

Glad Tidings



February 2015

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Issue No. 02-15

Stop, Pray, Work, Play, and Love: Lent with the Brothers of the SSJE

This Lent, you are invited to "Stop, Pray, Work, Play, and Love" with the brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist in two ways.

One, you may sign up at ssje.org to receive a daily email with a short video presented by the brothers (3-5 minutes) that reflects upon our ideas of time. Each week will focus on a new theme: week 1: Stop, week 2: Pray, etc.

Two, you can join the weekly discussion on Sundays at 10:15 am. We will watch a reflection on the weekly theme and then discuss how these themes intersect with our faith, our Lenten practices, and the ways we live.

May you find God's "time" this Lent!



**Glad Tidings
Deadline
March 2015 Issue
Deadline:
February 18
Mailing date:
February 25**

Come and See?

A few Sundays ago, in the Gospel reading from the first chapter of John, Phillip invites his friend Nathanael to "come and see" Jesus. Nathanael is skeptical at first, but then comes along to see Jesus himself, and declares him to be the Son of God - King of Israel!

How do we invite others to "come and see" Jesus as we experience Jesus in the church? Simply judging by headlines, institutional Christianity is not looking so good these days—a pastor stopping a burial mid-service when he discovered the woman had a same-sex partner, refusing to continue the service...an Episcopal Bishop being responsible for a tragic hit-and-run, and the stories and commentary more concerned with how she became a bishop than focused on the tragedy of a lost life, a family that will never be the same...lawsuits over church property...debates about creationism and science...

I could go on. Christianity does not have the best reputation out there anymore. So what to do?

On the other hand, plenty of people attend church because they find the good news there. They know their life to be different because they follow Jesus. They find prayer and worship life-giving. How do we get that message out?

Come and see. I think it starts with that simple invitation. And it begins with our being able to articulate why we are here in church, what it means to us, why it is important that we are part of a worshipping community.

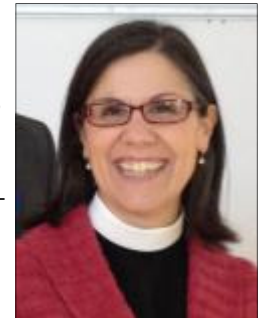
So two questions for you to chew on this month:

What is most important to you about being part of this community of faith? What brings you back each week?

With whom might you share this story? Whom might you invite to come and see Jesus in this community?

Jesus didn't rely on newspaper headlines. Frankly, I don't think the media of the time would have been any kinder on his movement than they are today. Jesus started with relationships. Meeting the disciples in the boat. Traveling from town to town. Proclaiming the Good News. Come and see.

See you in church.
Stephanie



Growing With Grace: 2015 Stewardship Report

Please join the Stewardship Team and the Finance Team on February 1 at the 10:15 am Education hour to discuss the results of the 2015 *Growing with Grace* campaign and to take a look at the 2015 budget.

Parish Life

Opportunities for Ministry

Stephanie Allen

Worship Team - We are looking for folks who attend the 9 am service to be part of the team to help plan the services and the use of the church space. We need your voice! Contact Stephanie Allen, sa@nativityonline.org.

Newcomer Team - Looking for folks with a heart for hospitality. Help pass on the feeling of warmth and welcome to newcomers in our community. Still feel new to the community? Great! We need your input too! Contact Sue Young, oldham8616@aol.com.

Altar Guild - A quiet, contemplative way to prepare for worship by assisting with preparing the Table. God is found in the conversation during the clean-up, and the act of service making sure the vessels are prepared, the linens in place, and bread and the wine ready. For those who like to work behind the scenes! Contact: Brenda Johnson, bojjohnston@gmail.com.

Take a Meal or Help with Funeral Receptions- Be on the list to be contacted when a member of the parish needs meals in times of illness, family crisis, etc. Help with receptions after funerals with setting out and cleaning up. Another one of those vital, behind-the-scenes ministries. Contact Susie Holmes, susieholmes123@gmail.com.

Fellowship Team - Bake some cookies! The more hands who help with setting out and cleaning up after fellowship the better. Not a chef? That's okay, you can sign up to pick up the iced tea on Saturday. Contact: Sandy Entrup, centrup@att.net.

Ushers and greeters - Greet parishioners and newcomers at Sunday services and assist during the offertory and communion. We especially need more ushers and greeters at the 9 am service! Contact: Jennie Herrick, office@nativityonline.org.

Seniors' Luncheon

Tom McNally

The next Seniors' Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, February 15, at 12:45 pm. The luncheon will be hosted by Susan Garrison at the Hibernian Irish Pub, located at 8021 Falls of Neuse Rd (just north of Strickland Rd.) If you would like to attend, please contact Susan at susgarri@yahoo.com or 802-380-5678, or Tom McNally at T24mac@nc.rr.com or 919-376-1869. Reservations must be made by Wednesday February 11. All seniors and/or seniors-to-be are welcome.

Last Call for Family Foyer!

Becky Showalter

Our spring Family Foyer groups will be organized the second week of February, so don't miss your chance! These short-term supper groups, where each family hosts once, are great ways to meet your Nativity "neighbors." Whether you've been here 20 years or 2 months, Foyer is always fun! Contact Becky Showalter at jbshow@bellsouth.net to sign up, or add your name to the sign-up sheet at church.

Unplug to Connect: Disconnecting from Distractors in Your Relationship

Carl and Nancy Terry

Announcing the 2015 Better Marriage North Carolina Retreat to be held on March 6 - 7, at the Embassy Suites Hotel in Cary, North Carolina.

The Friday evening program will begin with Turner and Wayne Tamberelli, who will lighten your hearts as you smile and laugh through their presentation of a modern married couple in this age of numerous marriage distractors. An ice cream social and dancing with DJ James Herrick will follow.

On Saturday, you will select three workshops to attend as a couple, from among nine workshop topics on the three tracks of Disconnecting, Connecting, and Getting Back on Track. The workshops will be led by experienced facilitator couples on a wide variety of relationship topics.

Don't miss this opportunity to experience an exciting weekend to enrich your marriage relationship. For more information please contact Carl and Nancy Terry at 919-559-2696.



Parish Life

Shrove Tuesday Pancakes

Fran Kenney

Nativity's pancake supper and silent auction will be held Tuesday, February 17, 5:30—7 pm. Plan to join us for this fun parish life event! Donations of \$5/person with a max of \$20/family will be appreciated and accepted at the door the night of the supper. All proceeds will go toward youth mission trips. Questions? Contact Fran Kenney at franandpatk@bellsouth.net or 919-676-8708.

Vacation Bible School Plans Already Underway

Becky Showalter

Star co-coordinators Bobbie Feraco and Sarah O'Connor have already begun planning another great Vacation Bible School for this summer. Dates are still up in the air, but will probably be sometime in July. Stay tuned and mark your calendars to volunteer!

Rutter Requiem Mass To Be Performed At Nativity

Waltye Rasulala, Choirmaster

On March 14 at 4 pm, the choirs of Church of the Nativity and St. Paul's, Cary, will join forces to perform John Rutter's *Requiem* for the March *Spirituality in the Arts*. John Rutter, England's premier composer of church music, wrote this work based on text drawn partly from the Roman Catholic Mass for the Dead and upon English texts, particularly some used in the Anglican service.

Inspired by Gabriel Faure's *Requiem*, Rutter composed his *Requiem* in 1985 in memory of his father, who had died in 1983. As noted in program notes written by Steven Ledbetter, Rutter stated, "I wanted to remember him in music in some way, and preferably in a way that he might have enjoyed and appreciated." Although not a musician, his father enjoyed music, so Rutter chose to compose a piece aimed at the eager non-specialist. "It was particularly important in this case to write something that could be appreciated by people everywhere."

When planning this work, Rutter decided to stay close to the Fauré model he admired, selecting specific passages, and adding other texts with the aim of producing a work that could be performed in church or in the concert hall. This setting combines choir, soprano soloist, and orchestral accompaniment.

Please join us for *Spirituality in the Arts* to enjoy this beautiful work by an outstanding and honored composer.



Connections

Mike Belmares

Here we are in 2015. Advent is over. Christmas is over too. The holidays have passed and we're well into the lull of February and winter. Oh yeah, Happy New Year! Though it might be too cold to play outside and there may not be enough snow to make a snowman, there are ways to be entertained. Maybe you'll read more books. Perhaps you'll take the time to actually write that novel you've been putting off for 10 years. Or maybe you'll be like me, on my iPhone; living vicariously through others via the joy of Instagram.

Perhaps you knew about it, perhaps not, but I led an Advent Instagram (IG) project on behalf of Nativity for the second consecutive year called "Advent Baton." It works like this: Create an Instagram account, call it Advent Baton, recruit people to take photos that all center around Advent and Advent meditations. Each day the "baton" is passed to the next person to take pictures and write a little about their photo so others know why that particular picture/scene is special to them.

It's pretty simple, and it's really cool. This year we had more people sign up to carry the baton than last year. Out of the 24 days of Advent, we had 20 slots filled. Ten out of 20 slots were from different congregations other than Nativity and 2 out of the 20 slots represented different states.

Churches represented:

1. Church of the Nativity, Raleigh
2. Pleasant Grove United Methodist, Raleigh
3. Church of the Epiphany, Lebanon, TN
4. St. Ambrose, Raleigh
5. St. Matthew's, Charlotte, NC
6. Real Life Church, Santa Clarita, CA
7. St. Paul's Episcopal, Wilkesboro, NC
8. Episcopal Diocese of North Carolina
9. Union Baptist Church, Durham, NC
10. Unaffiliated

In the end, what does this teach us? I don't really know, but it's cool when others whom we have never met can collaborate and share in the same thing. I think it creates a greater sense of connectedness and reminds us that the Spirit of our Lord is at work all over. Spirituality is often so personal, but this kind of project lets people share and encourage us that we are not alone on our Christian journeys. The spirit of the holidays, shared through an iPhone. Funny isn't it?

Peace be with you!

Christian Formation

Preschool through 5th Grade Sunday School Update

Becky Showalter

With our “gargantuan” ice storm and MLK day and coming down off of the holiday rush, it may seem that everything is still a bit up in the air, but going to church, seeing friends at Sunday School, having a good time, learning new things, and enjoying our wonderful church community is the perfect way to anchor yourself and your child. We would love to see you in this new year!

For Sunday School, we continue to use the Spark Sunday School curriculum. Included are online lesson plans, coloring pages, learner leaflets that lead teachers and youth through the lesson, and story and NRSV Bibles for the classrooms. Preschool through first grade follows a Bible Story curriculum where the children will be introduced to a new Bible Story each week, while the 2nd-5th grade classes will follow a lectionary-based curriculum that introduces them to the scripture that they will hear in church.

All classes meet from 10:15 to 11 am between the 9 am and 11:15 am services. And we welcome all newcomers! If you are new to the Sunday School program, please register your child at <http://nativityonline.org/education/children/> so we can let you know all the wonderful things going on. Or feel free to contact Becky Showalter, the Children’s Ministry Team Chair, with any questions at jbshow@bellsouth.net or 919-845-8975.

What The Young Ones are Studying – Lessons for February

Preschool Class and the Kindergarten-1st Grade Class:

Using the Spark Sunday School curriculum, these classes focus on the colorful characters of the Old Testament through fun learner leaflets, games, group play, crafts, and more.

January 25	The Lord’s Prayer
February 1	Woman at the Well
February 8	Valentines’ Day
February 15	The Centurion’s Servant
February 22	Jesus Blesses the Children
March 1	The Sower

2nd-5th Grade Class:

Using the lectionary version of the Spark Sunday School curriculum, these lessons will center on one of our daily lectionary readings (the Bible passages read in church), and our hope is that this exposure to the reading in class will help the students connect to what is being said in church 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.

January 25	Jonah and the Big Fish
February 1	Teaching and Healing
February 8	Jesus Heals
February 15	The Transfiguration
February 22	Noah’s Ark
March 1	Abraham and Sarah’s Visitors

Dear Nativity Family,

It is a touch bittersweet to announce that I have decided to “retire” as Children’s Program coordinator (although I will move on to helping in other areas!). Having served for three-plus years and with Kylie and Noah now in the youth program, it seems time for someone with more ties to this age to bring their experience and their energy to this wonderful ministry. Teaching the young ones that they are loved, that they are special, that they are children of God—it really is amazing . . . and important! We have interest from one person to be co-coordinator next year. If you feel called to help as well, please let me know. :)

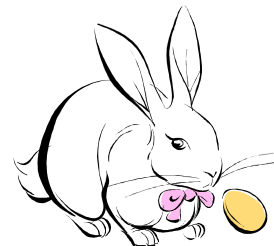
With much fondness,
Becky Showalter
jbshow@bellsouth.net



Ready to Play Easter Bunny??

Becky Showalter

We are looking for someone to coordinate our two Easter egg hunts on Easter, April 5, after the 9 am service and after the 11:15 am service.



If you will be in town and are willing to help with this fun event (or have teens that are willing to help!), please contact Becky Showalter at jbshow@bellsouth.net or 919-845-8975. This can be especially fun for a family to do!

Adult Christian Formation

Schedule for Adult Education: Overview

See details for individual classes below

9 am Adult Education Hour

February 1 - Lectionary discussion

February 8 - *Who is My Neighbor?* Led by Beth Crow

February 15 - Interfaith Preach-in: *Food, Faith, and Climate Change*. Led by Carl Sigel (see article page X)

February 22 - March 22 *Last Week of Christ* book study. Led by George Douglas

10:15 am Adult Education Hour

February 1 - March 22 - Reflections on the lectionary with Fr. George

February 1 - February 15 - *Sacred Parenting* class continues with Nancy Terry and Liz Belmares

February 1 - *Growing With Grace: Results of 2015 Stewardship Campaign*. Led by the Stewardship and Finance Teams

February 8 - *Who is My Neighbor?* Led by Beth Crow

February 15 - Interfaith Preach-in: *Food, Faith, and Climate Change*. Led by Carl Sigel (see article page 8)

February 22 - March 22 *Last Week of Christ* book study. Led by George Douglas

February 22 - March 22 - *Stop, Pray, Work, Play, & Love: Lent with the Brothers of the Society of St. John the Evangelist*

Who Is My Neighbor?

Beth Crow

Sunday, February 8, at 9 am and 10:15 am

With the release of the film *Selma* and the upcoming 50th anniversary of Bloody Sunday and The Voting Rights Act, we will meet (through video clips) individuals from different walks of life and different points of view. Two of these individuals, C.P. Ellis and Ann Atwater, are the focus of the documentary, *Unlikely Friendship*, a true story of an incredible friendship between a Ku Klux Klan member and a poor African American welfare mother and civil rights activist in Durham, NC. The second clip portrays nine young people from across the country discussing their opinions on racial tension in Ferguson, MO. We will discuss how one can overcome the destructive power of prejudice and stereotyping and learn to truly love one's neighbor and walk in his or her shoes.



Last Week of Christ

George Douglas

February 22-March 22, at 9am and 10:15am

What really happened during the final week in the life of Jesus? Religious scholars Marcus Borg and John Dominic Crossan wrote a book in 2006 after discovering that many Christians are unclear about the details of the events of this important period.

Beginning February 22, adult education will spend five weeks in Lent studying the book *The Last Week*. Using the Gospel of Mark, the book presents a day-by-day account of the final week of Jesus's life. The story begins with two triumphal entries into Jerusalem. The first depicts the entry of Roman governor Pontius Pilate into the city, symbolizing military strength. The second celebrates a new kind of moral hero who was praised by the people as he rode into the city on a humble donkey. The story concludes with Jesus' marching up Calvary, offering himself as a model for others.

Get the book and join George Douglas Sunday mornings at 9 and 10:15 am for a review and discussion of *The Last Week*. The class will run from February 22 through March 22. The book is available in paperback and on Kindle. The group will meet in the chapel/conference room in Estill House.



Sacred Parenting

Nancy Terry

Sunday, February 1, 8, 15 at 10:15 am

Sacred Parenting with Liz Belmares and Nancy Terry (in Corlett Hall), a DVD series by Gary Thomas continues.

February 1 "Embracing our Insignificance"

February 8 "The Gold Behind the Quilt"

February 15 "The Sweet Side of Sacrifice"

Youth News

Valloween Party!

Paul Grass, Interim Youth Minister

You know, Nativity, Valentine’s Day could be a great holiday. As is? It stinks. It’s awkward. It does not care if you are single or part of a pair; it demands sacrifice. It asks for flowers, a nice date, or at the very least a card. What an awful holiday. What do the other holidays ask for? Explosions! Costumes! Those annoying little noisemakers! How in the world have we let this holiday go on? Well I say, “no longer.” I say we make a holiday that would make St. Valentine proud. I declare we shall create a new holiday. We will keep the good, throw out the bad, and create a celebration that eschews awkwardness for silly enjoyment.

What does February 14 have going for it? Well, there’s a pink theme, heart candies, and cupids. It would be irresponsible to get rid of those swaddled cherubs. This is, after all, their only time to shine. Honestly, all of those can stay. It is simply the pressure that must be gone.

Now, what shall we take from the other holidays? I doubt I could clear a professional fireworks display with the vestry, so that’s out. How about costumes? Now costumes have potential. Everyone likes a good costume party. Some people poke out some eye holes, put on a sheet, and they are the ghost with most. Others put in entirely too much work, and only wear their costume for October 31. Why should that be? We shall add February 14th as an acceptable costumed night to the calendar. Annoying noise makers shall be mandatory, and the word “merry” shall be given another run out. This is going to be an excellent party!

From 6:30 to 8:30 on Saturday, February 14, Nativity will be hosting a Very Merry “Valloween” Party. We have had several parents already volunteer to help set up and more hands are always welcome. The youth groups from neighboring churches have also been invited, so let us show up in force to welcome them. Costumes are not required, but between pink, black, and orange, certainly you can find something to wear. There will be contests for the scariest, the pinkest, and the best costume. Be prepared for a fine night of campy games and goofy fun. I can’t wait to see you there, and Merry Valloween to you.



Post Holiday Youth Re-gathering breakfast

Outreach

Food Drive for Leesville ES Pride Packs Sunday, February 1

Cheryl Waechter

Based on the overwhelming success of our first monthly food drive for students at LES who are uncertain of being fed on weekends, the Outreach Team has committed to guaranteeing food for five of the 30 students currently unserved. From now until the end of the school year, we will focus our monthly food drives on providing for those five students.

In order to make our food collection more efficient for all of us, here are two items which will help.

- ◆ In this issue of *Glad Tidings* there is an insert with more detailed information about types of foods needed and the number of servings needed for one child for one weekend.
- ◆ There is also a sign-up sheet next to the collection basket in Estill House. This has each type of food, the number of servings needed for the month and a space for you to indicate what you will bring and the number of servings.

As always, monetary donations are also gratefully accepted. If you have any questions or would like to help with this ministry, please email me at cherylww1127@gmail.com.

Calling All 2nd thru 5th Graders!

Becky Showalter

We need YOU to help fight hunger in our community. On Saturday, February 21, from 11 am to 1 pm, join us for an "outreach field trip" to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle! We will pack bags of groceries at the Food Shuttle, load them into vehicles, and then distribute them to folks in need. Parents are required to accompany their Sunday Schooler(s) on this trip, but it should be blast! RSVP to Becky Showalter at jbshow@bellsouth.net.

Richard Judson Chokes in Honduras

(And lives to choke again . . . and again . . .)

Pete Crow

Six members or close associates of Church of the Nativity returned January 19 from a week in Honduras with the Honduras Health Mission. Steve Gordon was the lead interpreter for the mission, Nancy McMillan served as medical advisor to the pharmacy, Nancy Titus cleaned some challenging ears (including a couple of bug extractions) as treatment nurse, and Evelyn Judson entertained kids with bean bags, God's Eyes, and other diversions so everyone else could work. Pete Crow and Richard Judson led each day of clinics with a Heimlich Maneuver demonstration and then spent much of the rest of the day ushering people to the appropriate clinics.



Right: Evelyn Judson
Above (center): Steve Gordon

By the end of the week, medical clinics had treated 1,320 patients, dental clinic 210, and eye clinic 236. These patients came from many communities in a remote, mountainous part of southern Honduras near Nicaragua. Some of these communities still have no roads or electricity. The people come to the clinics on foot or horseback or motorcycle. Some get a bus ride part or most of the way. None of their communities have medical professionals, but one of the goals of the mission is training at least one unlicensed health advocate in each community. This year seven members of the mission team (almost a fourth of the team) were from Honduras.



Environmental Concerns

You are worthy, our Lord and God, to receive glory and honor and power, for you created all things, and by your will they existed and were created. (Rev. 4:11)

Growing in God's Creation: Interfaith Power & Light Preach-In on Climate Change

Carl Sigel

On Sunday, February 15, Nativity will participate in the National Interfaith Power & Light Preach-In on Climate Change. The worship services will include music, liturgy, and a sermon with Creation Care themes. During Adult Formation at both the 9 and 10 am sessions, I will present a talk entitled *Sacred Foodscapes: Food, Faith, and Climate Change*. Our entry point for this presentation will be to first explore the current condition of the Earth's biosphere and level of global food security. Next, we will discuss three confounding realities: 1) the increasing world population is placing unprecedented demands on agriculture and natural resources, 2) about one-third of the Earth's greenhouse gas

emissions result from agriculture, and climate change has already cut into the global food supply, and 3) what we eat profoundly affects not only our own health, but also the health of the planet. The good news is that there are solutions to these dilemmas. Our hope for the future is expressed in the words of this prayer from the *Book of Common Prayer*, "Give us a reverence for the earth as your own creation, that we may use its resources rightly in the service of others and to your honor." (Prayers of the People, Form IV) We will explore some of the promising and innovative solutions in agriculture that are being developed and implemented.

Nativity Continues to Reduce Energy Usage and Carbon Footprint

Sue Young, Vestry

Nativity has kicked off the new year with an overhaul of a majority of our lighting fixtures throughout the campus. These fixtures have been retrofitted to use more energy-efficient bulbs that will reduce our energy consumption by a projected 45%. This initiative started with a call to Duke Energy to ask for consultation on energy-saving incentives with an eye toward the eventual replacement of our aging HVAC systems. We were told that they could be of more help with impacting energy efficiencies in our overhead lighting and were referred to Duke's Small Business Energy Saver Program. After conducting a tour of our buildings and the range of lighting fixtures Nativity had installed over the years through various stages of building, we received quote for retrofitting 77 lighting fixtures. The proposal promised to improve all of our older technology, cut our monthly electric bill by an estimated 1,086kWh (or ~\$95/month) and to decrease the energy we spent on lighting by over 45%.

These upgrades took place during one five-hour appointment with minimal disruption to the work taking place at the church that day. With a vestry decision to pay for the cost of the retrofits over a two-year, interest-free time period, the church will realize both energy and cost savings from day one.



Parish Life

Polar Bears

Bridget Knapp

If you didn't know, I'm a Junior Curator at the NC Museum of Natural Sciences and we get to take special "behind the scenes" trips. Last December, I got to go to the NC Zoo. My favorite part of the trip was the polar bears. The zoo finished its \$8.5 million renovations to the polar exhibit in October 2014. The exhibit is 2.5 acres, complete with a stream, a pool, an ice cave, and a den where a mother could give birth and raise cubs; female polar bears usually have two cubs and stay with their cubs for two-and-a-half years.

We saw Anana the polar bear roaming the exhibit. Adult female polar bears weigh 330 to 650 pounds. She came very close to the viewing window and even reared up on her back legs to her full height. She was at least ten feet tall! I noticed that Anana had a bunch of black spots on her head and arms. The zoo keeper explained that Anana had recently been given vaccinations which require the veterinarian to give Anana an awkward haircut. Polar bears actually have black skin and clear fur. Black skin helps them absorb heat. Polar bears look white as snow because when all of these clear hairs are bunched up together, the fur appears to be white.

The world's polar bear population is between 20,000 to 25,000 individuals. Polar bears are considered to be a vulnerable species. The populations of polar bears are decreasing mainly because of the melting sea ice due to climate change. This population decline hasn't been unnoticed. The World Wildlife Fund and the Coca-Cola Company joined forces to help protect polar bears. The Coca-Cola Company generated \$2 million for the World Wildlife Fund after the first year of its Arctic Home campaign. Polar bears are not out of the woods yet. They still need our help to ensure their protection for generations to come.



My name is **Bobbie Feraco**. I am married to David Feraco and have two children, Kaylee who is 10 and Gracie who is 4. We have been attending Nativity since Ash Wednesday of 2013. Since joining the parish I have served on the Children's Ministry Team, as a Stephen Minister, and also co-directing Vacation Bible School last summer. I am not a cradle Episcopalian although I do believe I was born to be an Episcopalian — it just took me a while to find my spiritual home! I am looking forward to serving this parish!



Hello! I have been attending Church of the Nativity since the mid-1990's and have been active in a number of different groups here - currently I am involved with vocal choir, EfM (Education for Ministry) as a co-mentor, Lay Eucharistic Minister, Spirituality in the Arts, Blue Candle, and I am an occasional trumpet player. Formerly I was active in bell choir, Outreach Ministry Team, Haiti Earthquake Relief, Organ Committee, Nativity Singles, Foyer, lay delegate to the Diocesan Convention, Nets for Life (Episcopal Relief and Development malaria-prevention program), and I am perhaps forgetting a few things. With all the activities that are going on here, no wonder we are affectionately known as "Church of the Activity"! By profession I am a chief mechanical engineer for an aerospace company and a hobby of mine is driving race cars. I look forward to serving the church as a member of the vestry. **Harlan Hagge**



My name is **Alicia Lester-Bodford** and my husband Derek, my daughter Jessica, and I have been members at Nativity for 22 years. I'm reminded of Father George's sermon last Sunday about listening for God. Evidently Derek was listening that first Sunday in 1992 when he leaned over and whispered in my ear, "This is it." I can still taste the homemade bread Leslie Troan brought over after our first visit. My mother and grandmothers taught me that families feed each other, and Nativity is indeed family. I'm fed each week with my work with the acolytes. My Acolyte Master growing up was Paul Hensley. Although I don't generally genuflect as he did, I learned reverence at the altar and a deep love of our liturgy and service at the altar from him. I hope to share some of what Paul taught me.

I'm fed when I serve as Eucharistic Minister or as Eucharistic Visitor. I am fed when I follow the example of Carl Sigel and practice love of God's creation. I am fed when I study under Harlan Hagge and Gail McNally's watchful eyes in EfM. I am fed when I prepare food for pastoral care. BUT I am most fed at God's table each and every Sunday with my Nativity family.

This will be my second term on Nativity's vestry. I am honored to be asked to serve again and hope to offer my very best to give back just a small smidgen of what Nativity's given me.

Parish Life in Pictures



**Foyer
Holiday
Party**



**Senior
Luncheon**



From the Parish Coordinator's Office



Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:

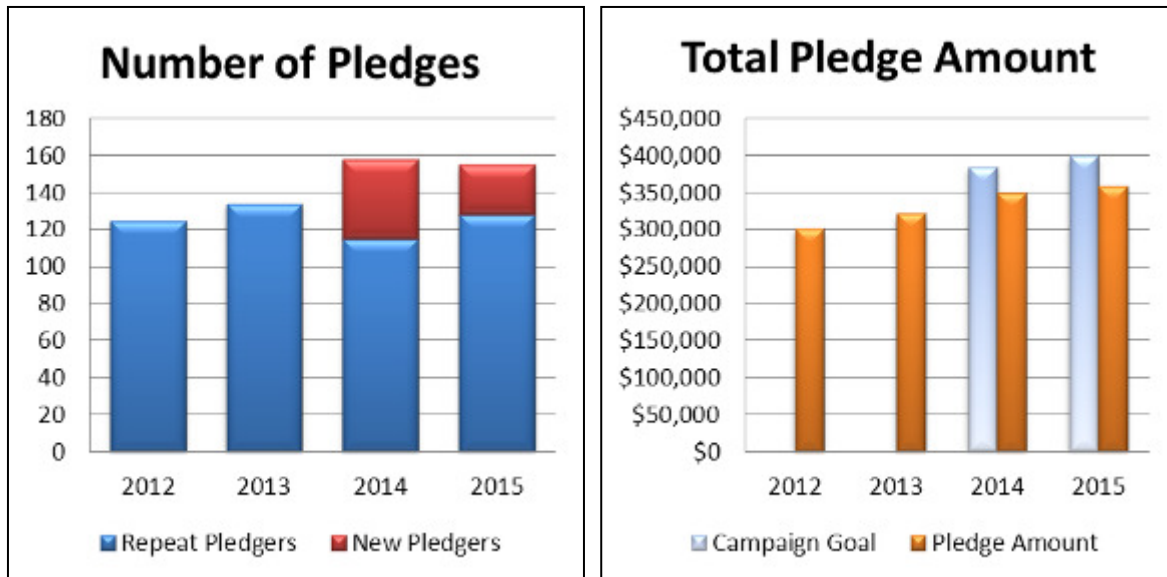
Sally Bloom on the death of her aunt Joanne Montague
 Jeremy Clos on the death of his grandmother Edna Reid
 Brenda Owen Johnston on the death of her sister Linda Owen Funderburk
 Patsy Christiansen on the death of her mother Bernita Linthicum
 Doug Tessier and his family on the death of his mother Judy Tessier

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

Stewardship 2015 Campaign Comes to an End

Thank you for pledging. The 2015 stewardship campaign is now officially closed; however, new pledges for 2015 are welcome throughout the year.

The total amount pledged for 2015 is \$358,705 – a little over what was pledged for 2014, but still under the goal the Vestry had set for 2015. The Finance committee is now working on the budget for 2015, and will have to carefully evaluate how many of our *Growing with Grace* activities we can implement this year.



If you are interested in learning more about the 2015 stewardship campaign and the current budgeting process, please attend an adult education session on Sunday, February 1, at 10 am.



Church of the Nativity

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Visit us on the web at: www.nativityonline.org

Glad Tidings Team

Stephanie Allen

Jennie Herrick

Emilie Sigel

Ailsa Tessier

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PERMIT NO. 2464

**Glad Tidings Deadline
March 2015 Issue
Deadline: February 18
Mailing date: February 25
Send articles to
gladtidings@nativityonline.org**



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Lent

Tuesday, February 17, 5—7 pm

Shrove Tuesday pancake supper and silent auction

Wednesday, February 18

Ash Wednesday. Services at 8 am, noon, and 7 pm

Weekday Eucharist

Wednesdays, 8 am, in the Church

Daily Devotions

ssie.org: Stop, Pray, Work, Play, & Love

Lenten Devotion booklets available in the Narthex entrance of the church beginning February 15

Sunday, February 22

The Great Litany at each service