

Glad Tidings



Our Mission

To inspire, nurture and expand Nativity's spiritual growth through faith, worship and community

March 2013

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Issue No. 03-13

New Web Site Soon to Launch

Gail Christensen



A completely new Web site has been designed by the Communications Ministry Team and will launch

before the end of February.

The Team spent months researching other Web sites and investigating the myriad design templates available, then designing and writing the many "pages" for the new Web site. The new design has been enthusiastically approved by the Vestry. We hope you will find it lively, informative, and easy to manipulate. It will be frequently updated, there will be lots of photos of events, and Stephanie will be writing a "blog." The site will contain information for members, but is also designed to motivate visitors to the site to visit us in person.

Many thanks go to the new site's Webmaster, Ben Huckaby, and to all members of the Communications Ministry Team who made this happen.

Go to www.nativityonline.org and take a look.

Environmental Stewardship at Nativity will meet at 7 pm on March 12 in Estill House.

What have you done to my Lord's Prayer?

Those of you who were in church on the first Sunday of Lent were surprised, I'm sure, to discover the contemporary version of the Lord's Prayer in place of the traditional version we typically use in services at Nativity.

Lent is an opportunity to shake up our spiritual life. To hit the reset button when we have wandered away from connecting with God. To clear out the dusty corners of our spirit that have been neglected because we are too busy with work, family, obligations, hobbies, life!

Lent is a reminder that our connection with God is life itself. Our connection with God is the reason for our being, our purpose, and our ultimate goal. Union, connection, communion, oneness with God, whatever you want to call it, it was why we were created and where our souls long to return.

Thus, pieces of our worship in Lent change to help us shake up our spirit, to reset, and hopefully, to reconnect with God in a meaningful way. We begin the service with the confession as a way to focus us on repentance. We sing Kyrie eleison, "Lord, have mercy," rather than "Glory to God in the highest!" Our music is in a minor key, rather than major, creating a more reflective tone for our worship. The choir leads us in chant for the psalm and during communion to help move us to a meditative place.

Visually, Lent is marked by the color purple, a color of penitence. When Lent is over and Holy Week begins, our senses are alerted to this change by the red that appears everywhere at church - the altar hangings, the clergy vestments, the covering of the cross.

Liturgy is defined as "the work of the people." Our "work" in worship during Lent is to wake up to God's call, to contemplate the work of God in our life, to examine the places where we need to invite God in, and to journey to the cross with Jesus.

What has helped you to reset this Lent? To wake up? To reflect?

Peace,
Stephanie



Lenten Quiet Day



Are you looking for some peace in your life? Join Stephanie on Saturday, March 16, 9 am —1 pm for a quiet day of reflection. Lent is a time of reflection, penitence and reconciliation. We will examine these themes in relation to God, our neighbors, and creation through study of scripture, spaces of quiet, and art and music. We will conclude our time together with a simple lunch. Please contact Jennie in the church office, 919-846-8338 or coordinator@nativityonline.org, to let us know you are coming. All are welcome.

Parish Life

Holy Week Schedule

Palm Sunday, Sunday, March 24

A joyful procession of palms, welcoming the Messiah once again.

At 8 am, we will gather in the church for the blessing of the palms. At 10:30 am, we will gather under the big tree (weather permitting). Both services will offer a reading of the Passion Gospel. A special reenactment of the Passion Gospel for children will take place at the 10:30 service; they will join the rest of the congregation for Eucharist.

Holy Week

Stations of the Cross and Eucharist, Wednesday, March 27, 7 pm

Maundy Thursday Foot-washing Children's Service, March 28 6:30 pm

Maundy Thursday Foot-washing, Holy Eucharist and Stripping of the Altar, March 28, 7:30 pm

Good Friday Children's Service, March 29, 10 am

Good Friday Service, March 29, 12 noon

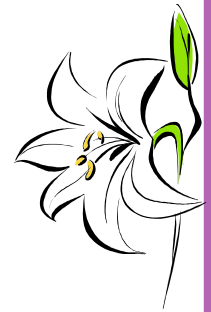
Easter Sunday, March 31

A Sunrise Easter Vigil, 6:30 am

We begin in darkness in the Memorial Garden with the lighting of the Easter fire, then process into church to hear God's saving history in scripture and psalms before welcoming Easter with the Great Alleluia as the sun rises.

Easter Services 9 am and 11 am

A joyful celebration of Easter with choir, handbells, and organ. An Easter egg hunt for the kids will take place following each service.



Small Groups Shaping up

Stephanie Allen

Based upon a gathering on Sunday after church and conversations with folks who are interested in being a part of a small group, we will be getting the following groups going very soon:

- ◆ Mom's group - finding the sacred in the midst of the chaos of family life
- ◆ Men's Bible study - a group that meets to study scripture and pray together
- ◆ Richard Rohr study group - a group for folks looking to examine their spirituality using the works of Richard Rohr, author, speaker and founder of the Center for Action and Contemplation

If you are interested in being a part of one of these groups, please contact Stephanie before Easter: 919-846-8338 or sa@nativityonline.org.

If you are interested in being part of a group, but not one of the ones above, call Stephanie and let's see if there is additional interest.

Please keep these groups, and the idea of these groups in your prayers. This is a new venture for Nativity, but one I believe could be of great benefit for the spiritual health and well-being of our community.

Tradition Continues

Ailsa Tessier

Following such a warm and enthusiastic response to the recent Choral Evensong at Nativity presented by the Raleigh Convocation Choir, upcoming evensong events will be listed in *Glad Tidings* and the *Sunday Tidings* announcements. On Sunday, May 19, at 5

pm at Church of the Good Shepherd, Rocky Mount, NC, the Raleigh Convocation Choir will sing this candlelight evening service in the English cathedral tradition celebrating The Day of Pentecost. The Raleigh Convocation Choir was founded and is directed by Lewis Moore, of Christ Church, New Bern. The event is open to all, and light refreshments follow the service.

For directions to Good Shepherd, visit the church's website <http://www.goodshepherdrmt.org/>.



Parish Life

Vacation Bible School – A Wonderful Summer Tradition

Becky Showalter

We have several folks willing to help out, but we need at least one more co-coordinator. Is that you? Are you reasonably well organized and enjoy working with kids? Would you be willing to give back to our church community by helping with this fun event? We are looking for a person or group of people to coordinate Vacation Bible School for Summer 2013. Because of year round school and the busyness of our families, Nativity hosts Vacation Bible School for one weekend during the summer – Friday evening through Sunday morning – so it's not during work hour or for a continuous week. Also, we have several good purchased curriculums to choose from, and many dedicated parents, youth and members that are willing to help! Please prayerfully consider helping with this weekend. If you are interested or have any questions, please email Becky Showalter at jbshow@bellsouth.net or call at 919-845-8975.



**Vacation Bible School 2012
Adventures at Hogwarts!**

Easter Egg Hunt

Jane Oldham



Bring your baskets on March 31, Easter, for our annual Easter egg hunt. There will be one hunt after the 9 am service and another after the 11 am service. Children ages toddler through 5th grade can participate. See everyone under the big Oak tree! If you have any

questions contact:

Jane Oldham (Joldham95@gmail.com) or
Sarah Gordon (sarahgordon1234@bellsouth.net)

Quilt Raffle after Easter

Jane Weinberger

The Older Youth are taking an active role in constructing the quilt that will be raffled off for a 'Trip Fundraiser' after Easter. Under the direction of Susie Holmes, the youth have helped design the quilt. At the Re-gathering breakfast in January, the squares were placed on the floor and work began on the design. Now it is time to construct the quilt. The Rite 13 and J2A classes will have the opportunity to actually use their hands at sewing and sew the squares together. Look for more information on the Quilt Raffle coming up after Easter.



Why is water added to the wine?

Brenda Johnston



The addition of water to wine during Eucharistic celebration has its roots in tradition. Early accounts of the celebration of the Eucharist as we know it today come from a second century Christian writer, Justin Martyr: the community comes together for the Eucharist - consecrating (making holy) both bread and a cup of water mixed with wine. The priest blesses it, the community shares it, and the deacons take it to those unable to be present.

One reason is practical: wine at the time was very strong and needed to have water added to it.

A theological explanation refers to the piercing of Jesus' side by the Roman soldiers at the time of crucifixion: "...and at once blood and water came out." (John 19:34).

Finally, a third century bishop, Cyprian of Carthage, said wine cannot be separated from water when the two are mixed; therefore, we as the body of Christ and the people of God in the church cannot be separated from Christ when we are connected through the Eucharist.

Many thanks to Stephanie for her help with this article.

Christian Formation

Join us for Preschool through 6th Grade Sunday School!

Becky Showalter

We love to see our Sunday Schoolers each Sunday! Thanks to all who are a part of this wonderful community. See below for our March topics. They will also be published in the *Sunday Tidings* (the Sunday announcements), so be sure to take a look at them on Sunday and then bring it up with the kids.

Preschool—Kindergarten Class:

This class is using the “Let the Children Come” young children’s curriculum and meets during the 10:30 service in the Education Building. The Spring Session focuses on introducing the stories of Jesus’ life to our children. Each class includes music and movement, the lesson, a craft or game and snack – this is a very fun class, please have your child join us!

March 3 Jesus Meets Zacchaeus
 March 10 Jesus, Our Good Shepherd
 March 17 Nicodemus
 March 24 Jesus Enters Jerusalem as a King
 March 31 NO CLASS – EASTER SUNDAY
 April 7 Jesus Dies and Comes Back to Life

1st—3rd Class, New Curriculum Holy Moly!

Meeting at 9:15 am in the Education Building, this class uses the DVD- and picture Bible- based *Holy Moly!* curriculum. For the month of March, this class will explore the special days of Holy Week and how they relate to Jesus’ love for us.

March 3 Palm Sunday Lesson
 March 10 Maundy Thursday Lesson
 March 17 Good Friday Lesson
 March 24 Easter Sunday Lesson
 March 31 NO CLASS – EASTER SUNDAY
 April 7 The Good Samaritan

4th—6th Grade Class, Lent and Easter

This older class uses the Episcopal Church’s online curriculum that focuses on one of the readings that will be used in church. We hope this helps them to be more in tune with what they are hearing during the service. Outside of class, they will look for ways to put into action the call to be God’s hands in the world by participating in different outreach projects.

Calendar for Older Youth through Easter

February 24 Regular classes for Rite 13, J2A and YACS

March 3 Regular class

March 10 Regular class / YOUTH GROUP (5 pm to 7 pm at church)

March 17 Regular class

March 24 Palm Sunday / Regular classes

March 31 EASTER/ No formal classes

April 7 Wake County Spring Break/ No formal classes

Youth Outreach

Fran Kenney

Nativity's 4th/5th/6th grade Sunday school class continues to look for ways to get outside of their classroom to share their love of God and love for their neighbors in our community! On Sunday, February 17, they made a trip to Windsor Spring Senior Living Community, where they took lunch, made a couple of fun craft projects, and enjoyed asking several "getting to know you" questions of the residents as they shared fellowship time together. This class will make one more "outreach field trip" this Sunday school year when they go gleaning with the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle at a nearby farm on April 13.

Right, top photo: Brandt, Robert and Landon chatting with Windsor Spring residents

Right: (foreground) Remy and Sarah, and (background) Ellen and Libby making friends with Windsor Spring residents



Outreach and Environmental Concerns

Nativity Awarded Educational Grant on the Environment

Carl Sigel

Church of the Nativity has been awarded a grant from the Environmental Ministry of Province IV of the Episcopal Church to create and present an intergenerational program to families to help them understand and respond to the ecological crisis of climate change. The program, entitled *Faith and the Environment: Creating a World Safe for Our Children* is being designed by Jane Vella, Karen Ridout, and Carl Sigel to fulfill a need within the diocese for educational programs on climate change. In September 2011, The House of Bishops in their Pastoral Teaching on the Environment stated, "One of the most dangerous and daunting challenges we face is global

We are called by our covenant with God to be good stewards. Participants in this program will learn practical ways to fulfill that commitment. The sessions will begin in June 2013.

climate change. This is, at least in part, a direct result of our burning fossil fuels. Such human activities could raise worldwide average temperatures by three to eleven degrees Fahrenheit in this century. Rising average temperatures are already wreaking environmental havoc, and if unchecked, portend devastating consequences for every aspect of life on earth." What we all must recognize is that this crisis will only get worse if we don't make changes to the way we live on Earth. We are called by our covenant with God to be good stewards. Participants in this program will learn practical ways to fulfill that commitment. The sessions will begin in June 2013.

Honduras Mission Celebrates 25th Anniversary

Pete Crow



Peggy Wade in 1999 with the President of Las Comunidades Unidas and Bishop Gary Gloster.

and Las Comunidades Unidas, Choluteca, Honduras. In making the presentation, consortium organizer Juanita Lainez noted that the partnership had been initiated in the late 1980s by Peace Corps volunteer Jeff Boyer, who then passed the leadership in the mid-1990s to Peggy Wade of Church of the Nativity as the partnership evolved into a health mission (or medical brigade). In reflecting on his 16 years with the mission, Gene Maynard of Columbus, Ohio, described how Peggy had overheard him speaking Spanish in a Raleigh bank and convinced him to be-

come her personal interpreter. That year, the medical brigade packed donkeys and traveled three hours by foot to a town overlooking Nicaragua, where they set up a clinic. Since then Gene, now a sales manager with Banana Republic, has missed only two years, during which he served with the Peace Corps in Benin, Africa.

At the crossroads where the donkeys used to get packed, there is now a cluster of buildings (thanks to the 25-year partnership) where this year six clinics served over 1,500 patients, three Honduran dentists served over 100 patients, and a Honduran optometrist served over 300 patients. Observing and learning throughout all this were more than a dozen local unlicensed health providers, the only nearby (and affordable) source of medical care for hundreds of people during the 51 other weeks of the year.

One of the interpreters this year was the grandson of "Mama" Tula, a favorite among the several hosts who have housed and fed brigade members for many years. He is the latest along a sustainability curve that has welcomed more and more Hondurans into the brigade over the last several years.

Looking to next year, the Honduras Health Mission is asking people to save up small bottles of shampoo, bar soap, lotion, tooth brushes and tooth paste. No crème rinse or bodywash this year--no room in the luggage.

Nativity Garden

Liz Chi

Spring is right around the corner, so it is time to start planning our 2013 garden. As we mentioned at the end of last year, we would like to open up the garden beds to any family or group that is interested in planting a row or a full bed. I tilled the beds last Friday and added organic fertilizer, so we are ready to plant as soon as Spring arrives. Please let me know if you are interested in planting a row or a full bed or if you are just interested in helping out occasionally. It only takes 10 minutes to water all the beds. If you think you would like to donate 30 minutes of your time once a month, please let me know. (Lizchi@gmail.com)

In the beds that are not spoken for, please join me on Saturday March 16, weather permitting, to plant our spring crop of lettuce and spinach. Please start thinking about the summer crop, we will be ready to plant that in early May. In the meantime, enjoy the dawning of spring. It's the loveliest season.



Mardi Gras!



Nativity hosted a thoroughly festive Shrove Tuesday event! There were the traditional kid crafts, pancakes, sausage, and King Cakes. But that's not all... Gumbo, Jambalaya, spicy beans, and rice provided a "taste of New Orleans." Thanks and a big hooray to the organizers, cooks, pancake flippers, servers, helpers of all ages, and clean-up crew for an evening we won't soon forget.



From the Office

New Ministry

Jane Wehland

One of the new groups operating under the umbrella of the Pastoral Care Ministry Team is the Card Ministry of Church of the Nativity. This group is part of the Pastoral Care Ministry Team, formed to reach out to our members who may need a little extra encouragement while experiencing difficult or special circumstances. We sent our first notes in December (yes, notes and not store bought cards). Stephanie gives us a list of names and concerns monthly, and we try to respond in a caring and loving way to let our members and friends know that we are thinking about them and praying for them as they are experiencing difficulties. It is our intention to offer love and comfort from one child of God to another, on behalf of the congregation of the Church of the Nativity.

We currently have 18 volunteer correspondents and are working hard to make this an efficient and effective ministry of the Pastoral Care Ministry Team. We will welcome any comments and suggestions you may have for us. Just call Jane Wehland 919-676-8661.

NOTE: NEW ADDRESS

Glad Tidings Deadline

April 2013 Issue

Deadline: Wednesday

March 20 at noon

Mailing date: March 27

Send articles to

gladtidings@nativityonline.org



Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:

Ailsa Tessier on the death of her uncle John Andrew

*May his soul, and all the souls of the faithful departed,
through the mercy of God, rest in peace. Amen.*

Births

Ethan Logan Phillips
son of
Jared and Emily Phillips

Connect

- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Twitter @NativityOnline
- Join the Yahoo egroups email list. Log on to www.nativityonline.org/members, scroll down to Email List and follow the directions.
- Read *Glad Tidings* online, in color, at www.nativityonline.org/members

Job Postings—to receive daily job postings from Caring Connections, contact Karen Ridout at kgr@mindspring.com.

Please note: we are charged by the post office for returned mail if you change your address and do not notify the church office! Please call or email Jennie coordinator@nativityonline.org with your change of address.

Prayer Chain: To begin a confidential prayer request, or to have names added to the Prayers of the People list for Sunday services, please contact the church office 919-846-8338.

If you have an illness, hospitalization, or death in your family, please contact the church office or Stephanie directly. If you have a pastoral emergency, please contact Stephanie on her mobile: 919-744-1663.



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Email office: coordinator@NativityOnline.org
Visit us on the web at: www.nativityonline.org

Glad Tidings Team

Stephanie Allen
Jennie Herrick
Emilie Sigel
Ailsa Tessier

I will remember my covenant that is between me and you and every living creature of all flesh; and the waters shall never again become a flood to destroy all flesh. When the bow is in the clouds, I will see it and remember the everlasting covenant between God and every living creature of all flesh that is on this earth. (Gen. 9:15-17)

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Nativity Calls it “Foyer”

Ailsa Tessier

You might know this activity in your previous church as supper club, dinner club, supper group – a variety of names, but here it’s known as “Foyer.” One of the oldest programs at Nativity, Foyer is simply the gathering of groups, about 6–8 participants each of singles and couples, in the host’s home for a simple supper and friendship. It is one of the ways to get to know each other better and enjoy each other’s company. Whether you’re meeting new people or finding out more about long-time Nativity members, it’s always fun...and delicious. Meals are meant to be simple, in the style of your own home. Foyer groups in the past have enjoyed cookouts on the deck, a whole meal of appetizers, meeting after church for brunch, and going out for pizza – it’s all up to the group!

The idea of ‘foyer’ comes from the reconciliation movement that followed the bombing of Coventry Cathedral in WWII. Using a national radio broadcast from the cathedral ruins on Christmas Day 1940, then-Provost Howard declared that when the war was over he would work with those who had been enemies ‘to build a kinder, more Christ-child-like world.’

So how does it work? About 3 times a year, participants sign up and are randomly assigned to groups. The first name on the distribution list gets the group started, and you’re off and running. Each group decides what they’d like to do. Once the members of the group have each hosted, that round is technically finished. Some in the past have continued to meet occasionally because they’ve enjoyed each other’s company so much.

The next signup round won’t be until May, but this information will get you primed for Foyer action during the summer.

Thanks to Jennie Herrick, our parish coordinator, who has coordinated Foyer for years. I am going to step in now as coordinator. For questions, call me at 919-848-3364, or email atessier610@gmail.com.

See you at Foyer!

