



# The Steeple

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



**In this issue.....**  
**Accessibility Update**  
**Meet Aaron Tan**  
**Parish Engagement**  
**Outreach**  
**Stewardship of Creation**  
**Nativity Seniors**  
**Christian Formation**  
**Parish News**



# ACCESSIBILITY UPDATE



It may seem there's been a pause in activity in the Becoming One Body Accessibility Project, but actually there has been significant progress made in the last several months.

First, an update on the Capital Campaign: We already have \$3.8 million pledged to the Becoming One Body Capital Campaign. Thank you to our campaign chairs, Josh and Susy Hendrickson and David and Lisa Hardy, and most of all, thank you to everyone who has participated so generously to this campaign, both with money and time.

Having 85 percent of the \$4.5 million campaign goal at this point is amazing (and it is certainly not too late to contribute)! All the funds contributed over the last several years toward the project are being held in a designated, interest-bearing account until needed.

Matheny Goldman Architects and Interiors have been working to complete the detailed construction documents, which they intend to deliver next week.

Fite Building Company, our contractor for the project, was the unanimous choice of the Accessibility Committee, the Building and Grounds Committee, and the Vestry. Fite will be working throughout the month of May refining their final pricing proposal and working with subcontractors and material suppliers. Early in June we hope to have a formal contract with Fite, which will allow us to break ground before the end of June!

Construction is projected to take 18 months. In the end, we will have all of our space accessible for all people while maintaining the beauty of our historic church. If you have any questions or comments please contact me.

Jerry Nutt ([jerry.nutt@gmail.com](mailto:jerry.nutt@gmail.com))

# DIRECTOR OF MUSIC

## Aaron Tan

Following an extensive national search and an intensive selection process, we are excited to introduce Aaron Tan as our next Director of Music. After completing his Doctorate of Musical Arts (DMA) degree from the Eastman School of Music in just a few days, Aaron will begin the process of relocating to Huntsville and will assume his duties August 1st after fulfilling several commitments. Hopefully, that includes a little time to relax after a rigorous academic and concert schedule.

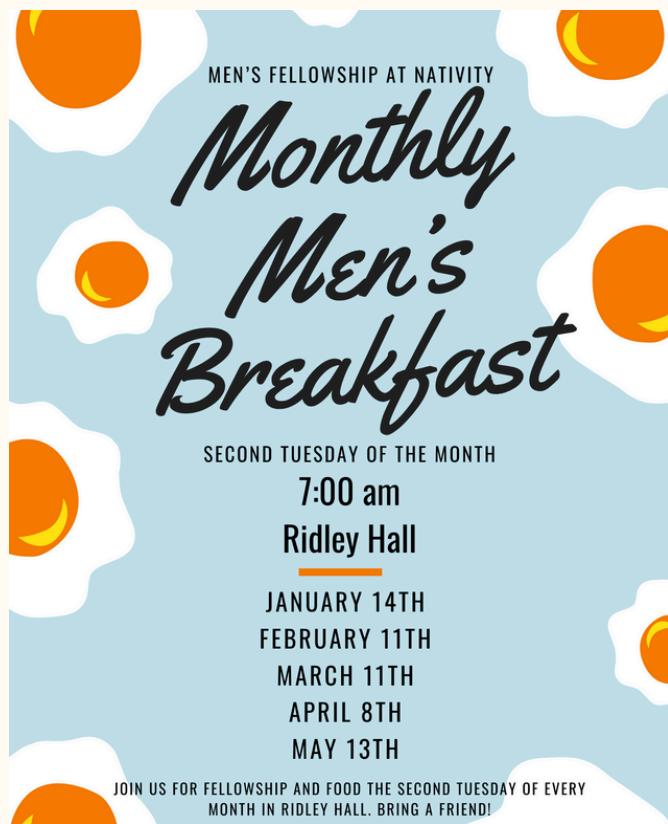
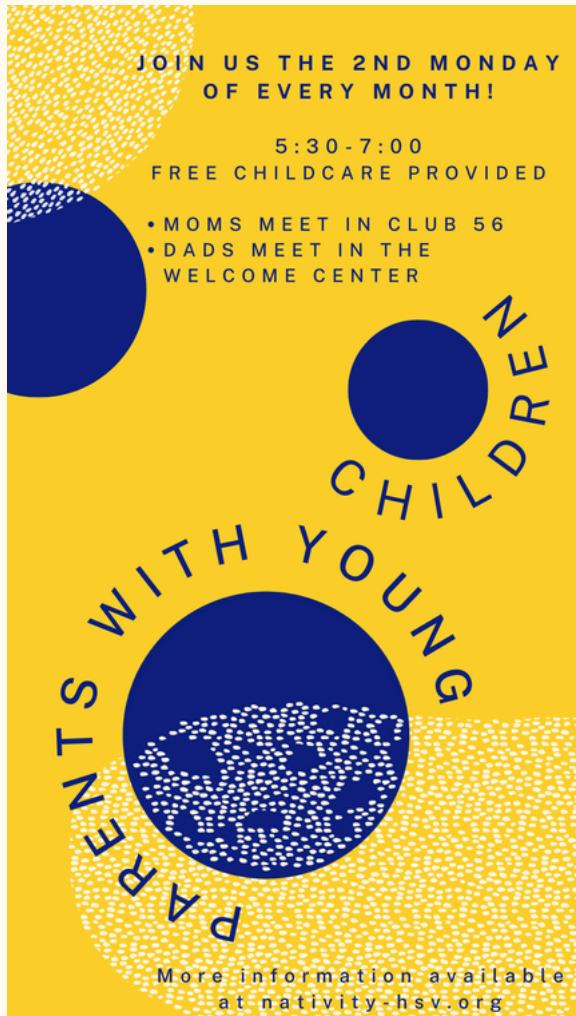
Aaron's first exposure to Nativity came over a decade ago when he played a recital as part of our Friends of Music concert series. That positive experience and his fond memories of our church, our fine organ, and our welcoming hospitality prompted him to apply for our position very soon after the vacancy was announced in the music world. And we are so thankful!

We can hardly wait for our entire parish and the Huntsville music community to learn what the search committee and the choir already know: Aaron is exceptionally gifted, and is dedicated to the integral role of music in worship at Nativity. When the search committee began its work, the primary goal was to find the best person possible to continue our decades long tradition of music excellence. Without a doubt, we have done that. We also found a kind and caring person who will help lead us all to a deeper, more meaningful spiritual life. Thanks be to God.

Fun fact about Aaron Tan: prior to refocusing his career on music, he earned a PhD in Materials Science and Engineering from the University of Michigan. He should feel right at home here in Huntsville! To learn more and to hear some examples of his musicianship, go to: [aarontan.org](http://aarontan.org). Prepare to be impressed.



# 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 May 12th from 5:30-7pm.

## Men's Breakfast

Join us for the Men's Breakfast group on Tuesday, May 13th at 7:00am. All are welcome for food and fellowship!

# PARISH ENGAGEMENT



Dr. Geoffrey Ward  
Organist and Choirmaster  
The University of the South

Organ Recital  
Sunday, May 18th-2pm  
The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

*Enjoy a preview of Dr. Ward's forthcoming solo organ recital at Westminster Abbey.  
This event is open to the public and there is no charge for admission.*

## SAVE THE DATE!

The 2025 Women's Retreat will be themed "Faith Reflections Through Arts, Crafts, and Fellowship". The cost for the retreat is expected to be \$150 per person and it will be hosted at St. Mary's in Sewanee. Registration coming soon!

## NATIVITY YOUNG ADULTS

MAR 4

**SHROVE TUESDAY PANCAKE PARTY**  
@5:30PM // Come enjoy free pancake dinner!

APR 10

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

MAY 8

**EVENING W/ FLOWER GUILD** 7:00 - 9:00PM // Take home a floral arrangement after a visit w/ Flower Guild!

MORE INFO:

[MBELL.COLPACK@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG](mailto:MBELL.COLPACK@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG)

## Faith Reflections

Through Art, Crafts, and Fellowship



Women's Retreat  
SEPTEMBER 6-7

St Mary's  
Sewanee, Tennessee

# PARISH ENGAGEMENT



## Lunch Bunch

Join the lunch bunch in Ridley Hall  
Tuesday, May 27th at 12pm for food  
and fellowship! Questions?  
Deacon Bob bserio@nativity-hsv.org



## 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.

## CURSILLO

### 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)

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

Cursillo is an incredible intentional community whose goal is to 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*



## CNW

Join the Nativity women  
Sunday, May 25<sup>th</sup> at 5pm at  
Casa Blanca on Bailey Cove  
Road!

# OUTREACH



## Sawyerville Swimsuits

We are collecting swimsuits and beach towels for Sawyerville Summer Day Camp. Please place donations in the marked bin in Ridley Hall.



Click [HERE](#) to give! “Our theme this year for Sawyerville Summer Camp will be ‘Thanks be to God’, where we will examine and practice gratitude-gratitude for creation, friendships, family, answered prayers, and even challenges. Thanks be to God for 32 years of Sawyerville, and thanks be to God for YOU”

# OUTREACH



## Cereal for First Stop

During the month of May, the children and youth will collect boxes of cereal and shelf stable milk for First Stop breakfast. Please place donations in the marked bin in Ridley Hall.



# OUTREACH

The Outreach Committee is very happy to announce the recipient of the 2025 Greene Street Market Grant, ShowerUp Huntsville. \$25,000 will be used to purchase a Laundry Trailer. The laundry trailer will have 3 washers and 3 dryers. This will be the first laundry trailer in Huntsville.

For individuals experiencing homelessness and poverty, the struggle goes beyond securing shelter or food-it extends to basic hygiene and cleanliness. While ShowerUp has been restoring dignity through mobile shower services, there remains a critical gap: access to clean clothing.

We are excited about this additional ministry for our city. ShowerUp currently provides showers for over 500 individuals a month, nearly all of whom would benefit from access to clean clothing.

We want to thank you for shopping at the Greene Street Market.

Outreach Committee & The Greene Street Market Board  
-Michael Shipley



# STEWARDSHIP OF CREATION

by Stacia Williams

## Celebrate Community and Creation: Support Local Food at Greene Street Market

As the weather warms and nature awakens around us, we have a wonderful opportunity to reconnect with both our community and the earth — by buying fresh, local food at Greene Street Market. While the Bible doesn't directly command us to "buy local," it speaks



profoundly about the relationship between land, food, and people. Scripture emphasizes stewardship of the earth and the importance of fellowship — both of which are beautifully nurtured when we support local farmers and artisans. The Greene Street Market offers a place to strengthen relationships, build community, and care for creation in meaningful ways.

### Why Buy Local? Environmental Stewardship

Choosing local food is an act of stewardship. It helps reduce environmental impacts in several important ways:

- **Lower Carbon Footprint:** Local food doesn't have to travel thousands of miles to reach your plate, cutting down on transportation emissions significantly.
- **Water Conservation:** Research from Iowa State University shows that local growers typically use 10% less water compared to large commercial farms — a meaningful difference in conserving this precious resource.
- **Reduced Packaging Waste:** Without the need for heavy shipping and grocery store handling, local produce usually comes with minimal packaging, helping to cut down on plastic and waste.

Continued.....

## Building Community through Local Connections

Beyond the environmental impact, buying local food strengthens the social fabric of our community. At Greene Street Market, you have the chance to meet the farmers who grow your food, hear their stories, and support their hard work directly. As these relationships grow, so does your confidence in the food you eat — knowing not only where it comes from, but also the care with which it has been grown.

### Taste the Difference

Local food isn't just better for the planet and the community — it's better for your taste buds too! Because it's harvested at peak ripeness and sold soon after, local produce bursts with flavor. Plus, eating seasonally means you're enjoying fruits and vegetables when they are naturally at their best.

### Join Us at Greene Street Market

The good news is that Greene Street Market is open from May to October, every Thursday afternoon. It's a wonderful way to enjoy fellowship with your neighbors, support local farmers, and care for God's creation — all while enjoying delicious, fresh food.



# NATIVITY SENIORS

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

-Jeremiah 29:11



## ROWAN GAFFORD

Rowan Gafford will be pursuing an undergraduate in Pre-Law at the University of Mississippi, Ole Miss! Her favorite Nativity memory is when she learned how to be a thurifer!



## LUKE HAM

Luke Ham is graduating from Buckhorn High School and will attend Auburn University in the fall, majoring in Electrical Engineering! His favorite Nativity is attending the Christmas Eve services!

# NATIVITY SENIORS



## SYDNEY JOHNSON

Sydney Johnson will be attending the Honors College at the University of Alabama in the fall! Her favorite Nativity memory is going on the whitewater rafting trip in high school!



## EAMONN O'HALLORAN

Eamonn O'Halloran will be attending Auburn University in the fall, majoring in computer engineering! He says, "Nativity has been my church home for my entire life. From the nursery to Sunday school and VBS, the people of Nativity have shown me love and been a positive influence in my life. The memories that I have and the things I've learned will be with me my whole life."

# NATIVITY SENIORS



## FINOLA O'HALLORAN

Finola O'Halloran will be attending Auburn University, majoring in sociology! Finola says, “The Episcopal Church and Nativity have been a central part of my life and spiritual formation. I’ve loved being a part of this church community. It’s the place where I learned about God’s love and how to be a person in the world. I’m so thankful for the experiences, memories, and friendships that have come from church.”



## LILLIAN RETZKE

Lillian Retzke will be attending the University of Alabama in the fall, pursuing a degree in Nursing and a postgraduate degree as a Certified Registered Nurse Anesthetist (CRNA)! Her favorite Nativity memory is going on the ski trip in her senior year!

# NATIVITY SENIORS



## SAM RICE

Sam Rice will be attending the University of Alabama in the fall, majoring in Finance and Marketing with a focus on sports management! Some of his favorite Nativity memories include VBS during the summers!



## THOMAS WELLS

Thomas Wells is attending Virginia Tech to study Mechanical Engineering! We are so thankful for Thomas' Sunday morning participation and cannot wait to see everything he achieves!

For I know the plans I have for you," declares the Lord, "plans to prosper you and not to harm you, plans to give you hope and a future.

-Jeremiah 29:11

# NATIVITY CHILDREN



# NATIVITY YOUTH



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



# NATIVITY YOUTH

## RESERVE STUDY SPACE @ NATIVITY

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

Clink this image for the sign up!

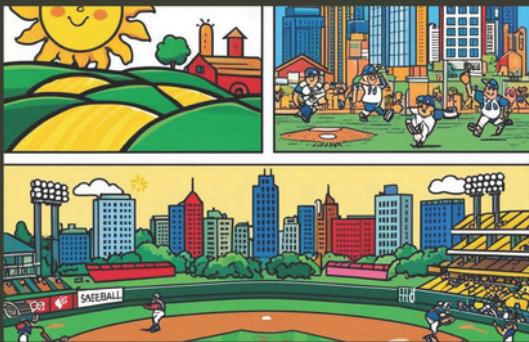
Rooms can be reserved in 1 hour increments.

Snacks & brain boosts provided!



## EYC GOES TO CHATTANOOGA SAVE THE DATE

*Connecting youth groups, getting our hands dirty with outreach, & celebrating summer with baseball!*



June 13<sup>th</sup> - 15th

Sign ups open soon!

## NATIVITY'S SENIOR SUNDAY

### WORSHIP NEEDS:

SIGN UPS  
OPEN NOW

2 LECTORS @ 8:45AM  
1 INTERCESSOR @ 8:45AM  
1 CHALICE BEARER @ 8:45AM  
2 USHERS @ 8:45AM  
6 ACOLYTES @ 8:45AM

2 LECTORS @ 11AM  
1 INTERCESSOR @ 11AM  
1 CHALICE BEARER @ 11AM  
2 USHERS @ 11AM  
6 ACOLYTES @ 11AM

SENIOR ACOLYTES @ 11AM

MAY  
18



## Senior Send Off Dinner

*All High School Youth & friends are Invited*

Thursday, May 15 | 6:30pm  
Church of the Nativity Courtyard

RSVP BY EMAILING [MBELLCOLPACK@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG](mailto:MBELLCOLPACK@NATIVITY-HSV.ORG)

## Parish Financial Report March 2025

	<u>Budget for Period</u>	<u>Actual for Period</u>	<u>Budget YTD</u>	<u>Actual YTD</u>
Pledges Received	\$132,934.59	\$151,445.51	\$398,803.69	\$475,530.89
Plate	\$15,312.50	\$15,575.70	\$45,937.50	\$54,578.22
Other Revenues	\$12,225.34	\$7,949.23	\$36,675.94	\$23,470.43
<b>Total Income</b>	<b>\$160,472.43</b>	<b>\$174,970.44</b>	<b>\$481,417.13</b>	<b>\$553,579.54</b>
Diocese & Missions	\$17,789.67	\$20,039.56	\$53,368.97	\$63,597.73
Outreach	\$14,823.80	\$12,001.30	\$44,473.30	\$45,003.80
Personnel	\$88,378.38	\$81,790.63	\$265,134.91	\$243,751.77
Other Expenses	\$39,476.01	\$39,777.80	\$118,435.91	\$108,407.23
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$160,467.86</b>	<b>\$153,609.29</b>	<b>\$481,413.09</b>	<b>\$460,760.53</b>
<b>Net</b>	<b>(\$0.43)</b>	<b>\$21,361.15</b>	<b>\$4.04</b>	<b>\$92,819.01</b>

**CLICK HERE**  
**MARCH VESTRY**  
**MINUTES**



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





**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)**

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**2025 Altar Flower Dedications  
Available Dates: Sept 7, 28, Nov 23, 30, Dec 7, 28**



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

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