a link to spark your interest, to open yourself up to this fragile earth, our island home:

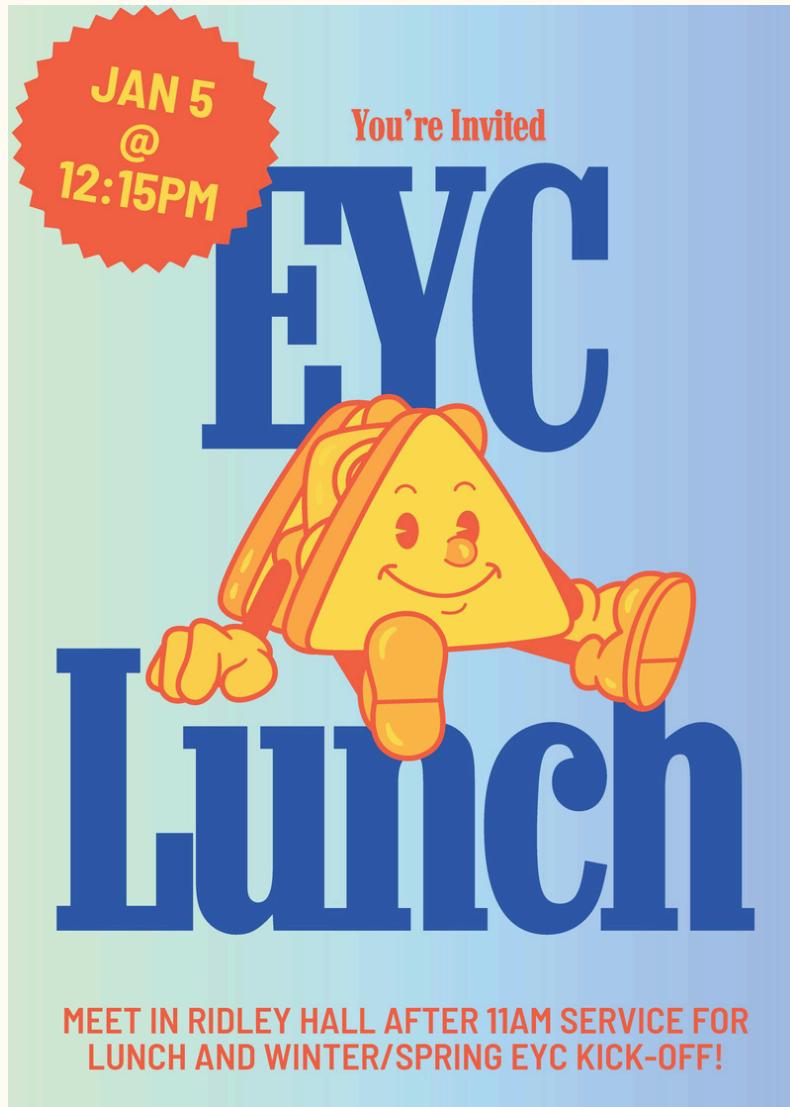
<https://www.episcopalchurch.org/ministries/creation-care/love-god-love-gods-world-curriculum/sessions-and-authors/>

We are excited to learn more about our choices, the changes we can make, and how to better show reverence to God's Creation. AND, we would love to have you join us!

NATIVITY YOUTH



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



Meet in Ridley Hall following the 11am service on January 5th for lunch and the Winter/Spring EYC kickoff!



SAVE THE DATE

Church of the Nativity Youth Confirmation

MARCH 30 2025

Classes will be held during Sunday School on

January 26

March 2

February 2

March 16

February 9

March 22 (Retreat)

February 23

March 23 / 26 (Rehearsal)





EYC Ski Trip 2025

Winterplace Resort
West Virginia
February 14th - 17th

Ski Trip WAITLIST!
Location: Winterplace Resort - West Virginia

**Travel Friday, February 14th - Ski Saturday & Sunday - Travel Monday,
February 17th**

This sign up is a **WAITLIST ONLY!** After being pulled from the waitlist, you will receive an email with an additional sign up that includes payment for a deposit to secure your youth's spot. Click [HERE](#) to be added to the waitlist.

EXPECTED COST PER YOUTH:

- Deposit: \$100
- 1st Payment due January 10th: \$250
- Payment due by February 7th: \$250
- Can save \$40 per participant if bringing own bib & helmet

CHILDREN'S FORMATION

First Grade Eucharist Instruction Class

January 14, 28, February 4, 11

For current first graders and their parents
in the Godly Play Room on Angel Lane

9:30-10:15

Questions and to Register: ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org



What's really real?

Submitted by David Collette, Nativity Cursillo Community

Nothing is as full of hope and excitement as a new start. We see it in Advent with the foretelling of our Savior's birth. We proclaim it with our bold resolutions at the beginning of the calendar year. We experience it when we start a new job or relationship. But the Christmas decorations come down and we soon revert to our old habits, replacing the possibilities of a new start with the daily demands of our lives. Ahhh, the real world.

I think we all use that phrase ('the real world') to give ourselves permission to remain in the status quo. Whether it's going to the gym, changing jobs, or becoming more involved in your church, 'the real world' has a way monopolizing our time and preventing us from moving forward. I am certainly a victim of this phenomenon and have blamed my share of inaction on 'the real world.'

In 2007, Debbie and I attended a Cursillo weekend at Camp McDowell. We had been encouraged to attend several times, but 'the real world' always seemed to present an obstacle. We finally signed up for a weekend and it was an incredible time that brought us closer to God and sparked a desire to be even more active in the church. Bishop Henry Parsley was a part of that weekend and he left us with words that I will never forget: "Tomorrow, you will be back in the real world...or at least what you think is the real world. But what you have experienced here at Cursillo is the world that God wants for all of us: people loving Him and each other. Go out there and bring the love you have felt and shared here at Cursillo to what you call the real world. Make what you experienced here 'the real real world.'"

Cursillo is not a miraculous experience that will suddenly help you shed 20 pounds, strengthen your financial outlook, or make your kids listen to you. But it will show you what it is like to be loved and accepted for who you are...a child of God. And it will equip you with the tools to go back to 'the real world' and share that love with all God's children. Cursillo will not make the demands of the real world go away, but it just might give you a new perspective on what the world really should and can be. I hope you will make 2025 the year you experience God in a whole new way through Cursillo.

David and Debbie Collette serve as the Nativity lay leaders for the Cursillo Community. If you are interested in finding out more about Cursillo or attending a Cursillo weekend, contact David at
256-527-2560 or david.r.collette@gmail.com.

Upcoming Cursillo events include:

- *Nativity Cursillo informational dinner – Sunday, March 2, 2025 @ 5:30 pm in Ridley Hall*
- *Deadline to apply for the April Cursillo weekend (4/3-4/6) - February 20, 2025*
- *Deadline to apply for the June Cursillo weekend (6/5-6/8) – April 24, 2025*
- *Deadline to apply for the October Cursillo weekend (10/9-10/12) – August 28, 2025*



Scan the QR code to download an informational brochure about Alabama Cursillo and check out our website at alabamacursillo.org

Honoring the Memory and Service of Prentice White

Stories by Elaine and Richard Hamner and Liz and Wayne Laney

Prentice White was Nativity's first verger, and he served officially from 1996 to 2021, but he served for many years before that as well. We all remember Prentice directing the bell ringers back when we used to pull on a rope to ring the bell, and telling the ushers how to get the alms basins up to the altar, and telling the people carrying the elements up to the communion rail when to leave. There was never any doubt who was in charge of the service.

Recently, two things happened almost simultaneously (and by serendipity) that resulted in a Thanksgiving and Dedication Service for Prentice. Here are those stories.

Story #1. The Hamners. Terry Clevenger and I passed each other in the memorial garden one Sunday morning, and Terry asked me if I did any wood working. I said yes, and Terry asked me to make a stand to hold the verges that are used by the vergers during the services. I agreed, and while Elaine and I were designing the stand, it occurred to us that we should dedicate the stand to Prentice White.

Story #2. The Laneys. John Laney enjoyed being an acolyte (2010 - 2016) under Prentice's supervision. He especially liked being the thurifer, a job which allowed him to spend lots of time in the courtyard, stoking the incense while Prentice smoked cigarettes and dispensed his wisdom and commentary about church activities.

It was a bittersweet moment when John "swung the smoke" at Prentice's memorial service in 2021, and that's when he had the idea that the Laney family should replace "that crusty old" thurible with a more distinguished one.

The Laney family is happy to give this thurible in memory of our friend Prentice White. It is brass and has gothic-style cut work.

When asked for any advice Prentice had for present and future thurifers, John specifically remembers him giving a gentle shove and telling him to "smoke 'em out."

So those two stories were told at a gathering of friends and admirers of Prentice, and we had a blessing.

Continued....

Here are the new stand and thurible, which were blessed and dedicated on December 1, 2024.



And here is the man.
God rest his soul.



On December 22nd,
we hosted a reception
in honor of Christian
Crocker's 9 years at
Nativity!



Parish Financial Report November 2024

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$126,604.33	\$99,345.86	\$1,392,647.48	\$1,241,218.15
Plate	\$14,583.34	\$31,993.85	\$160,416.66	\$209,079.62
Other Revenues	\$9,780.25	\$92,035.09	\$107,582.75	\$201,216.25
Total Income	\$150,967.92	\$223,374.80	\$1,660,646.89	\$1,651,514.02
Diocese & Missions	\$16,942.59	\$14,083.97	\$186,368.41	\$171,989.66
Outreach	\$14,118.83	\$10,890.96	\$155,306.17	\$150,344.46
Personnel	\$81,943.78	\$83,209.48	\$901,381.16	\$894,007.99
Other Expenses	\$37,963.17	\$23,934.57	\$417,590.83	\$404,901.35
Total Expenses	\$150,968.37	\$132,118.98	\$1,660,646.57	\$1,621,243.46
Net	(\$0.45)	\$91,255.82	\$0.32	\$30,270.56

CLICK HERE
NOVEMBER
VESTRY MINUTES





The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
208 Eustis Avenue SE Huntsville, AL 35801
256.533.2455 Fax: 256.533.2374
nativity-hsv.org

2025 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