

Glad Tidings



Our Mission

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

July/August 2015

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

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Tree Recycling: Act I

You may have noticed a large pile of logs as you enter our parking lot. Unfortunately, two large trees had become diseased. An arborist was consulted to see if we could save the trees, but it was not possible, so they were cut down.

The wood chips that resulted were piled next to the Nativity Community Garden where they are being used on the pathways between beds. Note that the chips are not mulch; they are just wood. This is not healthy for garden soil; as the chips decompose they will rob the soil of nitrogen.

The vestry has a plan for the cut wood—stay tuned!

The Spiritually Vibrant Church of Tomorrow Or the Spiritually Vibrant Church of Today?



I just returned from a conference in Minnesota for women Episcopal Clergy, and it was great. It left me renewed, spiritually revitalized, and eager to return to the Church of the Nativity. One of the things that I knew before going, and hearing the stories of other churches and dioceses confirmed for me: Church of the Nativity is a model of a spiritually vibrant, thriving community.

In the midst of reports on the imminent demise of the church, stories of churches closing, and churches desperate for solutions for their future, there are stories of churches that are thriving, ministries that are making a difference in God's world, and people of God being disciples in every part of their life. I believe Church of the Nativity is one of these stories.

Church of Nativity has not been afraid to try new things while maintaining a strong identity as Episcopalian. We continue to use the *Book of Common Prayer* to guide our prayers and our worship, we follow the direction and guidance of our bishops, we seek to worship in beauty and holiness, and to pray without ceasing. Within that framework, multitudes of creative ministries have been birthed.

Church of the Nativity, in my opinion, is also a church willing to fail. If a new ministry doesn't take root, or if a plan of action doesn't reach fruition, the community demonstrates great flexibility in reassessing and developing a new plan of action. I have encountered stories of churches that are so afraid of dying, or so afraid of the future, they are unable to do much of anything; they are stuck. My experience of the Church of the Nativity is that it is a church that understands resurrection, down to its very core.

The church pundits keep saying the church of the future is nimble, flexible, and not afraid to fail. I would say that the Church of the Nativity is there now, not waiting for the future. And the beautiful thing about it is, we don't have to change to be the church of the future; we need to keep doing what we are already doing - living as people of the Resurrection, rooted in the Gospel of Jesus Christ, acting as God's hands and feet in this world, being un-apologetically Episcopalian.

Keep thriving, Nativity.

Stephanie+

Glad Tidings Deadline

September 2015 Issue

Deadline: Wednesday

August 19 at noon

Mailing date: August 26

Send articles to

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

Parish Life

Meet our new Youth Minister: Kathryn Buckley

Growing up as a youth in St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Cary was just the start of my journey leading me back to NC to be the Youth Minister here at Church of the Nativity!

After graduating from Mississippi State University with a degree in Wildlife, Fisheries, and Aquaculture, I found myself traveling all over the United States. Through my adventures, I was fortunate to find many once-in-a-lifetime opportunities: ski school instructor in Park City, UT, a white-water rafting guide on the Ocoee River in Copperhill, TN, and as a principal of a school for adults with disabilities on Oahu, HI, just to name a few! After living in beautiful Hawaii for the last two years, I decided to come back to North Carolina where I recently opened a gymnastics, cheerleading, and Parkour gym in Holly Springs.

Throughout the past five years, I have worked with the youth at various churches and found a true calling in youth ministry. My zeal for working with youth to find a foundational relationship with their faith grows stronger each passing day.

Since returning to North Carolina after ten years of traveling, I am beyond excited to call Church of the Nativity home as the Youth Minister. This opportunity is just the start to fulfilling a long-time dream and goal in working with youth to support and help the younger generations find their own path to God and learn how to walk with Jesus.

When I am not at my gymnastics gym coaching, jumping on the trampoline, or practicing my Parkour skills, you can always find me spending time in the great outdoors with my dogs, competing in CrossFit competitions, or spending time with family.



Seniors' Luncheon

Tom McNally

The next seniors' luncheon is scheduled for Sunday, September 20, at 12:45 pm. The luncheon will be hosted by Phyllis Barnwell at Nantucket Grill located at 1145 Falls River Avenue, in the Falls River Shopping Center. If you would like to attend, please contact Phyllis Barnwell at Phyllis.barnwell@yahoo.com or 919-876-7034 or Tom McNally at t24mac@nc.rr.com or 919-376-1869. Reservations must be made by noon Wednesday, September 16, so that the restaurant will be able to plan for our group. Seniors and/or seniors-to-be are welcome. Please join us.

What is Blue Candle?

Betty Sammit

Blue Candle Bible Study discusses one chapter of the Old Testament and one psalm each week. Currently, we are reading the Book of Numbers, in which God's people start their wilderness journey and learn that becoming a truly human community is a long, complex, messy business.



We took time out to celebrate Helen Armstrong's birthday and to pose for a photo with what may be the staff of Moses.

A Good Deed

Sally Bloom

J2A youths (from L to R) Annabel Bloom, Benjamin Longenecker, Heike Schneider, and Jack Nolan after raking Jane Vella's yard. She made a contribution to this group's 2016 Pilgrimage to Costa Rica. We are thankful!



VBS 2015 Climbs Everest

Where Children Will Learn to Conquer God's Challenges with God's Mighty Power!

Vacation Bible School is open this year to fully potty-trained 3-year-olds through rising 6th graders. Dinner will be provided on Friday evening and snacks on Saturday. We are asking that everyone bring a bag lunch for Saturday. This year, we are also asking for \$5 per child to help with the cost of food. This money will be collected at sign-in on Friday night.

VBS 2015 Dates and Details

Friday, July 17, 5—8 pm (registration and sign-in from 4:30—5 pm)

Saturday, July 18, 9:15 am – 2 pm (registration and sign in from 9—9:15 am)

Sunday, July 19, Closing program during the 10:30 am service

Nativity's VBS is NOT exclusive to parishioners, so please tell your friends and neighbors!

To register your child, either sign up at church or go to this link:

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1ivsV9wamvtWQCgcuV0qfpC3j8Rbhm4rO-nUNHIZxiiw/viewform?c=0&w=1>

We are also looking for adults and youth with all talents. WE NEED VOLUNTEERS! Below, you will find all the opportunities that are still available, but if you think of another way you would like to help, please let us know!

To volunteer, sign up at church or go to this link: <http://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040e4eafaa2aa13-everest>.

Volunteer positions available:

3rd & 4th grade crew leader (adult)

Snack helper (teen or adult)

2 - Glacier Games helper (teen or adult)

KidVid Cinema leader (adult)

Summit Celebration leader (adult)

Bible Expedition leader (adult)

Bible Expedition helper (teen or adult)

Floater (teen or adult)

We also are looking for the following items to be donated or borrowed:

Tents

Tarps

Large cardboard

Climbing and camping gear

Walking stick and hiking poles

Artificial Christmas trees (no larger than 7ft)

Empty paper towel and toilet paper rolls

Scrap fabric pieces

We will also need help with decorating the week prior. If you are interested in helping with this, or have items to donate/lend, email Bobbie Feraco bpferaco@gmail.com or Sarah O'Connor sarahocannon@me.com.



Christian Formation

Adult Formation Offerings for July and August

Current News Discussion Group: A New Adult Formation Opportunity

Carl Terry

Have you ever read the morning paper or heard a news story that conflicted or agreed with your theology, beliefs, values or just your opinion, and wanted to discuss your thoughts with others? On July 12 at 9:30 am, we will begin a new Adult Formation discussion group: *The Current News Discussion Group*. We will begin with the Sunday morning *News and Observer* and look for issues of interest to the group. We will then look at the issues from different perspectives of your theology, beliefs, values or opinions. It promises to be a lively discussion each week, so bring your paper or issues and join us at 9:30 am in July.

We will also continue to offer *Reflections on the Lectionary Readings* using the questions in the bulletin each Sunday at 9:30 am in the parlor.

Conversation with the Canon

The Reverend Canon Cathie Caimano will be leading worship on Sunday, July 5, at both services. At the 9:30 education hour, Cathie will offer news about what is happening at the General Convention, what is in store with a new presiding bishop (who might or might not be Bishop Curry), and what else is happening in the wider Episcopal Church.

Guest Columnist

"This Idea Must Die (Pt. 2)"

Smartphones in church. That's what I want.

I would love to see people snapping photos of churchy things and sharing them all over the World Wide Web. Hash-tag the heck out of church (i.e. #JesusisRad or #Jesusismyhomeboy), choose whatever # you'd like. Snap it, edit it, flip it, put a filter on it, tweet it, retweet it, post it, comment on it, blog it, vlog it, review it, record it, check-in, pin it, do whatever you'd like but share, share, share! It's 2015, people, and this is the world we live in. We live in an iOS8 world, why do we need to preserve the Windows 95 experience for worship? We share everything else that is special, wonderful and important to us, so why can't we do that in church?

Smartphones are distracting, you might say. Really?!?! Are you telling me everyone is paying attention and not thinking of anything else in those pews? Is there nothing else to be distracted by in church? What if, just what if, the use of smartphones in the congregation enhanced the worship experience? Think it might be possible?

Next time the preacher is preaching, whip out that phone. Maybe there's something sweet in the sermon that you love and think some of your friends might think too. What if

you're kneeling at the altar with that host in your palm and before consuming it you look over and someone else is doing the same but focusing their camera phone taking a picture of it first? Would that be so bad? Would it really? It's a beautiful, mysterious and often transcendent moment. Why wouldn't someone want to share that? Some of us are more introverted than others, I get that, but social media has shown us that even those people like to share, post, and blog.

What do you think? Think there are other ideas that need to die, that impede progress in areas of faith and/or church? I encourage you to start a conversation with me, or better yet, contribute a piece in *Glad Tidings*.

Peace be with you!

Mike Belmares, II

Follow me on Twitter and/or Instagram @Metromonk



Environmental Concerns

“And to every beast of the earth and to every bird of the air and to everything that creeps on the earth, everything that has the breath of life, I have given every green plant for food.” And it was so. Genesis 1:30

On saving the environment from a teen perspective **Dung Beetles in NC . . . WHAT?**

Bridget Knapp

Normally, when people think of dung beetles, they think of a big bug rolling a ball of elephant dung across the plains of Africa. A dung beetle can roll a ball of dung 10 times its own weight! Dung beetles roll balls of dung for food and to lay their eggs. They only grow between 0.2 inches to about 1.2 inches. Dung beetles can be found all over the world, not just Africa.

I participated in the Resource Conservation Workshop at NC State University in June 2014. One day, we went to the campus' pastures to look for dung beetles. We had to glove up and stick our hands into the cow patties to find the beetles. We were very successful in our search.

Why would a farmer want a lot of dung beetles in his pastures? Dung beetles keep the soil clean, nutrient-rich, and aerated. They do this by digging tunnels to store their dung, living in the dung, or rolling and burying balls of dung. These kinds of dung beetles are called tunnelers, dwellers, and rollers.

In North Carolina, 28 species of dung beetle have been identified on beef and dairy pastures at the Center for Environmental Farming Systems in Goldsboro, and 14 species of dung beetle have been identified from dairy pastures in Salisbury and beef pastures in Nashville.

Next time you're outside, try to look for the little guys. If you find some, be glad they're here!

To learn more about NC State and dung beetles, visit: <http://www.cefs.ncsu.edu/publications/studentresearch/bertoneguidetoncdungbeetles.pdf>.



Growing in God's Creation: Addressing Food Insecurity in our Community

Carl Sigel

As part of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle's (IFFS) *Plant a Row for the Hungry* program, Nativity has been donating produce from the community garden to residents at Windsor Spring Apartments, a low-income facility for senior citizens in North Raleigh. Last Monday, Nativity delivered 50 pounds of lettuce, squash, green peppers, and cucumbers. One of the exciting developments this spring has been that parishioners and friends are donating produce from their home gardens through this program as well.

The most recent data from the USDA on food security for NC and our area is not good. In 2013, NC had the fourth highest food insecurity in the country. According to Feeding America (IFFS is a member of this network), the current overall level of food insecurity in NC is 14.4% with 19.6% of our children living in food insecure homes. For our senior citizens, in the seven-county area served by IFFS, there are 43,000 individuals who are food insecure.

As we Grow in God's Creation, through our outreach, Nativity is addressing a significant problem in our community, delivering hope to those in need, and helping to build a more resilient community.

In the Garden

Emilie Sigel

It has been a good month for the Nativity Community Garden. Warm temperatures have brought on a burst of energy and bountiful harvest. Cucumbers, cherry tomatoes, green bell peppers, green beans, zucchini, and squash have been harvested, as has the last of the lettuce (which bolts in warm weather.) A watchful eye must be kept on zucchini, starting out finger-small, hiding shyly under a leaf, but before you know it, it is the size of a watermelon. This characteristic helped to boost the poundage delivered to clients of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle via our participation in the *Plant A Row* program to feed the hungry in our community. All of the gardeners tithed a portion of their harvest to the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. The most recent delivery was just OVER 50 pounds of fresh, healthy, organic produce!

The garden is not without villains. The Japanese beetles have arrived in force, but fortunately, they are most attracted to a lovely "trash" crop of pink zinnias where they can easily be caught and disposed of by hand. Poisons, of course, are not allowed in our garden.

Visitors are welcome in the garden, but please close and latch both gates when you leave. Deer are not welcome in our garden either.

Parish Life in Pictures

Youth News

Sally Bloom

No longer J2Aers, the rising 10th and 11th grade youth class met at the Kenney family neighborhood pool on June 6 for a Mr. Kenney-grilled cookout and fun in and out of the water. These young people are off on many different summer adventures, everything from interning at museums, exchanges to Australia, training for ice skating competitions, and dance, lacrosse, hockey camps and more! They look forward to re-gathering in September, if not before, for more food, fun, and faith formation.

Group photo L to R:

Laura Mulrooney, Alec Carroll, Jack Nolan, Jim Garbutt, David Garbutt, Libby Kenney, Lindsey Schneider, Annabel Bloom, Noah Showalter (seated in front)



Tosca, Tunes, and Tofu: Huge Success



From the Office

Attention Sunday School Teachers

Sunday School teachers will meet in Corlett Hall on August 22 immediately following fellowship to discuss the coming year.

Chinese students visiting again!

The students from China, participants in the Duke China Summer Program, will be here to worship with us on Sunday, July 26. Part of the experience for them is an opportunity to see what family life is like in the United States. Nativity families are invited to help them with that experience. If you would like to host a student or two for either Friday and Saturday nights, July 24 and 25, or just that Saturday night, please contact the church office (919-846-8338 or office@nativityonline.org) and let us know how many students you can host. This was such an enjoyable experience for Nativity last year and we are excited to have this opportunity again. This year, it's for an extended time so we can do more with our guests!



Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:

Becky Christian on the death of her cousin Tom Brown
Nancy Nemargut on the death of her uncle Bob Weber
Ailsa Tessier on the death of her aunt, Ann Sopko Bryers

*May her soul, 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/serving/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

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Think Choir!

Waltye Rasulala, Choir Master

Are you considering what volunteer job you would like to tackle at church this fall? If you are, think about joining the choir. We are a fun group, meeting every Thursday night from 7-8:30 pm beginning September 10. On Sunday mornings, we meet at 10:15 am and review the hymns and the anthem for the 11:15 am service. We welcome ages 14 years and up to join us. Think about the pluses: you get to sit and scope out if your friends made it to church on time, you get to the communion table early, and you get to enjoy leading the congregation in beautiful music each and every Sunday.

So give some thought about becoming a Nativity Choir member or, better yet, join us this summer in our summer choir to help lead the hymns for the services. We gather at 10 am to rehearse the hymns and service music. If you have questions about joining us in the fall or singing with us this summer, please see me Sunday morning, or email me at wrasulala@gmail.com.



Right: the summer choir