

# Glad Tidings



*Our Mission*

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

June 2013

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Issue No. 06-13

## Please Note

Youth Group will not meet during the summer months. Gatherings will resume in September.

### Tuesday, June 11

7 pm Environmental Stewardship Meeting

### Wednesday, June 12

7 pm Ministry Team Meetings

### Sunday, June 9 and 16

Newcomer Welcome and Breakfast

### Sunday, June 16 and 23

Family workshops  
See page 10

### Tuesday, June 18

Vestry meeting

## Glad Tidings Deadline

June 2013 Issue

Deadline: Wednesday

June 19 at noon

Mailing date: June 26

Send articles in the body  
of your email to  
[gladtidings@  
nativityonline.org](mailto:gladtidings@nativityonline.org)

## More Than Just a Parking Lot

*Jacob was left alone; and a man wrestled with him until daybreak.*  
Genesis 32:24

I was reminded of the powerful story of Jacob wrestling with “someone” (an angel, his brother, a man?) the night before he returns home to face the brother he had cheated out of his birthright and blessing. Jacob wrestles with the angel all night until the angel gives Jacob another blessing. Jacob names the spot of the wrestling match, Peniel, “for I have seen God face to face, yet my life is preserved.” (Gen. 32:30)

I was reminded of the story because at our last Vestry meeting the Vestry wrestled with the decision to expand our parking lot, and ultimately decided to move forward with the expansion. And they truly wrestled with the decision. They researched plans, engineers, permits, and costs, so they understood what the true cost of expansion would be. They presented this information to the parish in an Open Forum in April and requested your feedback. They listened and considered carefully the concerns, as well as the support, as they shared many of the same concerns. On the next page is a list of the concerns that were examined during the discussion.

It is important for you to know that unlike Jacob and the angel, the vestry did not wrestle with each other! They wrestled with ideas. They wrestled with costs. They wrestled with priorities. After a short Bible study to ground us, and after an hour and a half of wrestling, they were of one heart and one mind to move forward with the expansion.

I want to acknowledge the prophets in our midst: the folks who are concerned that we not lose sight of the commitment of this parish to seek and serve others in Christ's name, to feed the hungry, and to serve the poor. That we not get so caught up in our buildings and our real estate that we forget who sat with Christ at table - the poor, the hungry, the marginalized, and to make sure we commit more of our resources to service. The Vestry hears that, and wants to make sure they are working with the Outreach Team to keep that work as a priority.

*(Continued on page 2)*



## Newcomer Welcome and Breakfast

*Stephanie Allen*

Anyone new to our community who would like to know more about Church of the Nativity and the Episcopal Church are invited to have breakfast with Stephanie and the Newcomer Team on Sunday, June 9 and 16. We will welcome folks who have decided to call Nativity their spiritual home during the 10:30 service on Sunday, June 16.

## Parish Life

*(Continued from page 1)*

As for me, I want it all. I want as many people to worship with us as possible. I want additional services for more opportunities to worship. I want the Education Building packed with children and young people so we can share our faith with them. I want our adults to be challenged to go deeper and learn more about God. I want to be overflowing with fellowship in Estill House. I want Outreach to those who need our help as a part of everything we do. I want to get to know our neighbors and see where the Church may be of assistance and fellowship to them. I don't want anyone in North Raleigh, or Raleigh, or the state of North Carolina to be without food or housing.

I want as many people in North Raleigh as possible to experience the safety and warmth of community that is the Church of the Nativity, to experience and know first-hand the love of God in their lives, and to grow deeper in their relationship with God through Jesus Christ.

I want everything we do, and everything we are to be to that end: the kingdom of God is here because Jesus Christ is risen from the dead, and Christ will come again. I ask for your prayers for the Vestry, for the Ministry Teams, and for all those in leadership, and for me as your Rector, as we all seek to hear God's voice and vision for the future of the Church of the Nativity.

In peace,  
Stephanie

## Parking Lot Expansion: the Conversation Continues

*Susie Holmes, Senior Warden  
and Vestry*

The Vestry asked for feedback, and we listened. We have heard your concerns and considered each one very carefully. Some concerns shared by the Vestry and the congregation were:

- \* **Are we using up all of our reserved funds?**
- \* No - the money for the parking lot expansion comes from funds left over from the Build It Forward fund, the 2010 surplus fund, and a fund of \$28,000 that the church has carried as an investment. A full explanation of the funds for this project may be found on the web-page under the Community tab: Keep Informed. The full presentation from the Parish Forum including plans and ideas may be found there. (<http://nativityonline.org/community/keep-informed>) After funding this project we will still hold in reserve a \$60,000 "Rainy Day" fund, and a \$10,000 Long Term Maintenance fund.
- \* **Do we have flexibility to expand in the future?**
- \* Yes - we can extend parking lot down into the woods, and if we want a larger sanctuary, we have options. Expensive options, but options.
- \* **Can we spend these funds on other things like outreach?**
- \* We can spend half of the funds in other ways. Half of the fund were raised for capital expenses, so that money can only be used for items such as building or parking lot construction.
- \* **Can we park at Food Lion?**
- \* Yes, but the safety issues alone of crossing without a crosswalk or sidewalk and walking down the driveway exclude that option for 2/3 of our congregation. After further reflection on this idea, the traffic on Ray Road, the traffic between Nativity and the Korean Baptist Church, and the lack of a crosswalk, made us very uneasy. A short-term solution, perhaps, but not sustainable for the long term.
- \* **Is there room in the church? Are we going to have room for cars when we don't have room for people?**
- \* Yes, the Nave has a seating maximum of 320, and can seat 250 easily. We currently have parking for 100 cars; the expansion would add 27 spaces to that. We all need to tuck in a little bit to accommodate our friends in Christ, especially the ones running a few minutes late.
- \* **Are we just looking to "grow for the sake of growth?"**
- \* We are not "growing just to grow." We want to open our arms to our parishioners, and to seekers of Christ, so we can worship Jesus together.

We are located off the main road, behind another church, some GPS providers can't find us, we do no marketing or advertising beyond our web presence and social media, and yet, we have new folks visiting us every Sunday. We have welcomed 20 new families since last fall, and are about to welcome at least 10 more this coming month. People are being drawn in by the life and the spirit that they experience within the community of Nativity. That vitality is part of what makes Nativity so special and vibrant.

Your Vestry wrestled with this decision, trying their very best to discern what's best for the church and for God's money. As we grow, we will continue to adapt as best we can, welcoming each other as we walk in Christ.

## Parish Life

### 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 6th grade. Friends, neighbors, and extended family are always welcome, too. Older youth are encouraged to participate as helpers. So have your kids brush off their camping gear and get ready for the excitement! Registration will be available soon on [www.nativityonline.org](http://www.nativityonline.org), so keep a lookout. 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](mailto:jaycataid@aol.com)) or Becky Showalter, [jbshow@bellsouth.net](mailto:jbshow@bellsouth.net).

### Thank you, thank you, thank you!

*Becky Showalter*

Thanks to all the parents, students and teachers who made the 2012 - 2013 Sunday School year so successful! It has been a blessing to me as the Children’s Formation Team Leader to see the program grow and evolve; a blessing to the teachers that they got to share God’s message with our youngest members having fun with them along the way; a blessing for the children to grow in a Christian community; and a blessing to the church that the energy and enthusiasm of these youth are present every Sunday. Have a great summer and hope to see you at Vacation Bible School!



### Vacation Bible School Volunteers Still Needed!

*Becky Showalter*

Lots of help is needed to make this summertime tradition go off without a hitch! Adults and teens are always welcome! Please consider volunteering to support this wonderful mission to our children and our community. If you would like to volunteer or learn more about it, please let Catherine Shearin know that you’re coming [jaycataid@aol.com](mailto:jaycataid@aol.com). We look forward to a great VBS this year and hope that everyone can join us!

### Senior Luncheons

*Tom McNally*

The seniors will resume luncheons on the third Sunday beginning in September. If anyone is interested in hosting a lunch please contact Tom McNally at [t24mac@nc.rr.com](mailto:t24mac@nc.rr.com) or phone him at 919-373-1869.

**Join the Summer Choir**

*Waltye Rasulala, Choirmaster*

Have you ever thought it would be fun to sing in the choir on Sunday morning? Guess what? Your chance is coming! During the months of July and August, the choir takes some time off, and we invite you (adults and young people) to sit in the choir area and to help lead the hymns. Just think of the advantages: you get a prime seat in the choir area, you get to the Communion Table first, and you can see who is in church on any given Sunday. You do not have to wear robes or process down the aisle; just join us in the choir area at 10 am to run through the hymns and service music.

So think about it and join the choir on the first Sunday in July. If you have questions, contact Waltye Rasulala at [wrasulala@gmail.com](mailto:wrasulala@gmail.com)

## Christian Formation-Youth

### Children's Summer Sunday School

*Becky Showalter*

While regular Sunday School takes a break over the summer holiday, Sunday School will continue to be offered for children age 3 through rising first grade during the 10:30 service. This summer we are focusing on the exciting stories of the Old Testament. See below.

June 9	Creation	July 28	Wandering in the Wilderness
June 16	Noah's Ark	August 4	The Battle of Jericho
June 23	Joseph and His Brothers	August 11	The Lord is My Shepherd
June 30	Joseph and Pharaoh	August 18	Daniel and the Lions
July 7	Baby Moses	August 25	Jonah and the Big Fish
July 14	Moses and The Red Sea		

This program is powered by volunteers who offer to teach one or two Sundays during the summer to accommodate vacations and summer plans. We are currently looking for adults or older teens to teach Summer Sunday school for the dates and topics above. Classes will be held in the Education Building in the preschool/kindergarten room, and lesson plans with multiple ideas for each topic will be available. As the teacher, you may decide if you want to use those or something else creative. Please contact Laura Cashion at [laura.cashion@gmail.com](mailto:laura.cashion@gmail.com) to volunteer for a particular Sunday.

### Youth, Youth, Youth!

*Jane Weinberger*

Sunday, May 19 was a huge day! It was Youth Sunday, recognition of graduates, and the last formal day for Sunday School.

Sunday School flew by this year with fundraisers, outings, church events, and – yes, even class time. I could never say enough about the leaders who gave of their time each and every Sunday. These adults who give so much are awesome and appreciated.

Youth Sunday was a day our youth truly brought the Holy Spirit to us all. From the youngest musicians to the eldest...the J2A class greeting us at the door...our acolytes doing what



Beautiful music from our youngest musicians



Youth Sunday usher Anastatia Hollis gives Sunday bulletins to newcomers Ethel and Steve Benkin.

they do best...LEMS at the altar...Prayers of the People written from the heart of our youth...ushers running things smoothly...elements that got where they needed to be... AND the skit from the Rite-13 class who never ceases to amaze us with their wit and knowledge. Thank you to all who were involved and worked so hard to conduct a wonderful service.

Some of our high school graduates gave us a sense of the importance of "church family." They will go out into the world knowing they have love and support from Nativity. Let's keep all our graduates in our prayers as they venture out to college, new jobs, and life's adventures.

Plans are already brewing for the fall, with new leaders, trip planning, Youth Group, and a very busy calendar. We will keep you up to date on all youth news through *Glad Tidings*, emails, and the new website. Thanks for a wonderful year and all the support given to the youth program.



## Christian Formation-Adults

### Faith and Ecology Forum

May 26 to June 23

*Carl Sigel*

A five-session forum presented by the Environmental Stewardship committee will address issues of water conservation and protection, food, sources of energy, and creating eco-friendly environments.

May 26: *Sacred Foodscapes* with Carl Sigel

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

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

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

June 23: TBD

### Bible Study

*Nancy Terry*

Join us for Bible Study beginning June 30 through July 28. Our Diaconate Intern, Dan Laird, will conduct a Bible study on each Sunday's lectionary using the technique called *Lectio Divina*. *Lectio Divina* is a slow, contemplative praying of the Scriptures. This technique of reading intertwines scripture with our prayers and meditations. We can attend "with the ear of our hearts," listening for God's presence in the events of our lives. We experience Christ reaching out to us through our own thoughts and memories.

### Marriage Enrichment Opportunity

*Nancy Terry*

Another opportunity for couples to "Make their Good Marriage Even Better" is coming to Raleigh July 11-14 at the North Raleigh Hilton. Thursday, a one-day marriage enrichment mini retreat for couples will be offered. On Thursday evening, Gary Chapman, author of "Five Love Languages" will be the keynote speaker. Friday and Saturday offer additional opportunities for workshops. Friday evening will be the Ultimate Date Night with Jay and Laura Laffoon ([www.jayandlaura.com](http://www.jayandlaura.com)), national entertainers and speakers. Military couples have their own one-day conference on Saturday.

For additional information costs and registration, please go to [www.bettermarriages.org](http://www.bettermarriages.org) and click on events to find the conference information. You may also contact Carl and Nancy Terry for further information at [nmterry@nc.rr.com](mailto:nmterry@nc.rr.com) or [cterry5@nc.rr.com](mailto:cterry5@nc.rr.com).

## Graduates and Beyond

### High School

Spencer Bloom — Enloe — UNC Wilmington

Simon Burke — Leesville Road — Appalachian State, Honors College

Paige Davis — Leesville Road — NC State

Angela Difede — St. Mary's — Eugene Lang School of Liberal Arts, NYC

Michelle Garbutt — UNC School of Arts — Durham Tech

Anastasia Rogers Hollis — Ravenscroft — Appalachian State

Paul Hughes — Leesville Road — UNC Charlotte

Claudia Meyer — Ravenscroft — UNC Chapel Hill

Remi Olagoke — Leesville Road — UNC Greensboro

Ben Tim — Leesville Road — NC State

### Post Graduate Studies

Jonathan Edwards — Wake Forest School of Medicine; residency at Mount Sinai Hospital in New York

Nicholas Garces — BA in Communications from UNC Chapel Hill; accepted position with Lenovo

Nat Heyward — UNC Charlotte/Masters College of Urban Design; moving to Memphis, TN, to pursue career in Urban Design

Jeannette (Kerr) Thomas — BA in Animation from Cogswell College in San Jose, CA; doing freelance and contract work in illustration and film

Catharine Kerr — BFA in Technical Theater from UNC Greensboro; currently studying film at Deakin University in Melbourne, Australia

Emily Linthicum — PhD in Religious Studies from University of California at Santa Barbara

Alex Martin — Associate's in General Education from Wake Technical Community College

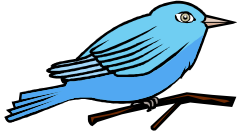
Maggie Patterson (granddaughter of Jane and Charles Wehland) — BS in Math and Economics from UNC Chapel Hill; accepted a position at Red Venture in Charlotte.



## Environmental Concerns

### Bluebirds

*Care for the Environment from a Teen's perspective*



On May 2, 2013, five baby Eastern Bluebirds hatched from our bluebird box. But how did we get here? Flashback time! All we needed was a bluebird box and some PVC piping and before we knew it, we had a bluebird family. They would build their nest and we would watch. Soon, we spotted two blue eggs in the nest which later became five. We saw Mommy and Daddy Bluebird fetching food for them and carrying waste out of the nest. To help them out, we put mealworms at the base of the box and we watched her feed her babies. Then on May 21, they left us—what a bittersweet day that was.

*Bridget Knapp*



If you would like to have a family of bluebirds out your window, follow this advice.

- Get a bluebird box and some PVC piping. If you live in a very wooded area, buy a snake guard. You can put it up anytime but try to aim for before January. The nesting season is from March to June.
- You will start to see them perch on the roof of the box around February. They are looking for territories and mates. They can be very territorial so if you want two houses, put them about 100 yards away from each other.
- Nestbuilding lasts about 2 days. Don't look inside yet! You don't want to be the meanie that opens it and ruins the nest.
- Soon the activity will wind down and you will be free to look inside but be careful of mommy bird; she might be sitting in the nest or fly out. Always approach the nest from the side and never head on.
- Mommy Bird will lay one egg a day. She will usually lay about five eggs and you'd be lucky if you get six. A white egg is even luckier! Feel free to look at the eggs but don't touch; you may touch the nest to get a better look.
- Try not to disturb Mommy Bird while she's sitting on her eggs. Once they hatch, you may take a look.
- When you can hear the babies from inside your house with the door open, they will be leaving soon. Try to say goodbye for the last time and don't open the box again. You don't want them to fall out of the box. Then they're gone, and that's all, folks! Some of this information was brought to you by: <http://www.ncbluebird.org/>

### How should we live on the Earth?

*Carl Sigel*

According to renowned eco-theologian Thomas Berry, foremost biologists of our time believe that the natural world is in decline. That does not bode well for our children and grandchildren. Beginning on Sunday, May 26, and extending through June 23, during the 9:15 am adult Christian education hour, Environmental Stewardship at Nativity (ESN) will present a five-session forum called Faith and Ecology. On Sundays, June 16 and 23, our intergenerational program "Faith and the Environment: Creating a World Safe for our Children" will be launched. In these sessions, we will discuss first what we know about how we are living in and affecting the natural world, and second, we will explore how we can apply the wisdom from both our faith and what we believe to be true from science to develop practical solutions for healing the Earth and building a more sustainable future. We are facing challenging problems, but we can all be part of solving them. After all, God through Christ has given us the ministry of reconciliation (2 Corinthians 5:18). You may recall Stephanie said recently in a sermon, when we see something that is not right, we need to correct it!

Environmental Stewardship at Nativity (ESN) will meet at 7 pm on Tuesday, June 11, in Estill House.



### The Nativity Garden: Looking Great!

*Build houses and live in them, plant gardens and eat what they produce. Jeremiah 29: 5*



## Parish Life in Pictures



Who knew that bagpipes and organs could make such beautiful music together! Evelyn Judson and organist Jason Pace gave a wonderful performance.



Father George drew the winning ticket, and Ailsa and Ken Tessier won the youth quilt raffle! Congratulations!



Getting to know one another: the members of the Altar Guild met for dinner and conversation at Relish restaurant.



Zach and Apryl Chen. For 9 years (and counting), Chef Zach has prepared a splendid and varied tofu feast for the Spirituality in the Art's *Tosca, Tunes, and Tofu*.

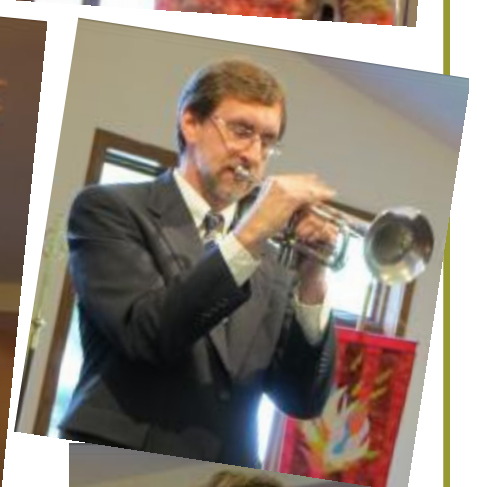


Fun times for the Youth Group, bowling and spending time together





## Parish Life in Pictures: Tosca, Tunes, and Tofu—Take 9



**Bravo!**





## From the Office

### Communications Format to Change

*Jennie Herrick, Parish Coordinator*

In the month of June, we will change our method of electronic correspondence from emails through the Yahoo Groups to a weekly newsletter through Constant Contact. This newsletter will basically be the Sunday announcements and any other important news of the parish. If you have an announcement or a reminder that you would like sent out to the congregation, please send your information by Wednesday morning. The weekly newsletter and *Sunday Tidings* are produced that day, and will be sent out on Thursday when the Sunday bulletin is posted on the website.

For those of you who were already subscribed to Yahoo Groups, you don't have to do anything—we have migrated the list over to Constant Contact. If you do not yet receive church messages through egroups, but would like to be included in these mailings, go to our church website to sign up: <http://nativityonline.org/community/keep-informed/>.

We look forward to these weekly email newsletters being informative without filling up your inbox!

### Births

Farin Heckman, great-granddaughter of Marian Oswald and granddaughter of Doug and Betty Smith



*Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:*

The family of Tom Hudgens

The family of Rick Widin

Beth Agayoff, on the death of her mother, Virginia Curran  
Stephan Ebert, on the death of his grandfather, Thomas McMaster  
Noel McLaughlin, on the death of her father, the Rev. Hugh Edsall

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

**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](mailto:coordinator@nativityonline.org) with your change of address.**

### Connect

- Like us on Facebook
- Follow us on Twitter @NativityOnline
- Join the Constant Contact email list. Log on to [www.nativityonline.org/community/keep-informed](http://www.nativityonline.org/community/keep-informed)
- Read *Glad Tidings* online, in color, at [www.nativityonline.org](http://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 cell: 919-744-

**Job Postings**—to receive daily job postings from Caring Connections, contact Karen Ridout at [kgr@mindspring.com](mailto:kgr@mindspring.com).



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## Family Workshops: Caring for Creation

*Jane Vella*



Join us for two fun workshops on building the Caring for Creation community at Nativity. This is a family workshop so that we can make decisions on living differently in the face of global warming and the ecological crisis as a family. Families can be from 1 to 10 folks, and include friends. Bring the whole family! (**Family = related to each other OR NOT**)

Dates are June 16 (Global Warming and Energy) and June 23 (Food and Water). We will start at 4 pm in Corlett Hall, then stay for supper together at 6:30 pm.

Child care will be provided for little ones. Please register today by signing up in the Narthex or contacting Karen Ridout at [kgr@mindspring.com](mailto:kgr@mindspring.com) or 919-210-7640. Everyone is welcome.