

# Glad Tidings



*Our Mission*

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

August 2014

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Issue No. 08-14

## Let Us Break Bread Together

*Carol Smith*

Throughout the summer we have shared the handmade and home-baked communion bread made by some of our dedicated parishioners. We thank them for their special ministry. Chris Chiavacci began this labor of love by providing the recipe, making the first loaves, and finally a beautiful sign-up poster to let others become involved. Throughout the rest of the summer we will continue to have this bread provided each week. Beginning September 7, with our three-service fall schedule, we will partake of the home-baked bread on the first Sunday of each month.



### Glad Tidings Deadline

**September 2014 Issue**

**Deadline: Wednesday**

**August 20 at noon**

**Mailing date: August 27**

**Send articles to**

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

## Take, Eat

You may have noticed the “real” bread we are using for communion during the summer months. A member of the parish, Chris Chiavacci offered to bake bread to use for communion, and then shared the opportunity with other potential bakers in the congregation.

Using a homemade round of bread, rather than the communion wafers, has been both beautiful and messy.

Beautiful because the one round of bread being torn in half at the Fraction is a powerful symbol of Christ's body being broken open for the world. Beautiful because equally powerful is tearing off piece by piece of that broken round to share with the community. One bread, one body.

Messy because tearing off each piece of bread takes more time. It creates crumbs. The piece of bread might be too big or too small. Those who intinct watch in dismay as crumbs fall into the wine.

Beautiful because a different pair of hands have baked the bread each week. The labor is shared. The labor is prayerful. Messy because each week, each round is different, and presents new challenges for the Altar Guild and Clergy in preparing and serving. We have learned to be open to the Spirit in the moment, and trust that we will have all we need, which can be uncomfortable, but also beautiful.

Beautiful, because when I hand a piece of this sacrament to the children, their eyes light up - they recognize what they are holding. For all of us, there may be a deepening of God making God's self known within the ordinary of our daily lives. That reminder of Jesus taking human form, like our own, who transformed death of the body into everlasting life. The bread we eat at communion is transformed into Christ's body; it becomes a moment of grace, and creates a moment of union with God.

A life of faith is always going to be both beautiful and messy. Messy because we are still human, and our lives are not perfect. Beautiful because the power of the resurrection reminds us that life may be transformed. That God takes the messy ordinary and makes it extraordinary. May it be so for our lives of faith.

Peace,  
Stephanie



## Parish Life

### The First Great Commandment

*Caleb Tabor, intern*

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.” –Matthew 22:37-38 (NRSV)

I know plenty of Episcopalians who do this in private; who have a deep impulse that leads them into a life of faith with all of its struggles and blessings. Perhaps you are a very spiritual person in your home. Perhaps you pray at night and when you first wake. Perhaps you hang up crosses, icons, or have a book shelf full of Bibles, devotionals, and theology books. Perhaps you even read them. That is all wonderful. Keep doing it. But let me ask you: how are you living that faith outside of the home? Coming to church is indeed a very good way to give a public demonstration of faith, but there are other ways we must consider.

When I think about sharing my love of God in my daily

“You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind. This is the greatest and first commandment.”

life, I think about those who did so also, the saints who came before and still live among us. I don't mean that you must force your faith on others like some harassing street preacher or televangelist, and I am not saying we

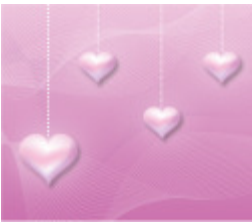
should put up the 10 commandments in the courthouse. Religion in public is a tricky thing these days and we must be respectful. Still, I don't know that I would want to live in a world where we have no Mother Tere-sas, no Reverend Dr. Kings, and no Desmond Tutus. They were the products of a love for God carried from private prayers

to the public square.

A deep and abiding love for God can transform your life and eventually emanate from you, in small and large ways. Don't be afraid to follow the second great commandment, loving your neighbor as yourself, while also noting the fact that you do it because you also believe in the first.

### Looking For Hearts of Hospitality

*Stephanie Allen*



Two of our ministry teams need some new hearts to give new life to the ministries of each.

The Parish Life Team has not existed for the past two years, in part because there was not a clear reason for its being. With the renewed emphasis by the Vestry on intergenerational events for

the entire parish to create community across the three services, the Parish Life Team will have an integral role to play in making those events happen. I am looking for 3-5 people who are organized, and good at asking for help, in planning, scheduling, and then recruiting other folks to run the various Parish Life events. Note, I didn't say the Parish Life Team will be responsible for the entire execution of the event!

The Newcomers Team has done great work in creating a welcoming environment at Nativity for folks who visit. They have made great strides in welcoming new members and helping them to get to know others in the community. What is next for the Newcomers Team? I am looking for 3-4 people to join the team and discern new directions for this team.

All of our teams are happy to welcome new teammates. The strength of the ministries of Nativity is in the shared leadership, shared energy, and shared work of the various teams. There is always room at the table for more. Join us on the second Wednesday of each month at 7 pm, or call me to talk more about being a part of Parish Life, Newcomers, or any other team.

### Joining the Choir at Nativity

*Waltye Rasulala, choirmaster*

When you think of organizations to join in church this year don't forget the Adult Choir. We meet each Thursday evening at 7 pm - 8:30 pm for rehearsals. We begin this year's rehearsals on September 4. One of the highlights this year will be learning and singing the Requiem by the wonderful English composer John Rutter. We have invited the choir from St. Paul's Episcopal Church, Cary to join us in this performance for "Spirituality in the Arts" in March, 2015.

If you are interested in joining the Nativity Adult Choir this year, please contact Waltye Rasulala, choirmaster, at [wrasulala@gmail.com](mailto:wrasulala@gmail.com) or cell: 919-349-3690. Young people who have choir experience, from middle schoolers to high schoolers, are welcome to join us.



Betty Sammit, Nancy Terry, and Ilia Scrivano would love to have you join them in the choir.

## Parish Life

### Seniors Luncheon

*Tom McNally*

The next Seniors' Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, September 21 at 12:45 pm. The luncheon will be hosted by Phyllis Barnwell and Gail McNally at The Pipers Restaurant and Tavern, located at 8304 Falls of Neuse Road. If you would like to attend, please contact Phyllis by email at [phyllis.barnwell@yahoo.com](mailto:phyllis.barnwell@yahoo.com), or by phone at 919-876-7034 or Gail by email at [gsmcnally13@gmail.com](mailto:gsmcnally13@gmail.com) or by phone at 919-376-1869. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, September 17.

All seniors and seniors-to-be are welcome to join us.



Join Gail and Tom McNally and all the Seniors for monthly luncheons.



### An Idea That Will Never Wilt

*Carol Smith*



Do you love flowers? Would you like to share Nativity's altar flowers with others? Come join in the fun and excitement of bringing joy to others through participating in the Flower Shuttle. Donated flowers from various sources are made into small arrangements for individuals

who would normally not receive flowers. These still-good, recycled flowers are taken to recipients living with sickness, terminal illness, poverty and disability. These caring volunteers meet weekly at the Raleigh Moravian Church at 1816 Ridge Road from 9:30-11:30 each Tuesday. They are a welcoming, helpful group of dedicated individuals, and are always interested in new volunteers. Even if you don't arrange flowers, there are many other ways one can assist the Flower Shuttle.

For the last few weeks, the altar flowers from Nativity have been donated to the Flower Shuttle. I usually volunteer twice a month. We are looking for another interested volunteer(s) who would be able to participate, and take our church's flowers on the other two weeks of the month.

Please contact Carol Smith at [ctsmith003@nc.rr.com](mailto:ctsmith003@nc.rr.com) if you might be interested. To learn more about the Flower Shuttle visit their website: [www.flowershuttle.com](http://www.flowershuttle.com). To obtain a volunteer form you may email: [theflowershuttlevolunteer@hotmail.com](mailto:theflowershuttlevolunteer@hotmail.com).

### VBS Fun!



## Words from the Senior and Junior Wardens Alfred Christensen and Sue Young

### Three Sunday Services Returning Sunday, September 7

The Vestry has decided to continue with three worship services in the fall. The decision to do so was made after careful consideration of the feedback on our three-service trial period (January - June 2014), which was gathered through congregational forums as well as written and verbal input from parishioners. The feedback was generally very positive, but some issues were identified. Most of these focused on fellowship, education time, and logistics of parking and transitions between worship and education. The Vestry concluded that making one slight change to the third service, along with planning quarterly intergenerational community events to provide opportunity for our entire Nativity community to be together, would address a majority of the issues raised.

The new schedule starting Sunday, September 7 is as follows:

8 am-8:45 am - first service without music  
9 am-10 am - first adult formation session in Estill House  
9 am-9:50 am - second service with music, but no choir  
10 am - fellowship in Estill House Lobby  
10 am-11 am - second youth and adult formation session in Estill House  
11:15 am-12:15 am - third service with music and choir  
12:15 am - fellowship in Corlett Hall

### Parking Lot Update

Construction of the new parking lot began in late June. The project start was delayed numerous times due to the wet Spring, and some last-minute requirements from the City of Raleigh before the building permit could be issued. After removal of the



necessary trees, the ground has been leveled with dirt brought in from another construction project in North Raleigh. As required by the City of Raleigh, a retention pond has been created for rain runoff. Once started, the work proceeded swiftly and with only limited disturbance to the church campus. Once the grading is finished, paving will start. The parking lot is expected to be near completion by the end of August.

### Water Leak

Many thanks are due to an observant parishioner who spotted water bubbling up between two squares of pavement in front of the Narthex on a recent Sunday afternoon. By early the next morning, a plumber had inspected the area and excavation of the sidewalk began that afternoon. A rusted pipe bringing water to the church was the cause of the leak, and within three days, the pipe had been repaired and concrete poured to create a new section of sidewalk. It was an expensive repair, but now the mystery of a sharp rise in the church's water bill over the past six months has been solved! We had observed increased water usage since late last year and were in the process of setting up a monitoring system to understand if we had a leak or not – needless to say, we did; however, it had nothing to do with the work that was taking place to expand the parking lot.



## Environmental Concerns

*Jesus answered, The first is Hear, O Israel: the Lord our God, the Lord is one; you shall love the Lord your God with all your heart, and with all your soul, and with all your mind, and with your strength. The second is this, You shall love your neighbor as yourself. There is no other commandment greater than these. Mark 12: 29-31*

*On saving the environment from a teen perspective*

### Resource Conservation Workshop

*Bridget Knapp*

Hey everyone! I hope that you are enjoying your summer! My summer has been pretty nice, except for all of my summer reading. I earned a scholarship to attend the 2014 Resource Conservation Workshop at NC State University from June 22nd through June 27th. Here are a few interesting things that I learned.

Soil conservation is extremely important. Soil conservation kicked off during the Dust Bowl in the 1930s. Due to poor farming habits, the soil simply blew away. Considering that it takes about 500 years for one inch of soil to form, it was a huge loss. The Dust Bowl also threw the soil's ecosystem out of whack. Soil is in fact an ecosystem. It consists of earthworms, microorganisms, organic matter, and much more.

We all know that plants need water, sunlight, and soil in order to grow, but did you know that there must be just the right amount of carbon, hydrogen, oxygen, nitrogen, phosphorus, and potassium in order for plants to grow? There are many more nutrients that plants need, but these are the big ones. Did you know that there are some nutrients that plants need that we don't need, and vice versa? Plants will show us if they need more of a certain nutrient by experiencing chlorosis (loss of green color), stunting (not growing as tall), and eventually necrosis (a fancy word for the plant dies). You can save a plant from necrosis by simply taking a soil test. The results will tell you how much of the nutrient, or nutrients, to apply to the soil.

Resource conservation all goes back to water quality. Keeping the water clean is hard work, but it's worth it!



### Putting Our Faith into Action: People's Climate March in NYC

*Carl Sigel*

Worldwide, about 840 million people were undernourished in the period from 2011-2013. Right now, over 50 million people in America are food insecure, and in North Carolina, one-in-four children are in that category. With temperatures rising, scientists have shown that for each °C rise, grain crop yields decline about 10%. Currently, the extreme droughts in California are projected to have a dramatic effect on the availability and cost of food in America. Poverty, hunger, diminishing natural resources, and climate uncertainties are all interrelated, and as people of faith, we are called to take action to care for creation and live on Earth in a more sustainable way.

In the last week of September, world leaders are coming to New York City for a UN summit on one of the important challenges facing us: the climate crisis. On September 21, people from all over the country will converge on New York City and participate in a "family-friendly" march to show our support for a world with an economy that works for people and the planet; a world safe from the ravages of climate change; a world with good jobs, clean air and water, and healthy communities, (<http://www.peoplesclimatemarch.org>). Isn't this what it means to care for our neighbor? How about considering joining Emilie and me as we put our faith into action and participate in the march?

Contact Carl Sigel, [cwsigel@aol.com](mailto:cwsigel@aol.com), for more information.

### Nativity Gardens Thrive!

*Emilie Sigel*

Full sun, good soil, and diligent attention from the gardeners have all contributed to the success and abundant harvest from our community gardens. Produce is harvested and picked up by a team from the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. One of the garden plots is solely devoted to the *Plant a Row for the Hungry* project. Other gardens tithe a portion of the harvest. On a recent Monday, 50 pounds of tomatoes, peppers, cucumbers, green beans, and squash were delivered to the Food Shuttle.



Above: Senior Warden Alfred Christensen in the garden,  
R: Shuttle volunteer Olivia Herrick



## Christian Formation

### 2014-2015 Preschool-5th Grade Sunday School Registration

*Becky Showalter*

Nativity Sunday School starts Sunday, September 7, at 10 am. Children's Formation Hour! Please register your child(ren) at <http://nativityonline.org/education/children/> or at the link below, so we know how many to plan for as well gather correct contact information. We are looking forward to a great year, and to having your family join us!

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1eyh0C4glfBkOgYudCvDeib7g1UegycMB-6ziRroEdn0/viewform>

### Children's Church Continuing for 2014-2015 School Year!

*Becky Showalter*

Children's Church will continue into the new school year during both the 9 am and 11:15 am services. This short kids-only time for preschool through 1st graders takes place in the Education Building after the children's sermon and before communion. It is a great opportunity for your young ones to have the Gospel presented in ways they can understand! Please join us!



### Upcoming Adult Formation Program

#### Fall Focus: *Working our Way Back to You, God*

*Nancy Terry*

Adult Formation at Nativity has exciting, varied and multiple opportunities for you this Fall through Advent. In addition to the usual 10 am Sunday morning opportunity, a 9 am class is also being offered. On Monday, Tuesday, and Wednesday nights small group studies are available. Also, there will be self-study options for your convenience and pace; and "questions" to ponder during the Sunday worship service.



On Sunday mornings we will have guest facilitators such as Nancy Titus and Nancy Allison.

Participate in:

- a TED Talk program ( video web based ) "What Does God Want for Me?" either as a group on Sunday morning or on your own at home
- a study called "Why Go to Church?"
- and another course to explore our "Episcopal Identity."

During Advent we will watch clips from *It's a Wonderful Life* to stimulate our discussion of the season.

Evening offerings will continue with Blue Candle, Education For Ministry, and Community Bible Study. New on Tuesday evenings a seven-week study, *Tuesdays with Jane* (Vella) and *Walter* (Brueggeman), will be available. (Limited to six participants)



There will be many opportunities for you to participate in Adult Formation to grow and deepen your faith experience. Watch for details in the next Glad Tidings and online at <http://nativityonline.org/education/adult/>.

## Parish Life



**Summer Bounty,**  
by Jason Pace. Oil on canvas.

### Call for Art

*Evelyn Judson*

During the month of November, Church of the Nativity is holding an art show of members' art creations. If you create any sort of visual art, we would love to have you submit a piece. Adults and children—we want you all to participate. The theme will be “As We See God”. This will be a juried show (there will be a selection process) so we need your best work. We will hang the show for the month, and then, if you so desire, in conjunction with the Day of Giving on the first Sunday in Advent, the art will be auctioned. Proceeds of the auction will go to the Outreach budget. Participation in the auction is optional and voluntary. No artist is obligated to donate his or her work; we still would love to see and hang it. So start creating. Whichever medium speaks to you. Look for information about submission guidelines and applications soon; applications and art must be submitted by the second week in October 19. This could be the start of a new ongoing adventure!

### Affect our Environment—Right here at Nativity!

*Evelyn Judson*

One of the long-term goals for Nativity is to “Provide an environment in which individuals explore and identify their sense of faith as part of the body of Christ, and practice their beliefs in the church and in the world.” The Worship Team is exploring some options for our worship space. First, we would like to address the narthex. Some people love how it provides light for the whole nave, while others feel the comings and goings there are distracting. We have discussed some sort of screening to let the light in while minimizing the motion. Organdy strips? Lots of Origami birds hanging on threads? Plants? We don't even have to stay with one idea—we could do different things seasonally, or as we got tired of one, or as someone else comes up with their brainstorm. If you think of something, please talk to Stephanie or Evelyn Judson, at 919-326-5884, or [rsjudson@juno.com](mailto:rsjudson@juno.com).

### Youth Activities



*The apocalypse happened in Baltimore. The trees grow through the rooftops. The people are hungry and tired, but there is no food to buy, no bus at the bus stop. The only thing to do is plant a garden. We cleared out the rubble, got mud in our sneakers. We poured sweat under the Baltimore sun. By the second day we were tough, pulling stumps with bare hands alongside the locals. We thanked God for our food every night. Josh Booth, J2A Baltimore Urban Adventure*



The Pilgrims journeyed to Costa Rica.



## Parish Life

### Introducing Paul

*Paul Grass*

Hi everyone! My name is Paul Grass and I am your new interim youth minister. I know I have met a handful of you already over the last few Sundays, but, with it being summer time, I bet I have a handful more to meet. I am looking forward to getting to know all of you over the next school year.

I am coming to Nativity after spending my last (and only) 23 years in the Diocese of Alabama. I was born Episcopalian in the beautiful, small town of Guntersville and grew up attending the Church of the Epiphany. Rural town as it is, church and school life run Guntersville. I was very lucky to have church programs every Sunday and Wednesday from preschool to high school. As far back as I can remember, church was shaping me to be the person I am. I view this job (if you want to call it that) as the chance to give back.

At the University of Alabama I majored in American Studies and became a member of Canterbury Chapel Church and Student Center. Eventually I wound up as vice-president of the student forum and briefly served on the vestry. Between my summers in Tuscaloosa, I was a counselor at Wonderful, Wonderful Camp McDowell. Being a counselor was a dream come true for me; it was a chance to be the superhero I looked up to as a child. I knew I wanted to bring that same energy to Nativity, but it turns out it was already here.

This past weekend, I got to help with the SonTreasure Is-

land Vacation Bible School. I hope you got a chance to see the amazing Treasure Point story center or the undersea arts and crafts room that was put up in the Education Building. I, like all of the volunteers, am still humming the theme songs. The volunteers, both adults and youth, gave their energy and became superheroes to the smallest members of our congregation. The energy that I grew up in is definitely at work inside and outside the walls of Nativity. I am so excited to find new ways to focus that energy and help Nativity's youth program grow.

Youth ministry shaped me into the person I am now. I would not be the same without the gung-ho priests, gregarious youth ministers, and goofy parish members that helped shape me spiritually and mentally. Nativity clearly has two of those ingredients; I am happy to be the third. Through grade school and middle school, Epiphany had parents and priests tag team the youth ministry. The influence any of us can have on another person, young or old, with just a few words, is massive. Some of my most shaping moments in Jr. EYC came not from a priest, but from another child's parent. I am here to help guide this program, but I need your help to make sure Nativity is the best that it can be. I look forward to working with you- yes you- this year; together we can do great things for the future of the church! I cannot wait to see how this year unfolds!





## From the Office

### Births

Donovan James Spence, grandson of Jack and Bea Spence  
Corbin Bradley Strenger, grandson of Ruth and David Brown

### Baptisms

Harper Kathryn Shea  
Berkeley Elizabeth Sumner  
Keaton Dean Sumner  
Stephanie Elizabeth Dean Sumner



*Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:*

The family of Ann Pregnall

Helen Armstrong on the death of her mother Guila Armstrong

Sally Bloom and her family on the death of her mother Rochelle Montague Causey

Carolyn Kerr and her family on the death of her mother Roberta Martin, and her cousin Tommy Britt

Duff McAdams and his family on the death of his father David McAdams, Sr.

Jan Newcomer on the death of her mother Jackie Newcomer

Emily Phillips and her family on the death of her father-in-law Tim Phillips

Waltye Rasulala on the death of her sister Ernestine Holiday

Sam Taylor and Nancy Reed on the death of his father Conrad Taylor

*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](mailto: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](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: 919-744-1663.

**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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## Putting Our Faith into Action: Stop Hunger Now

*Carl Sigel*

When Jesus entered Jerusalem on Palm Sunday, he had a purpose and he was putting his faith into action. He went into the temple and overturned the money changer's tables. He made it clear that the temple was for worship and not commerce. When asked later about which commandment was first, his answer also involved taking action—we are to love God and love our neighbor. To me these teachings by Jesus provide clear examples as to what it means to live as a Christian. After the 10 am service on August 17, the Outreach Ministry will provide parishioners with an opportunity to put their faith into action by caring for our neighbor when we will gather in community and assemble 10,000 meals for the hungry during our second annual Stop Hunger Now event. After packing the meals, we will celebrate our accomplishment by having lunch together under the oak tree (weather permitting). Participants are asked to provide their own brown-bag lunch. Drinks will be provided. Everyone is welcome. If you plan to participate, please let Pat Watson ([pat.a.watson@gmail.com](mailto:pat.a.watson@gmail.com)) know.

