

Glad Tidings



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

June 2014

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Issue No. 06-14

Summer Service Times

Between June 15 and August 31, we will operate on the summer schedule of two services: 8:30 am and 10 am. Both will have Holy Eucharist, music, and child care.

Please Note

There will not be a July *Glad Tidings* issue. Please read *Sunday Tidings*, Facebook and the church website nativityonline.org to keep informed.

The deadline for the August 2014 issue is Wednesday, July 23, at noon.

That issue will be mailed July 30.

Send articles for your fall events to gladtidings@nativityonline.org and copy to eseagull@aol.com.



At Your Discretion

Deacon David and I both have a “clergy discretionary account,” a small fund that allows us to provide financial assistance to folks in need or in a crisis, either members of our parish or members of the wider community.

The assistance given through this fund is confidential. However, there are rules, both from the IRS and the Episcopal Church, that govern the use and prevent abuse of these funds.

The Diocese of New York lists these three guiding principle for clergy discretionary accounts, which I really like:

Caution! Handle with care.

Confidential ≠ secret.

Sunshine kills germs.

While these are very helpful for clergy as they assist others, I think they are helpful guidelines for us all as we follow the way of Jesus.

Caution! Handle with care.

We are entrusted with gifts of the Holy Spirit. We are anointed by the Spirit through our Baptism. Do we nurture the gifts we have received? Do we hold them reverently and honor them with confidence, and avoid arrogance? Do we use our gifts to serve others generously?

Confidential ≠ secret.

It is often easier to give than to receive. Being on the receiving end of help can feel weak and powerless. Have you ever held back or not asked for help for fear of looking weak or fear of being judged? You would not share your difficulty with just anyone—it might not be safe! Confidentiality in sharing with trust makes a space safe. In contrast, secrets must remain in the dark and tend to fester into something more painful when not brought out in the open.

Sunshine kills germs.

Holding a grudge, hanging on to anger, harboring resentment—all these distract us from the way of Jesus, the way of love. It is no accident that the peace follows the confession and absolution in our worship. Sometimes, our feelings are not about other people, but about ourselves. Can we be honest with our feelings and bring them out into the light? Trust that Jesus will love us no matter what we are feeling or experiencing, good or bad?

We all need help at one time or another in our lives. The way of Jesus is the way of compassion and love. We must remember to extend that compassion and love to others as well as to ourselves.

Peace,
Stephanie



Parish Life

Congregational Feedback to be Reported

Rebecca Christian

Between January 6 (Epiphany) and June 8 (Pentecost), Church of the Nativity has been experimenting with having three service times: 8 am, 9 am, and 11 am.

Karen Ridout, Becky Christian, and Carol Smith gathered congregational feedback using several methods: a meeting held after all three services (twice), via a written questionnaire, and emails to the Worship Ministry Team. Although this was not a quanti-

tative study or random sampling, based on feedback gathered through Mother's Day, we found there is strong congregational support for three service times, at least during the school year. Forty-nine responders

Congregational Feedback review of three service schedule on Sunday, June 1, 10 am

liked having choices of three service times; only five respondents did NOT like three services. There were comments and suggestions about issues including tightness of the schedule, music, and fellowship. In addition, church records were reviewed; during the weeks of the trial, total attendance increased.

The entire report will be presented on Sunday, June 1, during Adult Formation. There will be opportunities for

further suggestions and feedback, should anyone like to share them, before the Vestry makes a decision as to how we should proceed in the fall.

Congratulations!

High School Graduates

Alex Altenkirch — Broughton — UNC Wilmington: Biology
 Max Altenkirch — Broughton — UNC Wilmington: Biology
 Sarah Gordon — Enloe — UNC School of the Arts: Drama
 Nick Gromow — Sanderson — ASU: Management
 Alexandria Hansen — Redondo Beach HS — WCU
 Olivia Herrick — Leesville — UNC Greensboro: Sociology and Environmental Studies
 Aaron Israel — Ravenscroft — Drexel University: Computer Science
 Rebecca Israel — Ravenscroft — Chapman University: Music Performance and Psychology
 Jane Oldham — Sanderson — ASU: Education
 Karl Schneider — Sanderson — NC State University: Applied Mathematics
 Aidan Special — Millbrook — NC State: Engineering
 David Schuler — Leesville — NC State: First Year College program



Graduates L to R: Nick Gromow, Aidan Special, Jane Oldham, Olivia Herrick, Karl Schneider, Sarah Gordon

Post Graduate Studies

Erin Burke — BS in Mathematics from UNC Chapel Hill, will attend The Institute for Advanced Analytics at NC State for a Master's of Science in Analytics.
 Rich Frost — UNC Chapel Hill, will attend Harvard Law School
 Corey Heyward — double major of Archaeology and Art History from the College of Charleston, will attend George Washington University to pursue a Master's in Anthropology and Museum Studies
 Annie Holmes — UNC-Chapel Hill with a degree in Psychology, interning with Outward Bound in Colorado
 Sam Judson — degree in Parks and Recreation Management from WCU, currently working as an intern in NH State Park System Student Conservation Association
 Wambui Kungu — BS Healthcare Services Management from ECU
 Catherine Shearin — Master's Degree in School Administration from ECU, would like to work as an Assistant Principal
 Dokun Olakgoke — Fully Employed MBA program (FEMBA) from UCLA Anderson School of Management

Announcements! Announcements!



Save This Date!

Stop Hunger Now

**A multi-generational
Outreach event
Sunday, August 17,
after the 10 am service.**

**You can have an impact
on hunger.**

PARTICIPATE!



Next Ministry Team Meeting Wednesday, July 9, 7 pm

Get Involved!

**The Environmental Stewardship
Committee will meet at 7 pm
on June 10 in Estill House.**

Make a difference!



Something New - Children's Church Starts June 15!

Becky Showalter

Starting June 15, Children's Church will be offered during the 10 am service for 3 year olds through rising 1st graders. All children should sit with their parents at the beginning of the service. After the children's sermon, the crucifer will lead the children out the back of the church where teachers will be waiting to take them to the Education Building for a short lesson and activity. The children will return to church before Communion. This is an idea we have floated for quite some time and we welcome feedback as the summer progresses!



Call for Summer Choir Participants

Waltye Rasulala, Choirmaster

On Sunday, June 15, our regular choir will take a short break for the summer, but we will need folks to help lead the hymns on Sunday mornings at the 10 am service. So if you enjoy singing and have wondered what it would be like to sing with the choir, join us in the choir area 30 minutes before the 10 am service and become part of our summer choir. You will not have to robe or process—just be with us at 9:30 to run through the hymns chosen for the service. Who knows— you may like it so much that you will want to stay with us when the regular choir regroups on September 7. Children ten years and up are also welcome to join us.

We'll look for you at 9:30 am on June 15, before our first 10 am service. If you have any questions, please email me at wrasulala@gmail.com, or catch me after church on Sunday.



Help Wanted

Interested in Teaching Sunday School Next Year? 2014 - 2015 Preschool through 5th Grade Sunday School Teachers Needed

Becky Showalter

There's something very special about introducing our youngest members to beloved Bible stories and the knowledge of God's love! But as much as the child might get out of it, teachers often get even more. Increased knowledge of the Bible, a chance to be creative, and a feeling that your gifts fit into God's plan of another generation learning the Good News are all wonderful "side benefits" of volunteering in this way.

The 2014-2015 Sunday School year will see us continuing to use the Spark Sunday School curriculum. Included are online lesson plans, coloring pages, videos for the teacher that explain the main points of the story or scripture, learner leaflets that lead teachers and youth through the lesson, and story and NRSV Bibles for the classrooms.

We will be splitting up the older class next year as they have outgrown their classroom, and in preparation for moving them into the youth program. The plan is to have four younger Sunday School classes: a 3- and 4-year old class, a Kindergarten and 1st grade class, a 2nd and 3rd grade class, and a 4th and 5th grade class. All classes will tentatively meet at 10 am. If you are interested in teaching Sunday School this upcoming school year, or would like more information, please let Becky Showalter know at jbshow@bellsouth.net or 919-845-8975.

Can You (or Your Stuff) Help Decorate the Church for Vacation Bible School?

Becky Showalter

We are looking to decorate the parish hall and classrooms in an awesome island theme this year! Do you have bamboo mats? Grass skirts? A small palm tree just sitting around the house begging to be used for such a fun event? Well, we would love to borrow them for the weekend of July 18-20. We'll make sure to label each donation so that they get back to the right people. Contact Becky Showalter at jbshow@bellsouth.net if you have something we can use.

- * Artificial or real tropical plants & palms
- * Fishing nets (real or decorative)
- * Grass skirts / hula skirts
- * Luau decorations
- * Woven grass, straw or bamboo mats
- * Wooden trunk or treasure chest
- * Burlap fabric
- * Blue butcher (or roll) paper
- * Michael's, Party City, or similar gift cards

Youth Group! What's not to like?

Sally Bloom

Do you like playing kickball, eating pizza, watching movies, chowing on subs, and love God? We have the group for you! The aptly named Youth Group is just that—all our youth, grades 6-12, meeting together monthly for fun, food, and fellowship. All we need are some adults to join in with them. For the last two years, youth group has met monthly for a couple of hours with longtime leaders Jon and Becky Showalter, and this year with Ben and Sally Bloom, too. Nativity youth love Youth Group! So please consider serving as a leader in this fun and relaxed ministry. Without at least two adults to head this up, there will not be Youth Group next year. Questions? Interest? Contact Jon and Becky at jbshow@bellsouth.net or Sally and Ben at sallyb919@gmail.com.

Volunteers needed for Children's Church This Summer

Becky Showalter

While regular Sunday School takes a break over the summer holiday, Children's Church will be offered for children age 3 through rising first grade during the 10 am service. The lessons will follow along with the readings and children's sermons heard in the church. Since the children will stay in church through the children's sermon and come back before communion, this is an abbreviated class with a replay of the story they just heard and an accompanying activity. Easy, peasy!

But we NEED you! This program is powered by volunteers—adults or older teens—who are willing to teach one or two Sundays during the summer to accommodate vacations and summer plans. These 20-30 minute classes will be held in the Education Building in the preschool/kindergarten room, and lesson plans with multiple ideas for each topic will be sent to you the week before you are to teach. As the teacher, you may decide if you want to use those or something else. Please contact Bobbie Feraco at bpferaco@gmail.com to volunteer for a particular Sunday or sign up on the following SignUp Genius link: www.SignUpGenius.com/go/20F0C4BAAA822AB9-summer

Environmental Concerns/Outreach

He himself is before all things, and in him all things hold together. Colossians 1:17

Outreach Opportunity with the Homeless

Pat Watson

In January 2014, at the Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network (WIHN) center, Gail Jens, Leslie Troan, and Pat Watson provided dinner for 20 children and five volunteers as representatives of COTN. Serving a child-friendly meal for a "family" of 18 to 20 is a gratifying boisterous endeavor. Food for the Monday dinner is donated by churches, college student organizations, Scouts and sponsoring individuals. Estimated cost of the food is fifty dollars, which can be reimbursed if the Outreach Ministry Team is notified in advance.

The Wake Interfaith Hospitality Network incorporates religious organizations in their effort to identify and help to self-sufficiency homeless families with good prospects for success. WIHN host congregations provide temporary shelter to families for one or two weeks during the year. Congregations that do not have the facilities for two to four families to live on campus for a week can support this ministry by serving at the Method Road intake center, as described above.

Monday evenings, the parents who are enrolled in the WIHN program attend a class on life skills. Their children are given dinner and supervised age-appropriate activities. Saturday and Sunday, the families stay at the center to have a daytime safe place to rest and be a family.

In addition to food providers, the WIHN center needs daytime volunteers for Saturday and Sunday, and Monday evenings from 5:45 to 8 pm.



All are invited to explore this service. For more information contact: WIHN, execdir@wihn.org; 919-832-6024. To participate with fellow parishioners, contact the Nativity Outreach Team coordinator for this initiative, Pat Watson, pat.a.watson@gmail.com

On saving the environment from a teen perspective

Mr. and Mrs. Chickadee

Bridget Knapp



I have two bluebird boxes in my backyard. Sometimes you might get other kinds of birds in your bluebird boxes. This year, I got a family of North Carolina Chickadees. We watched them build their nest out of fluffy green moss. A few days before Easter, after seeing no activity in the nest, my parents saw a bee fly into the box. They didn't want them to start building a hive, so they took the nest out and plopped it a few feet away from the box. A few days later, I decided to take a peek in the box and found two chickadee eggs in the empty box and one egg in the actual nest on the ground! My family and I hurried to salvage the eggs. My dad and my brother rushed to the pet store to get some moss to put in the box. We shoveled some of our moss from the pet store in the box and placed the salvageable parts of the wet, soggy nest on top of the moss. Mommy bird immediately repaired the nest and laid 2 more eggs. Four out of five eggs hatched. It was fun to watch Mr. and Mrs. Chickadee feed their babies; however, they didn't like our presence very much. They wouldn't feed them if we were in the yard, and they would angrily chirp at us when we peeked in the box. After they flew the coop, we discovered that one chick didn't make it. Now we have a family of house wrens in our other bluebird box. I guess I need to stop calling it a bluebird box.

Kudos!

Bridget, our youth correspondent, has been awarded \$475 to attend the 2014 Resource Conservation Workshop at NCSU. She has also been selected as a junior curator at the Museum of Natural Sciences.

My Heart is Filled with Hope

Carl Sigel

As Emilie and I prepare for the birth of our fourth grandchild, my head is heavy with thoughts about what kind of world she will enter. Will it be the Kingdom of God that Christ talked about? Will it be the world that she deserves with abundant pure air, clean water, and fruitful fields? By the Grace of God in contrast to my head, my heart is filled with the hope from the One who is before all things, and "in him all things hold together" (Colossians 1:17). For I believe we live in the era of the great awakening. I see signs all around me and especially in our own and in the greater faith community that people are living the greatest commandment of loving God and their neighbor and understanding that our place in nature is to care for it and not just think about what it can do for us. Our challenges are great, but we have that hope, and "hope does not disappoint us, because God's love has been poured into our hearts through the Holy Spirit that has been given to us" (Romans 5: 5).



Youth News

Fixers Class Summer Dates!

Fran Kenney, Vestry

Nativity's 5th/6th/7th graders (soon to be 6th/7th/8th graders and our new Rite-13 class!) will gather a few times over the summer. Join us! Questions? Contact Fran Kenney at franandpatk@bellsouth.net.

June 8 - in our classroom 10 am

July 6 - in our classroom 9:15 am

July 13 - "Bow Ties and Hair Bows"

Dinner and Karaoke; in the parish hall 4-7 pm

August 17 - in our classroom 9:15 am

August 24 - pool party (details TBD)

Quilt Winner Announced

Fran Kenney, Vestry

Congratulations to Gail McNally, winner of the youth program's quilt raffle! We thank everyone who purchased tickets, and appreciate the *Chicks with Pins* quilting group for making such a beautiful quilt for this year's raffle. We raised \$955 that will help fund the J2A class' Urban Adventure to Baltimore and the Pilgrimage to Costa Rica our Pilgrims class will take this month. Look for pictures and news from these trips to come soon.



Please keep our youth and their chaperones in your prayers as they travel together this summer.

Urban Adventure
June 12—15 in Baltimore

Pilgrimage
June 12—20 in Costa Rica



Parish Life in Pictures

Thank you, Thank you, Thank you!

Becky Showalter

Thanks to all the parents, students, and teachers who made the 2013-2014 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 this wonderful 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! ~Becky



Youth Sunday



The Nativity Community Gardeners



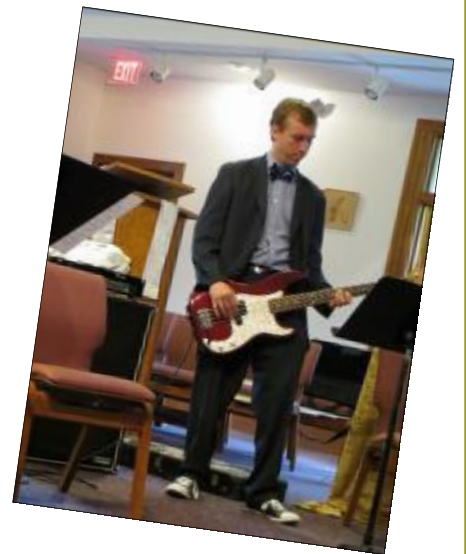
Parish Life in Pictures



Thank you, to all the talented musicians!



Tosca, Tunes and Tofu: Take 10



**Thank you,
Chef Zach and Apryl!**



From the Office

Dear Episcopal Church Women

Below is the link to the *Empower Your Voice 2014* survey, in both English and Spanish. The Episcopal Church is attempting to determine what kind of continuing role and impact the organized ministry of women known as ECW will have.

For the success of this survey, please feel free to share the survey with as many people, men as well as women, as possible within your province, diocese, congregation and personal friends.

The survey officially launched on Monday, May 5; please return the survey by June 30.

<http://www.surveymoz.com/s3/1601926/empower-your-voice-2014>

Please Note

Stephanie will be on vacation June 22-28. If you have a pastoral care emergency, please contact Deacon David.

The office will be closed June 13 and July 24.

Births

Sylvie West Hunnicutt, granddaughter of Carl and Emilie Sigel



Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:

Susan and George Clifford on the death of her mother Jean Norman
Sarah Roberts and her family on the death of her mother Susan Haley

*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@nativityonline.org with your change of address.

- Like us on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/nativityonline>
- Follow us on Twitter @NativityOnline
- Join our email group. Log on to <http://nativityonline.org/community/keep-informed/>
- 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 cell: 919-744-1663.

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



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

Address Service Requested

NONPROFIT ORG
US POSTAGE
PAID
RALEIGH, NC
PERMIT NO. 2464

Vacation Bible School is Coming!

Save the Date: Friday through Sunday, July 18-20



Have your children join us this summer for "SonTreasure Island" Vacation Bible School – an island adventure like no other! This year's program is a weekend of treasure-hunting adventure in the Caribbean Islands. Through their adventures, children will discover that God's love is giving, God's love is kind, God's love is caring, God's love is forgiving and God's love is forever! We will have a great time with lively songs, creative crafts, exciting games, Bible stories and tasty snacks—all of the things that make Vacation Bible School so much fun for children. Most importantly, we will be helping children learn

about God's amazing love. Vacation Bible School is open to all youth 3 years old through rising 5th grade. Friends, neighbors, and extended family are always welcome, too. Older youth are encouraged to participate as helpers. We look forward to another great VBS this year and hope that everyone can join us. If you have questions, please contact Bobbie Feraco (bpferaco@gmail.com) or Sarah O'Connor (sarahoconnor@me.com).

Vacation Bible School Volunteers Needed!

Sarah O'Connor

Lots of help is needed to make this summer time tradition go off without a hitch! Adults and teens are always welcome! Please let Bobbie Feraco (bpferaco@gmail.com) or Sarah O'Connor (sarahoconnor@me.com) know if you're interested in helping with this wonderful mission to our children and our community . . . or just want to know more about it. We look forward to a great VBS this year and hope that everyone can join us. More information will be on the way for our first planning meeting.

You may register online using the following link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ivsv9wamvtWQCgcu0qfpC3j8Rbhm4rO-nUNHIZxiiw/viewform?c=0&w=1>

