

Glad Tidings



Our Mission

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

May 2013

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Issue No. 05-13

Dates to Remember

Sunday, May 5

11:45 pm VBS planning meeting

Wednesday, May 8

7 pm Ministry Team meetings

Friday, May 10

6 pm *Sense of Wonder* movie
and potluck dinner

Sunday, May 19

Pentecost

At the 10:30 service:

Youth Sunday, graduate and
Sunday School teacher/youth
leader recognition

4 pm Spirituality in the Arts:
Tosca, Tunes, Tofu, Take 9

Tuesday, May 21

7 pm Vestry Meeting

Monday, May 27

Church office closed

Glad Tidings

Deadline

June 2013 Issue

Deadline: Wednesday

May 22 at noon

Mailing date: May 29

Send articles to

[gladtidings@
nativityonline.org](mailto:gladtidings@nativityonline.org)

Stealing Joy



Being a runner, I can tell you that one of the most joyful places on earth is not just at the finish line of a race such as a marathon or 10K or 5K, much like the Boston marathon last month, but joy runs along the course wherever there are spectators. Spectators holding signs, spectators cheering for people they don't know - joy in a shared sense of accomplishment and a shared joy from the runners as they run.

Many, many people have commented upon the fact that when the bombs exploded at the finish line in Boston, people ran toward the chaos and confusion, rather than running away. First responders, runners who had finished, spectators there to cheer - everyone sought to help. Joy transformed into a grim determination to assist, to mend, and to help heal.

Anyone who does violence to another is trying to steal their joy. Violence that tries to take away joy can come in many forms. It might be in the form of a bomb. It might be in emotional abuse or physical abuse. It could be any word or action that communicates to another human being, "You are less than me. You are not worthy of dignity or respect. You are not worthy of life."

When God created the world, God took the violence of chaos, gave it order, and declared it "good." God created meaning out of the void, something out of nothing. God created human beings in God's own image, and created them to be in relationship to one another.

During the season of Easter we celebrate that fact that Jesus' death on a cross, meant to communicate that evil and violence will triumph, was transformed into a way of new life through resurrection. A violent death transformed into a life-giving hope and eternal joy for all creation.

Easter asks us to look closely where we might have stolen someone else's joy. Easter challenges us to respond to seemingly meaningless acts of violence against others with courage and hope, and to look honestly where we believe violence has triumphed in our own lives.

Easter hope gives us the strength to weep in compassion for broken lives and hearts. Easter hope gives us the courage to ask God why these things keep happening, and Easter hope gives us the courage to examine the violence in our own hearts, and to ask for God's help in healing the broken places.

May you find the hope, courage, and compassion you need this Easter season.

In peace,
Stephanie

Prayer Book People

Join Stephanie on Sunday, May 5, 12, and 19 at the 9:15am Adult Forum to discuss the *Book of Common Prayer*, where it came from, and how it is used to help form us as disciples now.

Christian Formation

Preschool through 6th Grade Sunday School

Becky Showalter



Sunday School is winding down for the school year. Join us for our last month and thanks to all who are a part of this wonderful community! See below for our May 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 them up with your children.

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 and taking care of our Earth to our children. Each class includes music and movement, the lesson, a craft or game and snack – a very full and fun 45 minutes. Please have your child join us!

May 5 The Good Samaritan

May 12 Mother’s Day

May 19 Pentecost

May 26 Memorial Day (No Sunday School)

June 2 End of the Year Party

1st-3rd Class, Holy Moly!

Meeting at 9:15am in the Education Building, this class uses the DVD- and picture Bible-based *Holy Moly!* curriculum. The month of May will see this class continue the stories of Jesus’ life. Also, music will be added in preparation for Youth Sunday where they will sing a song for the congregation.

May 5 The Ten Outcasts

May 12 Lazarus

May 19 Pentecost is a Festival

May 26 Memorial Day (No Sunday School)

June 2 End of the Year Party

4th – 6th Grade Class, Easter and Pentecost

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 that 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. Their latest outreach was to glean kale for the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle and they helped with Stop Hunger Now on April 28. Way to go!



Congratulations to the Rite 13 Celebrities honored on April 21: Annabel Bloom, Alex Carroll, Annie Chi, David Garbutt, Sydney Gyurek, Jack Nolan, Keaton Sumner, and Eóin Trainor.

Quilt Raffle

Jane Weinberger

Tickets for the youth’s quilt raffle are on sale now and will conclude May 12 when the winning ticket will be drawn. Once again, with the guidance of Susie Holmes and hands-on help from the youth, we have a beautiful quilt to offer. It is on display in the Narthex.

Raffle tickets are \$5 for one ticket and \$20 for five tickets. All proceeds will go towards youth programs and their trips for next year. Thank you for supporting our wonderful youth.



Come One, Come All! End of the Year Sunday School Party

Becky Showalter

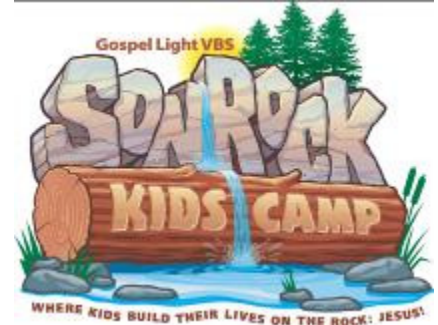
On Sunday, June 2, families of Preschool thru 5th grade are invited to come to a fun-filled cookout at Baileywick Park (9501 Baileywick Road) to celebrate a wonderful year of Sunday School. We will provide hamburgers and hotdogs, and ask everyone to bring a side dish or dessert (chips and Oreos count!). There is a covered pavilion right beside a sand playground as well as bathroom facilities. There is also a field for throwing footballs or Frisbees, so everyone is taken care of. We have many new families and would love to see everyone out for a chance to get to know each other. Contact Becky Showalter at jbshow@bellsouth.net for more information.

Christian Formation

Vacation Bible School is Coming!

Becky Showalter

Save the date: Friday through Sunday, July 19 through 21. Have your children join us this summer for "SonRock Kids Camp" Vacation Bible School – an outdoor adventure like no other! As SonRock campers, the kids will learn how their lives can be transformed by God's great love for them! Through drama, crafts, music and games, we will set out on an adventure in God's great outdoors. Vacation Bible School is open to all youth 3 years old through rising sixth grade. Friends, neighbors, and extended family are always welcome, too. Older youth are encouraged to participate as helpers. Have your kids brush off their camping gear and get ready for the excitement. Registration will begin soon, so keep a look out. We look forward to a great VBS this year and hope that everyone can join us. If you have questions, please contact Catherine Shearin (jaycataid@aol.com) or Becky Showalter (jbshow@bellsouth.net) .



Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!

Becky Showalter

Our first planning meeting will be on Sunday, May 5, immediately following church. Lots of help is needed to make this summer time tradition go off without a hitch and adults and teens are always welcome! Volunteer needs will be sent out by email and discussed at this meeting. Please come and support this wonderful mission to our children and our community. If you would like to volunteer or learn more about it, please join us for the meeting and let Catherine Shearin know that you're coming (jaycataid@aol.com) . We look forward to a great VBS this year and hope that everyone can join us.

Our acolytes are ready for a service to begin. Although Youth Sunday is a special day, youth participate each week. Let Stephanie know if you'd like to be an acolyte!



Youth Sunday is Coming Up!

Jane Weinberger/Becky Showalter

Our children and youth will guide us through the 10:30 service on May 19 for Youth Sunday. They will greet you at the door, usher, read the lessons, lead us in the Prayers of the People, serve as LEMs, and impress us with their musical talents. This will also be the last formal day of Sunday School, and we will recognize our graduates and Sunday School teachers and leaders for our youth program.

Look for the Preschoolers through third graders to sing a special song for us as the beginning of the service and for the fourth through sixth graders to lead the Prayers of the People. This is a great way for all of us to affirm that our younger ones are a wonderful and valued part of our community. If you're a parent of one of these children, be sure they're at Sunday School the next several weeks to practice their parts. Fun, fun, fun!

Please join us on this very special Sunday to celebrate our youth and their accomplishments. It is a day to let them take charge and show their pride in being such an integral part of our church family.

Graduate Recognition

During the service on May 19, we will be recognizing our graduates. If you or a loved one are graduating from high school, college, or post-graduate studies, please contact the church with the following information: name of graduate, school graduating from, and plans for the fall.

Christian Formation

Update on Summer Environmental Programs

Carl Sigel

This summer, Environmental Stewardship at Nativity (ESN) will present two programs with the objective of informing people about practical ways to take action. Beginning on Sunday, May 26, and extending through June 23, during the 9:15 am Adult Christian education hour, ESN will present a five-session forum called Faith and Ecology. The sessions will address issues of water conservation and protection, food, keeping the Sabbath, sources of energy, and creating eco-friendly environments.

May 26: *Sacred Foodscapes*, with Carl Sigel

June 2: *Water, the Indispensable Resource*, with Jennifer Warrilow

June 9: *24/6, A Prescription for a Healthier, Happier Life*, with Karen Ridout

June 16: *Taking Action*: Panel Discussion, with moderator Carl Sigel and participants Charly Kerr, Jon Showalter, Bruce Hunn, Annie Suk and Gary Smith

June 23: *Creating an Eco-friendly Churchyard*, with Nancy Reed

On Sundays, June 16 and 23, our intergenerational program "*Faith and the Environment: Creating a World Safe for our Children*" will be launched. On each occasion, the program will start at 3 pm and finish at 7 pm with a nutritious supper served at 6:30 pm.

Blue Candle Adds Book Study

Jane Vella

Blue Candle, a Bible study/prayer group of Nativity, is now regularly reading the Old Testament. We will also read and discuss Walter Brueggemann's *An Unsettling God* from 7 - 9 pm on the **third** Monday of each month for six months: May - October (that is, May 20, June 17, etc.). We welcome anyone at Nativity who would like to join us for that book study. Please call Jane Vella at 919-329-2818 for details.

From Amazon.com: *An Unsettling God: The Heart of the Hebrew Bible*:

In the pages of the Hebrew Bible, ancient Israel gave witness to its encounter with a profound and uncontrollable reality experienced through relationship. This book, drawn from the heart of foremost Old Testament theologian Walter Brueggemann's *Theology of the Old Testament*, distills a career's worth of insights into the core message of the Hebrew Bible. God is described there, Brueggemann observes, as engaging four "partners" - Israel, the nations, creation, and the human being - in the divine purpose. This volume presents Brueggemann at his most engaging, offering profound insights tailored especially for the beginning student of the Hebrew Bible.

Blue Candle Bible Study meets Monday evenings from 7-9 pm, and on the first Monday of the month, meets at 6 pm to share supper before beginning their study.



Liz Chi and Barbara Carroll and the first harvest of the season from the Nativity garden. A large amount of lettuce was donated to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle.

Why not Hire a Local Farmer This Summer?

Carl Sigel

Did you know that the average food item travels 1500 miles before it reaches your plate? Do you ever wonder about the growing and harvesting conditions for that food? If so, why not remove some of the uncertainties and join a CSA, which stands for Community Supported Agriculture? CSAs are about shaking the hand of the person actually growing what you're eating or enjoying.



A CSA subscriber signs up and usually pays for his or her family's share early in the year, and then receives a weekly bag, box, container or basket of whatever the CSA is harvesting. CSAs are gaining popularity because most use organic and sustainable farming techniques, and avoid pesticides and chemicals. Furthermore, eating local foods strengthens local food economies, improves food security, helps sustain family farms, and benefits the environment by lowering our carbon footprints.

You can start the process of eating local, fresh, nutritious food by visiting the website, Wake County "Farm to Family" Food Finder. This site shows you the locations for any restaurants, farmers markets, roadside stands, pick your own produce farms, or CSA drop sites near you: <http://maps.google.com/maps/ms?ie=UTF8&oe=UTF8&msa=0&msid=210292701217115466553.0004a4098f63fc11e6e07>.



Outreach and Environmental Concerns

Celebrate Earth Day 2013

Mike Belmares

We celebrated it on April 22 and we celebrate it everyday. If you need some help getting into the spirit, then go online or pull up an ol' track from one the world's greatest singers, Michael Jackson. Put on "Heal the World" and let the music move into your soul. A word of caution: if you let it get too deep you might find yourself attempting the moonwalk, in which case the chance for injury increases 90%. All I'm saying is be careful.

"Heal the world, make it a better place. For you and for me and the entire human race" (M.Jackson).

Ok, I've got your attention. You're into Earth Day and want to do something. You've had "Heal the World" on repeat for hours and now you're ready to roll. Now what? CompostNow. CompostNow is a local community compost service. Check them out at www.compostnow.org. Their story (as seen online) is:

Founded in 2010, CompostNow began with humble roots. The company started by collecting and composting food scraps just from friends and family. Today the service has expanded throughout the Triangle to many households and small businesses, and has helped divert over 60,000 lbs from the landfill.

My family has been using the CompostNow service for just over 3 weeks now and it has been great. It has taught our kids about Earth consciousness and conversation. We keep "Save the Earth" receptacle bin in our kitchen area and it hasn't been a problem at all. Recycling our food scraps is just another way for us to practice being good stewards. After a certain weight has been collected, we can start collect free composting soil for our home garden. So that's that, in a nutshell.

Here's your Earth Day Celebration Checklist:

1. Get into the spirit.
 2. Listen to Michael Jackson's "Heal the World."
 3. Check out www.compostnow.org and start saving the planet "one plate of food scraps" at a time.
- Support local, support the environment!

Recycling Boosts the Economy While Saving the Environment

Carl Sigel

On March 27, 2013, the first NC Recycles Day was held. Mayor Nancy McFarland reported on the success of the Raleigh recycling program that began in 1989. She said that the City of Raleigh pays \$45 per ton to dispose of waste at the landfill, while it receives \$30 per ton for recyclable materials. That is a net of \$76 per ton that is saved by recycling. From July 2012 to February 2013, Raleigh has received \$507,747 for recycled materials. In addition, recycling businesses employ hundreds of local people.

"This is what the Lord has commanded: 'Gather as much of it as each of you needs, an omer to a person according to the number of persons, all providing for those in their own tents.'" (Exodus 16:16)

Earth Day Suggestions From a Teen Perspective

Bridget Knapp

My name is Bridget Knapp and I'm 15 years old and currently in ninth grade at Leesville Road High School. Here are some simple things that you can do to celebrate Earth Day every day:

- Turn the water off while brushing your teeth. Do you really need it on?
- Turn off the lights when you leave your room. First, check underneath your bed for monsters, and then turn off the light!
- The next time you're outside and you see trash on the ground, pick it up.
- Put out bird seed for the birds; you don't need a bird feeder. Put the seed on a deck railing.
- Recycle.

- Wash your clothes with cold water instead of hot water.
- For a more advanced celebration for Earth Day:
- Plant a tree in your backyard.
 - Put a bird box in your backyard.
 - Put your TV on energy saving mode: Some televisions have this mode and some do not, but it can save you a lot of money.
 - Find creative ways you can save water, such as turning off your irrigation system after it rains.
- Be creative, and you can find even more ways to celebrate Earth Day.

Parish Life

Seniors Luncheon

Tom McNally

The May Seniors Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, May 19. The luncheon will be hosted by Tom and Gail McNally at the Hibernian Irish Pub located at 8021 Falls of Neuse Road (the building is the former Duffy's Tavern, located just past the Strickland Road and Falls of Neuse Road intersection). We will gather at 12:30 pm. If you plan to attend, you must RSVP to Tom McNally by email at t24mac@nc.rr.com or by phone at 919-376-1869. Reservations must be in on or before Wednesday, May 15. Reminders will be included in the Sunday Tidings. Please remember that there is no minimum age to join this fun group for lunch. We hope you will join us.



More scenes from Stop Hunger Now packing:

Left: Parishioners unload supplies for packing meals for Stop Hunger Now.

Right: Everyone enjoys the pizza lunch prior to packing 10,000 meals that day.



Pastoral Care

Susie Holmes, Senior Warden

Pastoral Care wants to help you in challenging times. In the event of the birth of a baby, a death in the family, and illness or hospitalization, we are here to lend a hand. Please call the church office at 919-846-8338. We have a team of people that would like to offer prayers, cards, visits and meals to help you. The priest or the month's Pastoral Care captain will follow up with you.



Ministry Team Expenses

Susie Holmes, Senior Warden

Please remember that whenever you have expenses, please have your Team's Vestry liaison sign off on the request. Also, keep your liaison informed of all expenses, especially those over \$100. Many thanks.

Parking Lot Expansion Proposal

Alfred Christensen, Junior Warden

At an open forum on Sunday, April 14, Susie Holmes, Ken Jenkins and Alfred Christensen presented ideas for an expansion of our parking facilities. Parking space has been an issue for many years. The parking lot is generally full for the 10:30 am service. As a rule of thumb, if 80% or more of the parking spaces are in use, late arrivers may turn around and leave. Nativity wants to offer a welcoming spot to newcomers so that they can join us to worship God.

The proposed expansion is based on using the space behind our current church building and some of the space behind the education building to add 27 extra parking spaces. The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$77,000. The Vestry suggests the project be funded through existing funds (an endowment fund, the remainder from the Build It Forward

campaign and a surplus fund from 2010).

As always, we have a choice. For example, Food Lion has been very kind and allows us to use parking spaces around the perimeter of their parking lot (please do not use the parking spaces closest to the Food Lion store entrance). For those who are able to make the walk, we recommend using this option during times when we know the parking facilities in front of the church will be full.

The Vestry plans to make a final decision during the Vestry meeting May 21. We welcome your input; please email Susie Holmes at seniorwarden@nativityonline.org or Alfred Christensen at juniorwarden@nativityonline.org with comments, concerns, and suggestions.

Parish Life in Pictures



Nativity is honored for its Honduras Outreach. During a recent service, Pete Crow (left) gave the homily, and Stephanie showed the congregation a certificate Nativity received.



This gong was rung each time 2,000 meals were packed. Stephanie rang it the last time!



On April 28, about 150 Nativity parishioners packed 10,000 meals for Stop Hunger Now in about an hour's time. It was a wonderful afternoon of fellowship and outreach.



Go to <http://nativityonline.org/event-items/nativity-packing-10000-meals/> to view a slideshow of all the pictures taken that day, compliments of Beth Crow.

Parish Life in Pictures



Melanie and Nadia



Catherine and Aiden

Annabel, Libby, and Keaton



Gleaning Adventure

Fran Kenney

Nativity's 4th, 5th, and 6th graders "walk" the "talk" and get outside of their classroom to do God's work in our community. For our most recent outreach field trip, we combined with members of the Rite-13 class and traveled out to Burch Brothers Farm in Faison to harvest kale for the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. This fresh kale will be delivered to people experiencing food hardship. Thanks to all of the kids, parents, and adult chaperones who were able to join us for a beautiful morning of gleaning!



Lydia and Annie



Adam and Remy



Keaton and Robert



Pat Kenney

From the Office

Call for Volunteers: Grounds Improvement Team

Alfred Christensen, Junior Warden

The Buildings and Grounds Ministry Team is establishing a new Team that will work on improving the looks of our campus. Our landscaping company, Fetsko, will continue to do the regular maintenance of our grounds, such as mowing the lawns, cleaning up fallen branches, blowing leaves, spreading mulch, etc. If you are interested in helping with these activities, please contact Alfred Christensen at JuniorWarden@NativityOnline.org.

The grounds improvement team will work with activities such as:

- Improve the look, especially of our parking lot islands, by planting annuals and perennials and maintain those planting beds throughout the year.
- Re-arrange, remove, or replace existing shrubbery and other plants around the buildings.
- Work with the Buildings and Grounds Team to come up with ideas to further improve the look of our church campus so both visitors and parishioners feel welcome.
- Work with the Pastoral Care Team to maintain the Memorial Garden.
- Work with Fetsko to identify special needs for pruning of trees and shrubs.

Bishop Suffragan Consecration

The Reverend Anne Elliott Hodges-Copple will be consecrated Bishop Suffragan of the Diocese of North Carolina on Saturday, June 15, at 10:30am in Duke Chapel in Durham. A reception will take place immediately following the service. If you would like to attend this event, please contact the church office (office@navityonline.org) by May 15 to request a ticket. The cost for the reception will be \$10.



Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:

Audrey Mungal and her family on the death of her grandmother Gertrude Irwin
Barbara Kamyra and her family on the death of her aunt Clara Nelson

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

Connect

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@navityonline.org with your change of address.

- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Twitter @NativityOnline
- Join the Yahoo egroups email list. Log on to www.nativityonline.org, go to "Community," then "Keep Informed," scroll down to "Online Announcements," and follow directions.
- Read *Glad Tidings* online, in color, at www.nativityonline.org

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.



8849 Ray Road
Raleigh NC 27613

Phone: 919-846-8338
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

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Tosca, Tunes and Tofu - Take 9

Walye Rasulala

Get out your calendars and mark Sunday, May 19, at 4 pm for the Spirituality in the Arts presentation of *Tosca, Tunes and Tofu—Take 9*. Spend an afternoon enjoying music from opera to Broadway performed by members of our church family and friends. To top off this afternoon of music, you will be treated to the various tofu dishes of Chef Zach Chen at a reception following the performance where you can meet the performers. Come and enjoy.

