

# Glad Tidings



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

May 2015

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Issue No. 05-15

## Please Note

### Summer Schedule

On Sunday, June 7, Nativity's service times will shift to a summer schedule. Services on Sunday morning will be at 8:30 am and 10:30 am, with Adult Education at 9:30 am. There will be some music and hymns sung at 8:30 am, and full music at 10:30 am. This schedule will be in place through September 6. On September 13, we will resume the three services at 8 am, 9 am, and 11:15 am and Sunday School for all ages will begin again.



### Glad Tidings Deadline

June 2015 Issue  
Deadline: Wednesday  
May 13 at noon  
Mailing date: May 20  
Send articles to  
[gladtidings@nativityonline.org](mailto:gladtidings@nativityonline.org)

## When You Don't Have Words

**H**ow do you pray? Do you write out your prayers in a journal? Do you sit in silence? Do you say the Daily Office prayers in the prayer book?

Sometimes I think we forget we have a set of prayers in the *Book of Common Prayer* that are there for us to use when we might not have the words in us. We think of the prayer book for use on Sunday mornings for the Eucharist, and even then, we have the service printed in the bulletin, so we don't need to open the red books.

If you want to read the Daily Office, it is just as easy to read it online on [dailyoffice.org](http://dailyoffice.org) or [missionstclare.com](http://missionstclare.com), two sites which have the readings for the day, the canticles, and the prayers laid out on the page for you. The Mission St. Clare site even has audio so you can read along and hymns you may sing.

Open the prayer book to the back section - pages 814 - 841, to be precise - and you will discover a set of prayers and thanksgivings for many occasions. There are prayers for the world, prayers for the church, prayers for ourselves, our families and loved ones, prayers for social order and our national life, and prayers for creation.

Jesus tells us to pray for those who persecute us, but how do we pray for our enemies? Page 816 "For our Enemies" does just that. When we are at a loss to help a loved one lost in the midst of addiction, and we feel helpless, what can we do? There is a prayer to get us started on page 831, "For the Victims of Addiction."

Pick up your prayer book sometime and take a look. I am confident that you will find a prayer that is speaking the language of your heart. (If you don't have a prayer book, let me know and I will give you one!). I am confident because I have often used the prayer "For Quiet Confidence" on page 832, and it has brought me rest and peace on many occasions.

Pray without ceasing, and remember, when you don't have the right words for prayer, you have the *Book of Common Prayer* to help. God is listening, and God is there.

Prayerfully,  
Stephanie



## Parish Life

### Summert-i-i-i-me....

*Ailsa Tessier*

...and foyer is easy! We're going to sign up for adult foyer during May for the June/July and August round. What's foyer? It's randomly-assigned groups of about 6-8 people taking turns sharing a simple meal in their home. This longtime tradition at Nativity is the very best way to meet your fellow parishioners, both new and those you've known awhile. The group decides what suits them best - dinner, lunch, brunch, meet for pizza - whatever you like! The best part is getting better acquainted with the folks you may only see on Sundays.

Many of us have participated for 25 years because it is such fun. Do give it a try! Look for signup sheets in Estill House and in the narthex during the month of May. Sign yourself up when you're at church next time - it's easy. Questions? Call Ailsa Tessier, 919-848-3364.

### Is Windows 8 on your new PC/Laptop making you frustrated?

*Alfred Christensen*

When you buy a new PC or laptop today, it comes with Windows 8 pre-installed. The default behavior of Windows 8 is very different from previous versions of Windows. The good news is that Windows 8 can be made to work very much like previous versions of Windows did, but it requires a little customization. I have had some questions recently about how to do this, and want to ask if there is interest in a small workshop/class on how to make Windows 8 more user friendly. If you are interested, please send me an email ([Alfred.B.Christensen@gmail.com](mailto:Alfred.B.Christensen@gmail.com)), and I will determine if and when such an event can be planned.

### Seniors' Luncheon

*Tom McNally*

The next Seniors' Luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, May 17, at 12:45 pm. The luncheon will be hosted by Allison Martin at the Hibernian, located at 8021 Falls of Neuse Road.

If you would like to attend please contact Allison at [5martin@bellsouth.net](mailto:5martin@bellsouth.net) or 919-961-6140 or Tom McNally at [t24mac@nc.rr.com](mailto:t24mac@nc.rr.com) or 919-376-1869. Reservations must be made by Wednesday, May 13. Seniors and/or seniors-to-be are welcome. Please join us.

### Young Adults transition to Adult Roles at Nativity

*Sue Young*

It never fails to happen. Nativity sends out Pilgrim class of teens off on a spiritual mission-oriented pilgrimage after their sophomore or junior year in high school and they return as young adults. Immersed in a different culture in Costa Rica, surviving heat and a change in diet, exerting themselves through manual labor in service to a sister congregation, communicating across a language barrier with smiles and gestures and experiencing the joy and love of God in the midst of poverty and simply but happy lives, we greet a changed, matured group of Pilgrims on their return to Raleigh. This past summer's pilgrimage was no exception. Bonded through the shared experience, the challenges and the fun, this group returned, more sure of themselves, and closer to each other than ever. This maturity has, in turn resulted in a positive impact on the Nativity community in this past year. Before this Young Adult class departed on their pilgrimage to Costa Rica, each Pilgrim selected a "ministry" to Nativity that they would participate in after they returned. This ministry was to provide a way to give back to the congregation who had been so financially and spiritually supportive as they prepared for their pilgrimage and had served as role models throughout much of



their childhood.

The Young Adults did not disappoint. On top of all their commitments to academics, sports, jobs and other extracurricular activity, these young people have shown up and given of their time and talent as Sunday school teachers and child care providers, as lectors, ushers, and musicians. In addition, they have met on a regular basis as a class in less traditional ways than in the past - shopping to provide a happy Christmas for a fellow teen from the angel tree, sharing a Costa Rican dinner, sharing their pilgrimage experience with the congregation, in discussion with their leaders, Paul Grass, and Father George, and perhaps their favorite times: meeting at Brueggers to share breakfast and compare high school experiences. Four in our class will

graduate from high school this year and have impressive plans for furthering their education next fall. These seniors will be recognized in a Celebration of Adulthood ceremony on Youth Sunday, May 17, a celebration of their transition to adulthood. The amazing part of it all is....they have achieved adulthood already, ahead of the celebration. Congratulations, seniors. Thanks, Nativity, for your part in that achievement.

## Parish Life

### New Processional Torches

*Brenda Johnston*



Nativity's new processional torches were used for the first time on Easter. These were purchased with memorial donations, the first torches that have actually been bought by Nativity. The previous ones were given to us in the early days of the church.

The old torches used wax candles, and the wax would get on the glass chimneys. Cleaning the wax off of the chimneys was difficult, tedious, and time-consuming. Therefore, the new torches have liquid wax candles, which will also result in lower costs.

The old bases were very badly tarnished. They were placed by the altar each Sunday, and then returned to the Sacristy after services. A big difference: the new bases will stay at the altar at all times, even during the week. The new bases are heavier; plus, handling the brass with bare hands would damage the brass. Gloves are always used when brass items are handled.

Finally, the old glass chimneys were held in place by tiny thumb screws. If one fell out of its hole, it required great effort and steady hands to put it back. The new torches have no thumb screws; to the relief of the Altar Guild members (who take care of the torches), the chimneys simply slip into their bases.

The new processional torches are a wonderful addition to the church services at Nativity.



### End-of-Year Picnic for Sunday School Children and Families

*Becky Showalter*



Immediately following the 11:15 service on Sunday, May 31, join us for an end-of-year picnic at Lake Lynn Park (7921 Ray Road) to celebrate a wonderful year of Sunday School. We will provide hotdogs and fixings, and ask everyone to bring a dish to share (chips and Oreos count). The covered pavilion is directly behind the community center and right beside the playground. There is also a small field for throwing footballs or Frisbees, so everyone is taken care of. We have many new families and would love to see everyone out for a chance to get to know each other. Contact Becky Showalter at [jshow@bellsouth.net](mailto:jshow@bellsouth.net) for more information.

### Let Us Break (and Make) Bread Together

*Carol Smith*

During the last year, Nativity has used homemade Eucharistic bread during services on the first Sunday of each month. We have been blessed to have had two regular bakers, and several other intermittent bakers.

At this time, however, we are left with only one regular baker. If you would like to help this ministry continue by offering to bake on an ongoing basis, please notify Carol Smith, [ctsmith003@nc.rr.com](mailto:ctsmith003@nc.rr.com) or 919-846-9894 by May 24.

A recipe and directions for delivery and storage will be provided. Your commitment would be one Sunday on alternating months, or less, if more bakers volunteer. Any of the bakers interested in coordinating this ministry would be welcomed, as well.

The act of making the bread administered during our Eucharist can be a spiritual blessing for you, a gift to the Glory of God, and a special ministry at Nativity.

### Calling All Grade 4 & 5 Bakers!

*Becky Showalter*

Join us in Sunday School on Sunday, May 3, to help bake communion bread to use during the Youth Sunday services on May 17. We will use a recipe that Jesus and his friends might have used in Biblical times . . . and we'll have fun too.

Don't miss it!





## Christian Formation

### Preschool through 5th Grade Sunday School Update

*Becky Showalter*

Spring is sprung and the warm weather is finally here! We would love to see you at Sunday School as we enter the spring – we strive for a community that is busy having fun, learning new things, and enjoying new friends and old! It is a great way to anchor yourself and your child.

For Sunday School, we use the Spark Sunday School curriculum, where preschool through first grade “study” the classic Bible stories and the 2nd-5th grade classes follow a lectionary-based curriculum that introduces them to the scriptures they will hear in church. Classes meet from 10:15 to 11 am between the 9 am and 11:15 am services. All are welcome. Feel free to contact Becky Showalter, Children’s Ministry Team Chair, with any questions at [jbshow@bellsouth.net](mailto:jbshow@bellsouth.net) or 919-845-8975.

### What The Young Ones are Studying – Upcoming Lessons for May

#### Preschool Class and the Kindergarten-1st Grade Class:

May 3 The Ascension  
May 10 The Holy Spirit  
May 17 Philip and the Ethiopian  
May 31 Saul to Paul

#### 2nd-5th Grade Class:

May 3 Philip and the Ethiopian  
(Making Communion Bread)  
May 10 The Holy Spirit Comes Down  
May 17 Matthias the Apostle  
May 31 Isaiah's Call



### Historic Worship Celebration

*Fran Kenney*

Members of the Rite-13 class attended a special Evensong worship service at Saint Augustine's University in downtown Raleigh. The service on March 22 was in celebration of the 120th anniversary of the university's historic chapel. Our Rite-13ers enjoyed an uplifting service filled with wonderful music and beautiful prayers and readings. Affiliated with the Episcopal Church, Saint Augustine's University is an historically black university that was incorporated in 1867 by 12 Episcopal priests to teach freedmen. It is now a 4-year private liberal arts university.



## Christian Formation

### Adult Formation Class Schedule in May

#### May 3

9 am Lectionary Discussion  
 10:15 am Exploring an Alternate Orthodoxy with Richard Rohr *See article below*  
 Lectionary Discussion

#### May 10 -31

9 am Exploring an Alternate Orthodoxy with Richard Rohr  
 10:15 am Exploring an Alternate Orthodoxy with Richard Rohr  
 Lectionary Discussion

#### Please Note:

Looking ahead to June, we will have adult offerings at 9:30 am as the worship times will change. The theme for the month will be taken from Genesis One, Caring for Creation. Sessions will be on the Creator's Care of Creation, the Birds of the Air, Bread for the World, and Sabbath.

### Embracing an Alternative Orthodoxy: Richard Rohr on the Legacy of St. Francis

*Stephanie Allen*

When we think of St. Francis, we usually think "animal blessings" or the wonderful prayer on page 833 of the prayer book: "Lord, make us instruments of your peace..." In this 5 week series we will watch an introduction as Richard Rohr explores five topics central to Franciscan theology and practice, then discuss these topics in relation to how they are at work in our daily life and work. The five topics include:

- Atonement Theory
- Eco-Spirituality
- The Christ who Existed before Christianity
- Orthopraxy vs. Verbal Orthodoxy (Living Like Jesus)
- Mysticism over Moralism

The class will run for four sessions at 9 am on May 10, 17, 24, and 31. The same course will be offered over five sessions at 10:15am on May 3, 10, 17, 24, and 31. Join us for a rich discussion of theology, prayer, and practice as we explore our beliefs and the beliefs of the Episcopal church through the lens of Franciscan theology.

### Good News Indeed: Two Sunday Adult Education Classes Broke Out And One Young Man Broke into EFM

*Nancy Terry, Jane Vella*

We usually have two lectionary groups who review the readings for each Sunday and consider them in the light of the lives of the members of the groups, using the reflection questions in the bulletin. On Palm Sunday, at 9 am and 10:15, when no classes had been scheduled for that Sunday nor facilitators appointed, they each met in their accustomed classrooms and moved on with the readings and dialogue. Adult Formation happened when a group of adults sat down together and shared their lives and their faith.

Like Blue Candle, which meets on Monday evenings, and Community Bible Study, which meets on Wednesday evenings, these small groups know they are an essential part of the Church of the Nativity, and act that way. Hooray for them! The hats of the Adult Formation Ministry team are off to them!

On a recent Wednesday evening, a young man happened to be in Corlett Hall as EFM (Education for Ministry) was beginning its class. The food smelled good, the topic was interesting, and Noah stayed to dine and listen! Again, our hats are off to him!

## Outreach

### Monthly Food Drive for Leesville ES Pride Packs: May 3

*Cheryl Waechter*

I have received a note of thanks from the Coordinator of the Leesville Elementary School Pride Packs that I want to share with you all.

*Congregation,*

*Thank you so much for supporting LES Pride Packs Program. Without your compassion, love and generosity 62 of our young students would go hungry on the weekends. You have faithfully given of yourselves to your fellow neighbors. As you know: Our children are our future, they will become us, they need us.*

*In His Name,*

*Heather West*

The end of the school year is fast approaching. The food we collect this month and in June will not only fill the current need, but also for the beginning of the new school year. Food that is not used by the end of this school year will be stored for use in August when hungry children return to school. Please carefully check expiration dates on food items you plan to donate. We will resume collection beginning on the first Sunday in September.

As always, your contributions, both food and monetary are gratefully appreciated. Questions? Email Cheryl Waechter at [cherylww1127@gmail.com](mailto:cherylww1127@gmail.com).

**Right: Cheryl Waechter provided information on Nativity's outreach ministries at the recent Bread for the World convention held at Highland UMC.**



### Nativity Community Garden

*Emilie Sigel*



This spring, the number of plots in the Nativity Community Garden (NCG) was expanded from 10 to 16. March snowstorms put a damper on potential early crops, but hope springs eternal in the heart of a gardener and the first warm days brought out spades and seeds and seedlings. It's looking good!

Each gardener has contributed to the installation, by Alfred Christensen with help from Carl Sigel, of a watering system of buried

pipes. Each bed has a spigot. Drip hoses and timers will be provided by the individual gardeners. This system will conserve water by directing it precisely where it is needed by the plants.

As in previous years each NCG gardener will tithe their harvested produce, which will then be delivered to clients served by the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. One garden bed is dedicated to the *Plant a Row* program, a partnership between Logan's Nursery and the Food Shuttle.

Visitors to the garden are welcome. Please securely latch the gates when you leave because deer are definitely not welcome.

**Upper right: Alfred Christensen installing buried watering system**  
**Upper left: Carl Sigel weed whacking pathways between garden beds**  
**Below left: Jennifer Warrillow preparing her bed for planting**  
**Far right: Matt Chytka and Sharon Waidler prepare to plant native plants on the back parking lot border. By favoring native over alien species, we support biodiversity and better habitat for insects and wildlife.**





## Environmental Concerns

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

### Solar Power

*On saving the environment from a teen perspective*

*Bridget Knapp*



Most of our energy is coming from fossil fuels: coal, oil, and natural gas. There are two problems: fossil fuels are non-renewable resources and burning fossil fuels puts more carbon dioxide into the atmosphere. Renewable energy is beginning to be an alternative to burning fossil fuels.

Solar power is one of the most well-known sources of renewable energy. Solar panels convert sunlight into electricity by using photovoltaics or concentrated solar power. Photovoltaics involve using solar panels. Concentrated solar power systems use mirrors to focus sunlight onto a small area. Heat is produced and drives a steam turbine to produce electricity.

The Ivanpah Solar Electric Generating System is the world's largest solar power plant. It's a concentrated solar power plant in the Mojave Desert that can generate 392 megawatts of electricity! More locally, the Highland United Methodist Church got solar panels in 2014.

Some advantages of solar power include: energy is free after a quick installation, net energy gained is high, no greenhouse gas emissions, extremely low air and water pollution, and low land disturbance. However, some disadvantages include: needing access to sunlight 60% of the time, needing a heat storage system, and expense. In North Carolina, it will take between ten and fourteen years to pay off a solar power system.

Solar power is an investment that pays you back over time. It certainly pays the environment back by not emitting any greenhouse gases. Solar power might be expensive, but it's the right thing to do.

### "Peace Be with You": Hope for All of God's Creation

*George Clifford*

In several of the resurrection stories found in the gospels, Jesus says to his disciples, "Peace be with you." He meant this expression to convey a depth of meaning that our current liturgical usage lacks. First, the word peace, in Greek as well as in Hebrew, connotes the fullness of communal well-being, prosperity, and flourishing. In short, Jesus is communicating his desire that his disciples live into the fullness of God's kingdom, a fullness that embraces the totality of creation. Second, because peace is a gift and sign of the Holy Spirit, Jesus' words are a blessing, i.e., a statement of God's commitment to be present with and empower the disciples to establish God's kingdom. Third, Jesus' words are a declaration of hope. God's kingdom is coming. Indeed, those who observe carefully can see signs of God's kingdom appearing, e.g., in the efforts of God's people to care for creation. Rightly understood, resurrection is a message of life, renewal, and hope for all of God's creation.

### Becoming a Deeper Green Church

*Carl Sigel*

In her sermon on Sunday, April 19, the Rev. Ann Burts provided excerpts from Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori's keynote address during the webcast, *The Climate Change Crisis* presented by The Episcopal Church on March 24. Our Presiding Bishop ended her address with a profound question for us all, "We have before us this day life and death. Which will we choose?" Rev. Dr. Jerry Cappel, Environmental Ministry Coordinator for Province IV of The Episcopal Church in his recent essay, "Deeper Green Churches," which is pending publication, maintains "the challenge of environmental collapse invites something deeper than advocacy in the name of justice or behavior modifications in the name of stewardship. This is not only about the future of the environment. This is also about the future of the church." What we are experiencing is not just mismanagement of material things, it is also about a spiritual crisis. A deeper green church will address this by expanding the realm of ecological stewardship beyond the actions relegated to the "green team" and incorporate care of God's creation into the sacred domains of education, holiness, liturgy, and worship. As people of faith, how we respond to our presiding Bishop's question is vitally important to our future well-being.

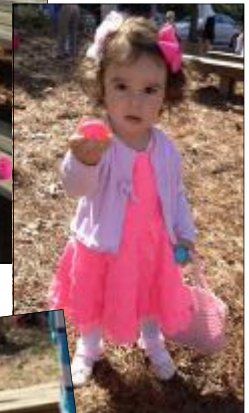
## Parish Life in Pictures

### Easter Egg Hunt Thanks!

*Becky Showalter*

Thanks so much to Libby Kenney and Annabel Bloom, two youth in our Pilgrims class, for organizing the two Easter egg hunts at church this year! Thanks also to all the Pilgrim youth who spent time filling eggs (and taste testing the candy) during one of their Sunday School classes. Both Easter egg hunts were a rousing success and we couldn't have done it without you! P.S. Next year we'll have eggs!

**Left: Annabel and Libby, flanked by helpers Susannah and Sarah.  
Below: And they're off!**







**Pancake  
Supper**

## From the Office

### Births

Jeremy Ryan Nemargut, grandson of Joe and Nancy  
Robert Jackson Nolasco-Owen, son of Sarahbeth Owen and Oscar Nolasco



*Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:*

The family of Millard Bronson  
Noel McLaughlin on the death of her father Channing Todd

*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/serving/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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## Nativity Is a Cool Congregation

*Jane Vella*



In January 2015, Nativity entered the national Interfaith Power & Light (IPL) *Cool Congregations Challenge*. Our entry featured Mary Kingsley's Kinder Garden Preschool and the Nativity Community Garden. Our connection to climate change was our work on using climate – smart agricultural practices in the garden, and also establishing a more eco-friendly campus.

In celebration of Earth Day, IPL has announced its annual *Cool Congregations Challenge* winners – exemplary faith communities modeling climate solutions and Earth stewardship in dozens of inspiring projects across the nation. Honorable Mention congregations were scored highly by the Cool Congregations Challenge judges, and are recognized for their stellar efforts to address climate change. The Church of the Nativity has been given Sacred Grounds Steward Honorable Mention.

We are celebrating this recognition of the good work of so many folks. Onward and upward: to the greater glory of God and God's lovely creation!

