

# Glad Tidings



*Our Mission*

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

January 2016

A MONTHLY PUBLICATION OF THE CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

Issue No. 01-16

## Please Note

### The Gift of Time Apart: A Lenten Quiet Day

*Barbara Hendren*

A Lenten quiet day, with meditations by The Rev. Canon Jean Parker Vail, will be offered Saturday, February 20, from 9:30 am-3 pm at St. Matthew's Episcopal Church, 210 St. Mary's Road, Hillsborough NC.

All are welcome. \$5 covers the cost of lunch. Please email [joyful5grammie@gmail.com](mailto:joyful5grammie@gmail.com) by February 10 to reserve your place.

The quiet day is being offered to the Diocese by the North Carolina Chapter of the Society of the Companions of the Holy Cross, a vowed, non-residential community of women in the Episcopal Church, called to intercessory prayer, simplicity of life, and work for social justice and peace.

## New Year, New You

2016. A new calendar year. We are inundated with advertisements for gym memberships, health clubs, personal trainers, diet plans, nutritional supplements, life coaching, and the like. All are devoted to making us our best selves, if we hire the right people, take the right supplement, follow the right plan.

Self-improvement is not a bad thing, but the thing is, as Christians, we are five weeks into our new year already. Advent was our time of improvement, and improvement not just of self, but a close look at the ways we are following the way of Jesus, or not. Improvement not to end our suffering and make us better people, but repentance that allows us to turn away from sin of self-sufficiency, and back toward God as the source of our whole being. Repentance turning away from the sin of self-indulgence and self-satisfaction, and toward seeing the face of God in the suffering world we live in.

Body and soul are not disconnected or dislocated from one another. It is important to care for our bodies as they are a gift to us from God. The wellness of our souls is related to the wellness of our bodies, and vice versa.

This secular new year, how will you care for yourself in mind, body, and spirit? How will you care for others in mind, body, and spirit? It is a delicate dance between the needs of the individual and the needs of the whole. As followers of Jesus, we are asked to deny ourselves and look to the good of the whole creation, while seeking peace and healing for ourselves as we do this.

Christmas is the joy of the embodiment of God. May you experience the joy of your mind, your body, and your spirit, in wholeness and health this Christmas and Epiphany season.

In peace,

Stephanie+



## Glad Tidings Deadline

February 2016 Issue

Deadline: Wednesday

January 20 at noon

Mailing date: January 27

Send articles to

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

## Exciting Change in Nativity Staff

*Stephanie Allen*



I am pleased to announce that Kathryn Buckley, our Youth Minister, will become our full-time Minister for Children and Youth on January 1. We have received a two-year grant that will allow us to start this position, and allow Kathryn to spend the much-needed time with our children and youth programs. It is also a challenge grant to us as we will need to increase the funding from our operation budget in the next two years for the position to continue. I have great confidence in the gifts that Kathryn brings to this position, and in the support from our congregation.

## Parish Life

### From the Reverend David Lynch: Support Group



Our culture tells us that holidays—Thanksgiving, Christmas, New Year's—are supposed to be joyful times. For many people, though, the feelings are just the opposite. If you are feeling blue for any reason—loneliness, loss, depression, anxiety, loss of direction—a support group might be helpful. Where is God in all this?

I invite anyone interested in such a group to meet with me on Monday, January 4, at 6:30 pm, in the parlor of Estill House. If you would like to talk about this or any issues that you are facing, please feel free to contact me at 919-805-1902 (cell) or [dl@nativityonline.org](mailto:dl@nativityonline.org). I'm eager to listen and to help.

Blessings and peace,  
Your Deacon,  
David

### Party Time!

Ailsa Tessier



Calling all current, former, and would-be Foyer participants to our annual Holiday Gathering! Join us on Saturday, January 16, 6 pm, at Allison Martin's home at 10009 Whitestone Road. The evening begins with a potluck supper, followed by the always-hilarious white elephant exchange. Bring a dish to share (no signup—just bring what you like). Each person brings a wrapped gift for the exchange—it can be new, gently used, or just something that doesn't fit your style any more. No tags, and couples can bring either one or two gifts.

If you have wondered what Foyer is all about, come to the party, then sign up to join Spring Foyer during January. Foyer is all about enjoying each other's company while getting to know your fellow parishioners, while sharing a meal.

Respond to Allison Martin if you would like to attend the gathering: [5martin@bellsouth.net](mailto:5martin@bellsouth.net).

For questions about Foyer itself, contact Ailsa Tessier ([atessier610@gmail.com](mailto:atessier610@gmail.com)). Y'all come!

### The Nativity Community Garden

Emilie Sigel

The garden does not sleep! Broccoli, kale, turnips, radishes, members of the Cruciferous family, enjoy cooler weather.

The garden doubled in size this summer. We had a successful and bountiful harvest, delivering fresh produce weekly to clients of the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle. Kudos and thanks to Daniel Knapp who made most of the deliveries and is much admired by the senior citizens he served.

A watering system was installed so that each bed has a supply of water, and work was done to correct the drainage problem next to the educational building due to overflow from the gutters. A second compost bin has been added. Parishioners are welcome to put their compost in the left hand bin (see Karen Ridout below.) A list of compostable materials is on the *Care for Creation* blog on the Nativity website.



Kale, radishes, broccoli, and top right, a turnip the size of a softball!

### Foyer Needs You, and YOU Need Foyer

Ailsa Tessier

All adults are invited to sign up for Adult Foyer for February/March/April. Foyer is Nativity's tradition of getting to know your fellow parishioners and enjoying meals together. Small groups are randomly assigned to take turns meeting in each other's homes for good food and fellowship. There are no rules—just to enjoy each other's company.

Nativity Foyer is a longstanding activity, many of us having participated for 20 years or longer. Following the destruction of Coventry Cathedral in 1940, Provost Howard made a commitment not to revenge, but to forgiveness and reconciliation with those responsible. This reconciliation has led to many activities around the world over time, our own foyer being a small part of the effort to learn about each other and enjoy our time together.

How does it work? You sign up during January, then are randomly assigned to groups of 6-8 couples or singles. Spring Foyer is February/March/April, during which time you'll take turns hosting the group in your home. Suppers are meant to be simple, in the style of your own home. However, some groups decide to meet outside for brunch, or pizza, or whatever the group prefers - remember, there are no rules! It's the BEST way to meet people.

Look for signup sheets in the Estill House lobby and in the Narthex of the church. Questions? Contact Ailsa Tessier ([atessier610@gmail.com](mailto:atessier610@gmail.com)).



## Parish Life

### *Spirituality in the Arts* presents "The Voices of Peace"

Waltye Rasulala, choirmaster

The originally scheduled January *Spirituality in the Arts* featuring the poetry of Maya Angelou has been changed. "The Voices of Peace," a program of words and music honoring those who speak for peace, forgiveness, and justice for all in our society, will be presented on Sunday, January 31, at 4 pm. Featured in this program will be music from St. Augustine's University Choir. Mark your calendar and join us for an afternoon of quiet reflection.



Right: The December *Spirituality in the Arts* program was held at the North Carolina Museum of Art, and combined art and music to illustrate the Christmas story.

### Christmas Greens and Cookies



### Congratulations Confirmands

- |                    |                 |
|--------------------|-----------------|
| Ashley Clos        | Emma Lias       |
| Jeremy Clos        | Julia McCormick |
| Sarah Allen        | John Nolan      |
| Melanie Altenkirch | Remy Schneider  |
| Landon Gaddy       | Aiden Shearin   |
| Tyler Gromow       | Kylie Showalter |
| Emily Howell       | Nadia Special   |
| Robert Kenney      |                 |



## Christian Formation

### Adult Christian Formation Schedule

#### January 3

10:15 am Lectionary Discussion

#### January 10

10:15 am Lectionary Discussion

#### January 17

9 and 10:15 am Letters from the Farm  
10:15 Introduction to Epiphany  
Lectionary Discussion

#### January 24

9 and 10:15 am Letters from the Farm  
10:15 Introduction to Epiphany  
Lectionary Discussion

#### January 31

9 and 10:15 Letters from the Farm  
10:15 Listen For a Change: A People's History of Race  
Lectionary Discussion

#### ★ Introduction to Epiphany

10:15 am, January 17 and 24

Epiphany is more than just a season to return Christmas presents. It's a time to discover the ways God is revealing truth in our lives. This course tells us not only what Epiphany is, but how it can better our lives.

#### ★ Listen For a Change

10:15 am, January 31 and February 7

Part of the Trinity Institute's program *Listen For a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice*. Nativity is a partner site for this program and will be screening the talks and holding discussions on Tuesday nights and Sunday mornings January 26–February 7. (See more information below)

#### ★ Letters From the Farm

9:15 am January 17, 24, 31 and February 7

Read and reflect upon a short meditation from priest and founder of Thistle Farms, the Rev. Becca Hughes.

### Listen For a Change: Sacred Conversations for Racial Justice

*Stephanie Allen*

Nativity will be a partner site for the Trinity Institute program *Listen For a Change* in late January. As a partner church, we will offer showings of keynotes, short presentations, and panel discussions offered during the conference.

These showings will take place on Tuesdays, January 26 and February 2, at 6:30 pm, and on Sunday mornings, January 31 and February 7, at 10:15 am. You are welcome to join us for all, some, or just one of these sessions.

More information about specific sessions and speakers may be found at [www.trinitywallstreet.org/trinity-institute/2016/home](http://www.trinitywallstreet.org/trinity-institute/2016/home).

## Environmental Concerns

*All this is from God, who reconciled us to himself through Christ, and has given us the ministry of reconciliation; that is, in Christ God was reconciling the world to himself, not counting their trespasses against them, and entrusting the message of reconciliation. 2 Cor. 5:18-19*

### The Road to Galilee Is Through Paris

*Carl Sigel*

In Paris on December 12, delegates from over 190 nations said “yes” to the truth and “no” to the power represented by the big polluters. A strong delegation from The Episcopal Church (TEC) led by Bishop Andrus of California represented us as this historic decision unfolded. Does this mean that current and future generations are protected now from climate change threats? Can we relax now and go on our merry ways? While the answers to these questions are emphatically no, the Paris agreement does give us hope that we may avoid the most dangerous consequences of climate change. To do that will require making strong commitments to live on this planet in a responsible way. As our former Presiding Bishop Katharine Jefferts Schori said in her keynote address to TEC on March 24, we have a choice to make. We can live on Earth in a sustainable manner, or we can continue our sinful and destructive ways. As we grow in God’s Creation at Nativity, let us choose the correct path in our personal and corporate lives on our journey to do our good works in Galilee.

The next meeting of Environmental Stewardship at Nativity will be at 7 pm on January 12. I hope you will join us.



# Outreach

## Day of Giving Exceeds Expectations

*Pete Crow, Vestry*

Donations during the Day of Giving, December 6, totaled \$9,239, a whopping 14% increase over last year's record total. In addition, twenty people signed up to participate in the Episcopal Build; Angel Tree gifts were delivered for 37 children; and food, clothing, and hygienic supplies were contributed to Pride Packs, Cubs Closet, Episcopal Farmworkers' Ministry, and the Honduras Health Mission.

Most importantly, parishioners conversed with each other about Sudan, Haiti, Honduras, Uganda, climate change, food insecurity in our own region, and Episcopal campus activities. They bid against each other for artwork produced by several Nativity artists and bought Christmas ornaments and knitted items made by others. They discussed revitalizing linkages with the Episcopal Farmworkers and building a Habitat House in cooperation with other Episcopal churches. They did all this while laughing, talking, and eating cookies sold by the youth and appetizers concocted by the cooks who contributed to the Nativity cook book.

Many thanks to René Garces of the Outreach Ministry Team for organizing and managing this event; to the vendors who contributed their earnings to outreach, including the Art Auction, Chatty Yarns, and Christmas ornament sellers; and most of all, to all of you who came out, had a lot of fun, and with your generosity made a huge impact on some peoples' lives.



**Pete and Deacon Nancy Titus at the Day of Giving**

## Chatty Yarns News

Chatty Yarns, the Nativity knitting/crochet/all-things-yarn group, were thrilled to raise \$500 from sales of their donated hand-made items at the Day of Giving. The group voted to give the money to the Greater High Point Food Alliance, an organization working to reduce food insecurity in that area.



## Parish Life

### “What does a bishop do?”

*Chuck Till*

While Bishop Anne Hodges-Copple serves as our "Pro Tempore" diocesan, a search committee will identify candidates for the next election of a permanent diocesan to take office in July 2017. What does a diocesan bishop do?

1. He or she leads a organization with a \$4 million annual operating budget and tens of millions of dollars in assets. This creates a workload similar to any other organization of comparable size; for example, employee supervision.
2. He or she makes 30 or more pastoral visits to congregations each year. A sermon is preached at every one. Priests will tell you that preparing a sermon requires several hours minimum over the course of a week, and bishops must do this work too. But that's not all that happens during a visitation. The bishop must familiarize himself or herself in advance with the congregation, its ministries, its strengths and its issues, etc. Generally this is discussed with the rector or vicar of the congregation in advance and with the vestry during the visitation.
3. He or she interviews lay persons with tentative calls to the diaconate or the priesthood and decides which ones are accepted into the ordination process. These persons must be followed throughout the process until they are ordained.
4. He or she signs off on all placement of deacons and priests in the diocese. Also, clergy often move between dioceses, and on those occasions the two bishops must collaborate.
5. There are numerous boards, committees, etc. on which he or she will serve. Some of these are internal to our Diocese; just three (the Standing Committee, the Diocesan Council, and the Trustees) have about 20 meetings a year among them. But other important committees are not part of the Diocese per se. An example is the Board of Trustees for St Augustine's University.
6. By the way, most of these pastoral visitations and many of these committee meetings occur outside Raleigh. Bishops spend hours every week in their cars.

7. There are diocesan events such as the Bishops' Ball for our youth, the annual convention, and so on.
8. He or she is the voice of the Diocese to government, the media, other faith communities in North Carolina, and the Diocese at large when the situation calls for it.
9. He or she is a pastor to diocesan clergy who, like all of us, have their ups and downs and need pastoral care at times. Occasionally a member of the clergy wishes to leave ordained ministry or requires discipline. Also, in our Diocese there are over 50 retired clergy who are among the bishop's flock and need pastoral care.
10. At any point in time there is inevitably a congregation or two in our Diocese in turmoil and requires the personal attention of the bishop. He or she also gets involved when new congregations are launched (example, Nativity in 1985) and when difficult decisions are made to close congregations.
11. At the national level, the House of Bishops meets twice each year and has various committees that work between these meetings. A diocesan bishop also often serves on one of the permanent committees or boards of the national church or an Episcopal seminary.
12. He or she must spend the time and energy to maintain spiritual, physical, and emotional well-being and to discern where God is leading the Diocese next.

It is a very demanding ministry!

*On a recent pastoral visit, Bishop Lee tasted Sinful Saltines offered by Ailsa Tessier from the Nativity cookbook on sale at the Day of Giving.*



## Youth News

*Kathryn Buckley*

Join us for our Regathering Breakfast on Sunday, January 10, to kick off 2016 Sunday School! This will be an awesome time for us to get together, share fellowship, and start our year off right. Youth Group will meet from 5–7 pm for fun, fellowship and food.

Don't forget to register your middle- and high schooler for Bishops' Ball weekend retreat at Camp Walter Johnson January 29–31. Register online on the diocesan website by January 20. Spots are limited, so register right away. Youth participant registration is \$100. We will be providing transportation to and from the event. See Kathryn for any questions.

I am so thankful to be a part of the Church of Nativity's staff full-time now. This is going to be a great beginning for our children and youth programs. There are so many awesome things to come.



*Above: Fixers are doing some outreach work. They packed grocery bags at the Inter-Faith Food Shuttle and delivered them to senior housing projects. What a great way for our youth to give back to our community!*

## From the Office

### Shrove Tuesday Supper Organizers Needed

*Stephanie Allen*

Our annual Shrove Tuesday supper will take place on Tuesday, February 5. We need three to four people willing to plan and organize the event this year. Prior years have been pancakes and sausage, or jambalya and gumbo, and even both! Organizers are welcome to make this event their own. If interested, please contact Stephanie at [sa@nativityonline.org](mailto:sa@nativityonline.org).

### Gracious Hands, Grateful Hearts

Have you noticed the stewardship trees that now blossom in the parish hall? We encourage you to read the uplifting sentiments expressed on the gracious hands and grateful hearts adorning the trees.

Thank you to the many parishioners who have pledged their support for 2016. It's not too late to pledge! You may commit your pledge through December online at [www.nativityonline.org](http://www.nativityonline.org) and click on the Giving tab. You may also place your pledge card in the offering plate or mail it to the church.

As of 12/16/15:

Pledged/Members:  
\$349,090 / 77 cards / 65 online - total 142

Goal:  
\$400,000 / 172



*Our congregation extends its sympathy and prayers to:*

Rod McElrath and his family on the death of his mother Charlotte McElrath

*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](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 <http://nativityonline.org/serving/keep-informed/>

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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## Upcoming Food Collection for Pride Packs Sunday, January 3

*Cheryl Waechter*

Congratulations, Nativity! During our first year serving hungry children at Leesville Elementary, we helped all in need of food for the weekends in 2015. Your generosity included bounteous boxes and bags of food, as well as \$3,032.50 for the Pride Packs program.

As we begin our second year of helping hungry children in our neighborhood, there has been no reduction in the need. We encourage your continued love and support for this vital ministry.

Again, many thanks for your caring gifts to these children in crisis and your continued support during 2016.

If you have any questions or would like to help with this ministry, please email me at [cherylww1127@gmail.com](mailto:cherylww1127@gmail.com).

