



BLESSING OF THE ANIMALS

Please join us this Sunday at 4 pm for the Blessing of the Animals. We'll all meet under the big oak tree (or inside Estill House if it rains). Bring your pets; dogs, cats, rabbits, birds, or any beloved creature, for a special blessing. This year we'll be collecting much-needed donations for Peak Lab Rescue and Safe Haven for Cats and may even have some adorable adoptable dogs visiting us as well! This joyful tradition reminds us of God's care for all creation. Invite friends and neighbors to share in this meaningful, family-friendly event!

WELCOME BACK TO HIGH SCHOOL AND MIDDLE SCHOOL YOUTH!

We were excited to welcome our high school youth back with a re-gathering dinner last Sunday. They enjoyed a friendly competition to design new vestments for Rev. Grey. You may get to see them this Sunday!

The high schoolers voted and will now have their formation time immediately after the 10:30 services in Room 202 on Sundays. Lunch will be provided. As always, youth are encouraged to bring friends!

Middle school formation will continue at 9:30-10:20 on Sunday mornings in Room 202.

FINAL CALL: 2026 ACOLYTE CONVENTION

Registration is due by October 5. Are you currently an acolyte? Have you considered being an acolyte but have questions? The NC Diocese is holding the 2026 Acolyte Festival on Oct. 17 from 9:30-3:30 at St. Paul's Episcopal Church in Winston Salem. Acolytes and prospective acolytes of all ages will deepen their understanding of worship through hands-on workshops covering vestments, sacred objects, altar serving, processions, and special services such as Holy Week, baptisms, confirmations and episcopal visitations. There is a \$10 registration fee for each participant. Please reach out to Sarah O'Connor if you are interested.

MENTAL HEALTH, MILITARY SERVICE & BELONGING

Please join us for a four-part series exploring mental health, military service and belonging. We'll meet on Sundays from October 18 to November 8 from 9:30 to 10:20 am in Curry Hall Room 204. Topics include partners in care, moral injury and belonging.

All are welcome! Come learn, share, and support our community. Questions? Contact ryanparker@nativityonline

REPARATIONS IN THE CHURCH: DOES IT WORK? DOES IT MATTER?

On October 18 following the 10:30 service join Rev. Grey for a talk about his recent doctoral thesis: "The Fast we choose" on what happens when a church embarks on racial reparations and reconciliation.

To learn more about reparations, the church and faith, sign up for our Wednesday evening book study starting Wednesday October 14 on "Reparations: a plan for churches". You can sign up by emailing formation@nativityonline.org. The book is available from Amazon and church publishing.

CALENDAR

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 4

8:30 am Holy Eucharist, spoken (Nave)
9:30 am Adult Formation (Curry Hall Room 204)
9:30 am Middle School Formation (Curry Hall Room 202)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, with music (Nave)
11:45 am High School Formation (Estill House Conference Room)
12:00 pm Daughters of the King (Curry Hall Room 202)
4:00 pm Blessing of the Animals (Under the Oak Tree (no rain) - Corlett Hall (rain))

MONDAY, OCTOBER 5

6:30 pm Education for Ministry (Conference Room)

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 7

10:00 am Chatty Yarns (Corlett Hall)
7:00 pm Handbell Rehearsal (Corlett Hall)

THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8

2:00 pm Pastoral Care Team Meeting (Conference Room)
7:00 pm Choir Practice (Nave)

SUNDAY, OCTOBER 11

8:30 am Holy Eucharist, spoken (Nave)
9:30 am Adult Formation (Curry Hall Room 204)
9:30 am Middle School Formation (Curry Hall Room 202)
10:30 am Holy Eucharist, with music (Nave)
11:45 am High School Formation (Curry Hall Room 202)

STORY & SONG: 2026 ADULT PILGRIMAGE TO CHARLESTON

You are invited to journey with The Rev. Dr. Grey Maggiano, pilgrimage Coordinator, Beth Crow and other pilgrims from Church of the Nativity as we transport ourselves through story and song, through prayer and scripture, to Charleston, SC. We will be seeking to better understand and begin to reckon with the legacy of slavery in North and South Carolina and the role that the Episcopal Church has historically played in that legacy. We will also be reflecting on how we can foster a new identity as a denomination and as people of faith.

The pilgrimage will begin on November 11, 2026, and we will return to Raleigh on Sunday November 15 in the afternoon. The cost of the trip will be \$ 900(\$600 for double occupancy) which includes transportation, breakfast and dinner every day, lodging, museum entrances and honorariums for all our speakers. Please sign up by October 15.

SUNDAY MORNING BOOK STUDY

We will continue with our Sunday morning book study through Oct. 11 from 9:30–10:20 am in Curry Hall, Room 204.

Jay Casler will lead as we read and discuss

Lord Teach Us-The Lord's Prayer & the Christian Life.

We'll explore The Lord's Prayer phrase by phrase and look at this familiar prayer in a whole new way.

Copies of the book are available in the Narthex.

SAVE THE DATE: NATIVITY WOMEN'S RETREAT

Ladies, time is running out. The Women's Retreat only has a few more openings and you KNOW you want to be part of this awesome group! This isn't only a chance to meet more women of the congregation and/or get to know them better, but it's a chance to learn how your personality and spirituality can work together. You'll be able to reverently walk through the labyrinth, create a "soulful collage", and to laugh and visit over good food.

We'll be at Nativity on Friday night and at The Trees in Durham on Saturday.

Register through SignUpGenius and review the retreat FAQ for more information. Need a ride? We'll provide one!

Questions? Contact Gail Till or Tivey Clark.