



# The Steeple

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



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THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH  
OF THE  
NATIVITY

...where faith holds wide the door

You are invited to celebrate with your  
church family at the

# GROUND BREAKING

of the Becoming One Body  
Accessibility Project

Sunday | 22 | June  
12:30pm | 2025

# BECOMING ONE BODY

208 EUSTIS AVENUE  
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA 35801

## The Day of Pentecost by Mother Melissa



“When the day of Pentecost had come, the disciples were all together in one place. And suddenly from heaven there came a sound like the rush of a violent wind, and it filled the entire house where they were sitting. Divided tongues, as of fire, appeared among them, and a tongue rested on each of them. All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit...” (Acts 2:1-4)

This year, the Day of Pentecost falls on June 8, concluding our fifty-day celebration of the Easter season. As a major feast day in the life of the Church, Pentecost celebrates the coming of the Holy Spirit and reminds us that the Holy Spirit came not only to the disciples, but comes to us, as well. Pentecost is one of the primary days for baptism in the Church, as we recall that we “are sealed by the Holy Spirit in Baptism and marked as Christ’s own for ever.” The Holy Spirit, that mysterious third person of the Trinity, is the very “life blood” of the Church, surrounding us, comforting us, challenging us, guiding us. It is only with the help of the Holy Spirit that we are able to truly discern God’s will for us. This Pentecost, take a moment to reflect on your baptism and on how the Holy Spirit is moving in your life today.

# PARISH ENGAGEMENT

## Faith Reflections

Through Art, Crafts, and  
Fellowship



## Women's Retreat SEPTEMBER 6-7

St Mary's  
Sewanee, Tennessee

## Women's Retreat

Join us for a weekend of Faith Reflections Through Arts, Crafts, and Fellowship.

St. Mary's at Sewanee, Tennessee

Saturday, September 6th-Sunday,

September 7th, 2025. Check-In is at 1pm.

We encourage you to carpool and arrive prior to 1pm to enjoy lunch in downtown Sewanee or at the dining hall. Program starts at 2pm.

Cost: \$150 per person which includes a double occupancy room to share, dinner on Saturday, breakfast on Sunday, and your crafting supplies.

Please bring snacks to share and BYOB.

[Click here to register](#)



## SUMMER CASUAL SERVICE

June and July in the Nave  
8:45 AM

## Summer Service

For the months of June and July, we will have our “casual”

summer service in the Nave at 8:45am. Traditional liturgy with music from the Alleluia II

songbook. Come as you are!

The 7:30am and 11:00 am services will not change during the summer.

# PARISH ENGAGEMENT



## Nativityfest

Save the date for Nativityfest 2025! Join us Sunday, August 24<sup>th</sup> for music, food, fun, and fellowship!



For the summer months, we will all gather together in Ridley Hall for intergenerational formation. Please note that children must be accompanied by an adult.



Sundays in August  
Connect and Commit

Join us in Ridley Hall Sunday mornings in August to learn more about Nativity ministries and how you can connect!

# OUTREACH



## Huntsville Learning Center

We are collecting non-perishable snacks that do not contain nuts or nut products for the Huntsville Learning Center Summer Camps. Please place donations in the marked bins in Ridley Hall.



# OUTREACH

Article courtesy of the Episcopal Diocese of Alabama  
Written by Nana Tenkoramaa

The Church of the Nativity in Huntsville's outreach program, Greene Street Market, has awarded a \$25,000 grant to ShowerUp Huntsville, a nonprofit organization that provides showers and personal care for low-income families and individuals experiencing homelessness.

The funds, awarded as part of Greene Street Market's annual community outreach grant, will fund Huntsville's first-ever mobile laundry unit, expanding the ShowerUp Huntsville's capacity to serve in need to access clean clothing in the local community.

By bringing mobile laundry services directly to underserved populations, the initiative aims to restore dignity, promote better health, reduce waste, and foster partnerships to reach even more individuals. The mobile unit will complement the organization's existing shower services, advancing its mission to provide holistic hygiene care.

According to Taylor Reed, contact person for ShowerUp Huntsville, the organization currently provides showers to more than 500 individuals each month, many of whom are homeless or from low-income families—including school-aged children—who struggle with access to clean clothing.

Reed emphasized the significance of the new service: "The addition of a mobile laundry unit will ensure they have clean clothes not only for their jobs but also for job interviews, helping them secure and maintain employment with confidence and dignity."

While these mobile laundry stations will operate at three primary locations: First Stop, The Rose of Sharon Soup Kitchen, and Manna House, Mr. Reed mentioned that the unit will be deployed for special events in collaboration with community partners to provide laundry services to many underserved populations.

"Our goal is to maximize the impact of this resource, ensuring it is utilized as often as possible and benefits as many groups as we can reach. We have already established partnerships with numerous non-profits and groups that are in need of laundry and are eagerly waiting to partner once this service becomes a reality."

The impact of the new service is expected to be significant. "With a conservative estimate, we anticipate serving over 1,000 people," Reed added.



# OUTREACH

The Rev. Rose Veal Eby, associate priest at the Church of the Nativity, shared the parish's motivation for selecting this initiative. "This grant is to fund something new that is above and beyond our existing budget. It is not for our normal program expenses. This year, we felt the funds could have the biggest impact by supporting ShowerUp's laundry trailer," she said. "Although this mobile laundry unit will be operated by ShowerUp, we stand out by uniquely offering other organizations the opportunity to use the equipment."

Voted the #1 market in the state, Greene Street Market has awarded more than \$100,000 to community organizations through the Outreach Committee of the Church of the Nativity. Grants are open to 501(c)(3) organizations in good standing for at least three years with both the IRS and the Alabama Department of Revenue. The writer is the Director of Communications. She can be reached at [nana@dioala.org](mailto:nana@dioala.org)



# STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

We were delighted to welcome John Gatta, a Professor Emeritus of English at Sewanee: The University of the South, to Nativity on Creation Care Sunday, April 27th to talk to us about Stewardship of God's Creation.

John has written several books including "Green Gospel: Foundations of Ecotheology" and "Making America Sacred." These books are available in the Joffrion Library; look for the green dots on the spine for our collection of Creation Care books. One of the things I love about John's writing is how he references works of literature, music, and art that celebrate the beauty of God's Creation and our responsibility for Creation Care.

John posed these questions in the introduction to his talk:

- How might we understand earth care to be integral to our Christian theology and spirituality, not a "special interest" topic or add-on?
- How might we envision a faith and a God large enough to "encompass everything"?
- How might we best recover and reclaim the language of green gospel already inherent in our faith tradition?

These are big questions that we are striving to respond to in our Stewardship of Creation group here at Nativity and with the leadership of our Church.

John described his vision of the key attributes of a Divine Creation. These include:

- Creation speaks of a wondrous, splendidly variegated and unspeakably vast cosmos.
- Divine Creation speaks of a cosmos infused with divine presence and meaning.
- Creation blends the materiality of "things seen" with the spirit and energy of "things unseen."
- A divine creation is not fixed from its first origins but is continuously creative, ever new and changing.

Colossians 1:15-16 speaks clearly to me about the wonder of God's Creation:

"The Son is the image of the invisible God, the firstborn over all creation. For in him all things were created: things in heaven and on earth... all things have been created through him and for him".





**EFM is sponsored by Sewanee School of Theology, to deepen lay understanding of the church and the roots of Christianity as well as learning to think theologically. Each year focuses on a different aspect: Year 1 the Old Testament, Year 2 the New Testament, Year 3 Church History and Year 4 Theology.**

**New this year Sewanee will be offering an abbreviated version of EFM that can be completed in one year with reduced reading requirements called Wide Angle (see below).**

**We meet weekly on Monday nights from September to May. If there is enough interest, we could start a daytime class.**

**New classes will be starting after Labor Day. We are currently meetings on Monday nights after a shared meal and fellowship. All seekers are welcome – new students as well as graduates, who would like to retake a specific year.**

**Here are some examples of things you might not aware, that you will learn in EFM:**

- **Why are there multiple Old Testament stories for creation, the flood, Exodus, and Joseph's sale into slavery?**
- **Why did modern rabbinic Judaism co-evolve separately from Christianity?**
- **What are the differences between the 4 gospel stories?**
- **Why did the Catholic Church introduce celibacy for priests about 1000.AD?**
- **Why is the Episcopal Church unique from the Catholic and most Protestant Churches?**

**We will be offering an information session in August that can will provide a more detailed look at the program. Please contact Ted Briggs ([tedlbriggs@gmail.com](mailto:tedlbriggs@gmail.com)) or Bob Serio ([bserio@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:bserio@nativity-hsv.org)) if you are interested.**

**EfM: Wide Angle is a new year, now part of EfM Classic. This experience is part of EfM and will be led by an accredited EfM mentor. The idea grew out of the desire to offer an authentic seminar experience to those:**

- **who may want to try EfM without the four-year commitment of the classic program**
- **who may want to stay on in their groups after they graduate from the 4-year program**
- **who want to engage in formation through a variety of learning resources – videos, podcast, blogs and short readings**
- **who want to limit the preparation time to 60 – 90 minutes per week**

# LAUNCH OF NEW NATIVITY COOKBOOK

The Cookbook Committee is pleased to announce the launch of our new church cookbook, *Gatherings – A Tapestry of Food, Faith, and Art!*

This coffee table style cookbook is filled with over 200 of your recipes, heartwarming and soul-filled stories of life within these church walls, collected artwork from 20 of Nativity's artists, and our clergy's favorite prayers and blessings. It serves as a preservation of Nativity's traditions and its congregation's culinary and artistic talents so generously shared within the local community.

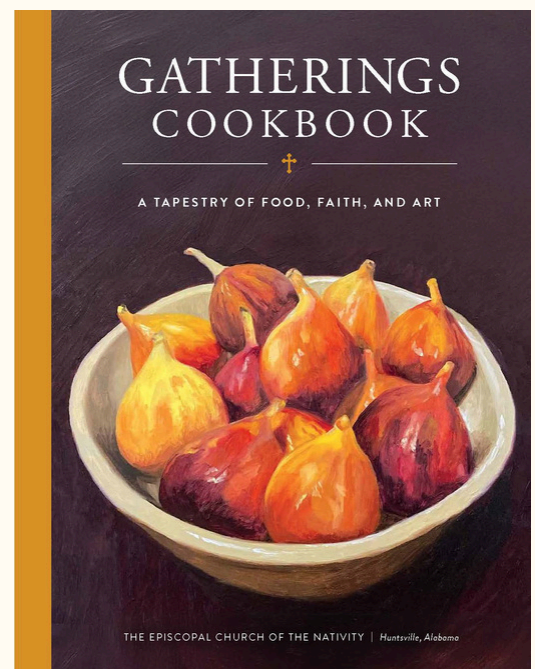
Our publisher is currently putting the final touches on the layout of the book, and it is planned to go to press in July with delivery by mid-November – just in time for the upcoming holidays!

We will be taking pre-sale orders between the church services each Sunday starting June 8th in Ridley Hall. The pre-sale price of the book is \$40. Credit card, cash, or check made payable to the Church of the Nativity are welcome.

Start making your list of recipients for Christmas, birthdays, anniversaries, wedding, and shower gifts! All proceeds from the sale of this cookbook will be donated to the One Body Capital Campaign, so with each book you purchase, you are also contributing to making our church more accessible to all persons.

We look forward to seeing you in Ridley Hall on Sunday, June 8th!

If you have any questions, you may contact Lea Ann Barnett, 256-797-5158, email [leabarn@comcast.net](mailto:leabarn@comcast.net) or Janet Robbins, 256-797-4236, email [janet@janetmasonrobbins.com](mailto:janet@janetmasonrobbins.com).





**Spaghetti Enthusiast, Francis Epps,  
at the last Spaghetti Supper of the  
school year!**



**Oh! The Pastabilities!**

# NATIVITY CHILDREN



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**

NATIVITY VBS JUNE 23 - 25, 2025

Register [HERE](#)



ADULT AND YOUTH  
**VBS VOLUNTEERS**

NEEDED!

June 23-25, 1:00-4:00p.m.

Sign up using the link below or email Emily  
[ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:ecantrell@nativity-hsv.org)

Volunteer [HERE](#)

## UNDER CONSTRUCTION VBS KICKOFF



Join us June 22 on the playground after the groundbreaking ceremony following the 11:00 service for a hotdog cookout with a balloon artist, face painting, and Kona Ice!

## Help us prep for Nativity VBS!



**UNDER CONSTRUCTION**  
NATIVITY VBS JUNE 23 - 25, 2025

The VBS planning committee is collecting the following items for use at VBS! Drop off in Ridley Hall.

**Sidewalk Chalk, Clean Cardboard Paper  
Towel Rolls and Toilet Paper Rolls**

# NATIVITY YOUTH

## NATIVITY SENIORS

Nativity wants to  
send your children  
& youth

**summer  
camp  
letters**

*Fill out the form with your  
camper's information &  
Nativity will send them a  
letter this summer!*

**CLICK HERE**



**Jackson Allen**

Jackson will be attending The University of Montevallo in the fall. He is excited for the opportunity to be running Track and Field in college.

His favorite Nativity memories are Easter egg hunts, playing on the Church playground, and parish weekends at Camp McDowell.

## Parish Financial Report April 2025

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$132,934.59	\$119,160.91	\$531,738.28	\$593,291.80
Plate	\$15,312.50	\$13,087.67	\$61,250.00	\$67,665.89
Other Revenues	\$12,225.34	\$18,647.31	\$48,901.28	\$42,117.74
Total Income	\$160,472.43	\$150,895.89	\$641,889.56	\$703,075.43
Diocese & Missions	\$17,789.67	\$15,869.84	\$71,158.64	\$79,467.57
Outreach	\$14,823.80	\$23,001.30	\$59,298.10	\$68,005.10
Personnel	\$88,378.38	\$87,122.44	\$353,513.29	\$330,874.21
Other Expenses	\$39,476.01	\$36,001.69	\$157,915.92	\$144,408.92
Total Expenses	\$160,467.86	\$161,995.27	\$641,885.95	\$622,755.80
Net	-\$0.43	-\$11,099.38	\$3.61	\$80,319.63

### 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

## Newsletter Alert

Starting in August 2025,  
The Steeple will be  
published quarterly!

***Deadline for Aug is July 20th***

***Submit to [abrooks@nativity-hsv.org](mailto:abrooks@nativity-hsv.org)***



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