



# *Glad Tidings*

August 21, 2025



Visit the website for a full list of [upcoming events](#), [upcoming services](#), and [current signups](#).

From the Clergy



## So what is a 'homecoming'?

On **September 7**, we will celebrate 'Homecoming' Sunday which a few folks have asked some bemused questions about. Are we back in high school? Will there be a football game? Others, perhaps those who have come from a more Baptist or non-denominational tradition have expressed some concern, "is this new priest trying to turn us all... PROTESTANT!?"

I am (mostly) kidding, but the question 'What is a Church homecoming?' is a good one. A Homecoming in Church is like a Homecoming celebration in a school or any other location. It is an invitation to new members and old members alike, family and friends, to come back to Nativity and celebrate. There will be recognition of members, some fun and games, and of course food.

It is my hope that we kick off the program year every fall with a 'homecoming' - to gather the community back together, to celebrate and welcome in new members, and to remind ourselves that everything we do we do through the grace and glory of our savior Jesus. See you on the 7th!

## Parish Life



### The 2025 Homecoming Pig Pickin' and Picnic

Join us for a joyful celebration on **Sunday, September 7** at Church of the Nativity to kick-off the program year! We'll gather after the 10:30 am service for a classic pig pickin' with good food, great company, and plenty of Nativity spirit. All are welcome—bring a side dish or dessert to share and your appetite for food and fellowship! More details to come soon.



### Time Again to Ring

The Nativity Ringers will reconvene on **Wednesday, September 10**, with rehearsals from 7-8:30 pm in Corlett Hall. Current members are asked to confirm their participation with Ailsa Tessier, and newcomers who are interested in joining are warmly invited to get in touch with Ailsa or [email the church office](#). While the ability to read music is a plus, all are welcome. Plans for the fall include a possible handbell festival in November, learning an Advent piece by a local composer, and much more. Ailsa can be reached by email, phone, or in person (her contact information is listed in the church directory).



### Veterans @ Nativity Coffee Hour is Back

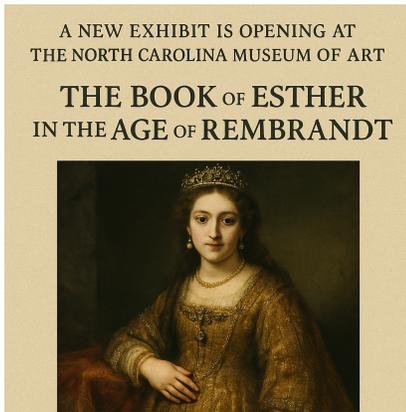
We invite all veterans at Nativity to join us for a time of open discussion and resource sharing on **Sunday, September 14**, in Corlett Hall, between the 8:30 and 10:30 am services. This will be a chance to share ideas, ask questions, and connect with fellow veterans in our parish community. Whether you are seeking support, offering resources, or simply looking for dialogue, your presence is welcome. We hope you'll join us for this important conversation.



### Senior Luncheon Returns – September 21

The Senior Luncheon will begin a new season of adventures in dining on **Sunday, September 21, 2025**. We are so grateful to last year's hosts for introducing us to new restaurants and helping us revisit old favorites. As we look ahead, we are seeking hosts for the 2025–2026 season. Hosting simply involves selecting a restaurant, making a reservation, and confirming the number of guests with the restaurant.

If you are new to Nativity, you are warmly invited to join us—you don't have to be a senior to give it a try! Just send an email to [Ed Mussman](#). We look forward to another wonderful season of fellowship, food, and fun together!



## ***The Book of Esther* Exhibit**

A new exhibit is opening at the North Carolina Museum of Art called *The Book of Esther in the Age of Rembrandt*. Tivey Clark and Gail Till would like to invite interested women of Nativity to share the experience as well as lunch on a yet to be decided date. We are putting this information out now because the exhibit tickets sales have begun, and those that wish to participate may want to hold off getting tickets until our plans are finalized. Look for more information soon!

# Youth and Children



## **Weekly Youth Newsletters**

The first weekly youth newsletters of the new program year were sent last week. These include important details about upcoming events for middle and high school students. If you have a youth in one of these age groups and did not receive the proper email from the church, please [contact Jeremy](#) to ensure you're on the correct mailing list.



## **Blessing of the Backpacks**

Join us this **Sunday, August 24** during both services for our Back-To-School Blessing of the Backpacks! All students—from Pre-K to PhD—are invited to bring their backpacks for a special blessing as we begin a new school year. During the service, we will offer students a prayerful start to the new school year and a special backpack tag to remind them of God's love and our community's support throughout the year.



### Middle School Meetup

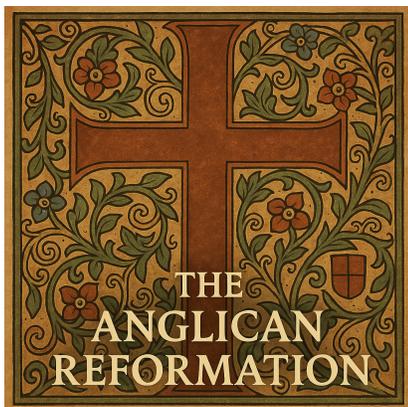
Middle School Youth are invited to join Jeremy and Rev. George for a fun evening at sweetFrog (6260 Plantation Center Drive, Suite M105) on **Wednesday, September 3**, from 6:30–7:30 pm. Come enjoy frozen yogurt while connecting with friends—both familiar faces and new ones—before our exciting program year begins. This is a great chance to relax, share some laughs, and get to know each other better. We can't wait to see you at Sweet Frog for sweet treats and sweet company!



### Busch Gardens Trip

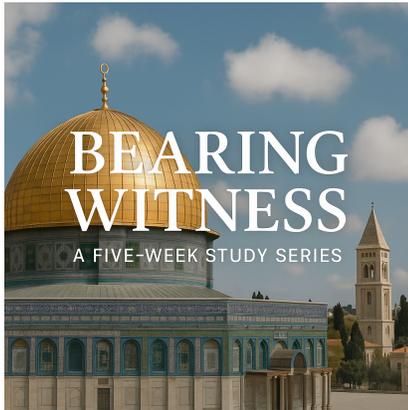
High School students are invited to join us for a trip to Busch Gardens Williamsburg on **September 20–21!** We'll depart early Saturday morning at 7:00 am from Church of the Nativity and head straight to the park, where their annual Howl-O-Scream event will be in full swing. After a fun-filled day and a frightful evening, we'll stay overnight nearby, then attend church together on Sunday before returning to Raleigh. The \$260 cost includes park admission, all-day dining, hotel accommodation, and transportation. Space is limited—please [register online](#) to reserve your spot!

## Adult Formation



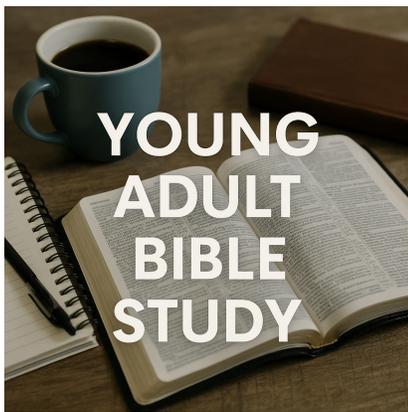
### The Anglican Reformation

The Anglican Reformation is often reduced to Henry VIII's divorce, but its roots run deeper and its impact wider. Join us **Sundays, August 17–September 28**, from 9:30–10:20 am in Curry Hall 204 for a six-week adult formation class exploring six key reform movements in England that helped lead to the Anglican Communion and the Episcopal Church we know and love today. From early Bible translators to the Elizabethan Settlement, and concluding with the Oxford Movement, we'll trace some of the theological and cultural forces that shaped Anglican identity. Please [register here](#) so we will have enough materials for everyone. All are welcome—no prior knowledge needed!



## ***Bearing Witness***

Join us on Wednesday nights beginning **September 17**, from 7:00–8:30 pm on Zoom, for *Bearing Witness*, facilitated by the Rev. Grey Maggiano. This video-based program from the American Friends of the Episcopal Diocese of Jerusalem explores the lived experiences of Christians, Muslims, and Jews in the Holy Land. Each session weaves Gospel themes with powerful stories from ministries offering healing, education, and hope in a region marked by conflict. To receive the course materials, [please register](#) by Sunday, **September 14**.



## **Young Adult Bible Study**

Come be part of our new Young Adult Bible Study on **Thursday, September 18**, from 6:30–8 pm! Led by The Rev. George Black, it's a relaxed space to dig into scripture, share questions, and connect with others. [Register your interest](#) and let us know if Zoom, in-person, or even another time works best for you.

What's a Young Adult? Don't worry about labels—if you think you might belong, you do. Everyone is welcome.

## Outreach

### **Rise Against Hunger Meal Packaging Event**



**Sunday, September 14**  
**North Raleigh**  
**Presbyterian Church**

Nativity's 13th annual Rise Against Hunger intergenerational meal-packing event will be held after the 10:30 am service on **Sunday, September 14**. For the past 2 years we have collaborated with our neighbors at North Raleigh Presbyterian Church, 11905 Strickland Road, to package over 10,000 meals at this yearly event, and this year the event will be held at North Raleigh Presbyterian Church's fellowship hall (their rear building). Each year we hope to have at least 60 total participants signed up, and Rise Against Hunger requires all participants be registered for the event. [Please register online.](#)

# Community Events



## 2025 Women's Spiritual Retreat Learning to Live a Spiritual Life in Today's World

Join the women of St. Ambrose ECW for the 2025 Spiritual Retreat on **Saturday, September 6**, 9:00 am–3:00 pm at New Hope Collaborative, Raleigh (1725 N. New Hope Road, Raleigh NC 27604). This year's theme, "Learning to Live a Spiritual Life in this Modern World," will be led by Rev. Canon Kathy Walker, Missioner for Black Ministries, Diocese of NC. Through the stories of two biblical women, we'll study, pray, reflect, talk, and enjoy fellowship. Light breakfast and lunch provided (donations welcome). RSVP by **August 29** at 919-833-8055 or [email](#). Comfortable, casual attire encouraged—bring a friend!



## Invitation to Couples Getaway "The Four Seasons of Life and Love"

Looking to recharge your relationship? Join us for a Couples Getaway **September 20–21**, at the Doubletree Inn in RTP. Led by Michael and Myra Holmes, certified Better Marriages leaders and authors of *Fighting for Your Military Marriage*, this weekend offers time to reconnect and have fun together. Cost is \$175 per couple and includes Saturday meals; first-time couples pay just \$100. Scholarships available. Hotel rooms are \$139/night.

Learn more and register at [www.bettermarriagesnc.org](http://www.bettermarriagesnc.org) or contact Carl and Nancy Terry at 919-559-2827.

# Nativity Prayer List

Please click here for the prayer list: [Nativity Prayer List](#)

To add someone to the list, please [email the office](#).

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# Nativity Staff

**The Rev. Grey Maggiano**

Rector

**The Rev. George Black**

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**The Rev. Ryan Parker**

Priest Associate

**Jeremy Clos**

Lay Associate for Christian Formation

**Josh Anderson**

Lay Associate for  
Communications and Administration

**Christian Schoen**

Organist and Choirmaster

**Monique Holmes**

Business Manager

**Robert Krahel**

Sexton

**Eva Warren**

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