



the **NATIVITY** *Scene*

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

February 2016
Volume 20, Issue 1

SHROVE TUESDAY

**PANCAKE SUPPER AND
CAJUN FEST!
FEB. 9TH
5:30 PM**

**THIS IS ALWAYS A FUN TIME WHERE
WE EAT PANCAKES, SAUSAGES, AND
APPLE SAUCE BEFORE THE
BEGINNING OF LENT! WE WILL ALSO
SERVE....CAJUN FOOD!**

**FIND THE "COIN" IN THE KING'S CAKE
AND YOU WIN RESERVED SEATING
AND PARKING ON EASTER SUNDAY!**

**ADULTS/YOUTH: \$5
CHILDREN: \$3
FAMILY: \$15**



**ASH
WEDNESDAY**

Feb. 10th

Services will be 7:30 am &
6:00 pm with imposition of
ashes.

(No Wednesday Night
program)

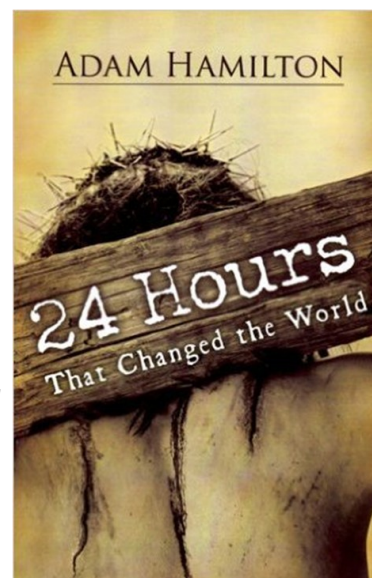
Lenten Series 2016

Wednesday Evenings following the five-thirty Service
and Soup Supper

February 17 & 24 and March 2 & 9

Programs begin at 6:30

No single event in human history has received more attention than the suffering and crucifixion of Jesus of Nazareth. In this Lenten journey, Adam Hamilton guides us through the last twenty-four hours of Jesus' life through a video filmed in the Holy Land. His book may be purchased on Amazon or through Cokesbury but is not necessary to enjoy the program. Each chapter is designed to help the reader experience and understand the significance of Jesus' suffering and death in a way you have never done before.



The signup sheet to bring soup or bread is located on the Welcome Table.

Adult Christian Education: Fr. Tom

Sunday School 9:15 to 10:15 Sunday mornings in Mary Stuart Poole Library at the east end of the brick road. Almost invariably, by the time everyone arrives we have a full table in the library every Sunday morning. Conversation most often focuses on the Bible lessons for each Sunday morning, but you never know. Everyone is invited, all are welcome, come one, come all, come early, come on time, or come late!

Tuesday Morning Bible Study 10:00 to 11:15 in Mary Stuart Poole Library. After our annual Winter break, our new, ***Spring Session will begin Tuesday, February 16th.*** Plans are to pick up our study of the Gospel according to Luke through Lent. During the Easter Season we will have our "triennial" study of Revelation. Everyone is welcome, from any Episcopal parish, and from any other church, and in fact everyone is welcome from no church at all. Interested folks should tell Fr. Tom by email twellerpc@gmail.com

Happy Birthday to.....ME!

Long ago and far away...okay, it sounds like the beginning of a Star Wars movie. But, I want you to think back in your Church history, and try to remember when we used to come up to the altar during the month of our birthday to receive a Birthday blessing, and contribute a birthday offering. Joyce Dannecker reminded the ladies of the Mary-Martha Circle of this tradition, and with Fr. Steve's blessing, we would like to re-instate it.

So, beginning in February, on the first Sunday of the month, Fr. Steve, or Fr. Tom will ask anyone having a birthday that month to come forward for a Birthday blessing. We will have a special offering box available into which you can place your pennies, nickels, even dollars, representing the number of years old (or young) you will be this year.

The collection will then be used for different outreach programs and the church will designate which program will receive the money for that year.

I hope everyone will enjoy this new old tradition, and
Happy Birthday to **YOU!**



Feb. 1 John Morrow
 Feb. 2 Jayden Jarrett, Monica Phillips
 Feb. 3 Lenka Doran
 Feb. 4 Daniel Melzer
 Feb. 5 Liz Ciccarelli, Mary Mittiga
 Feb. 6 Isaac Ward
 Feb. 7 Dana Ledman
 Feb. 8 John Messer
 Feb. 9 Samantha Smith
 Feb. 10 Monica Cramer, Michelle Kraut, Brian Leebrick
 Feb. 11 Gene Miller, Susan Nelson, Hercules Pettis
 Feb. 12 Sarah Davis
 Feb. 13 Scott Clemons
 Feb. 15 Connie McClellan
 Feb. 16 Kate Smith
 Feb. 17 Arthur Kraut
 Feb. 18 Nancy Hebert
 Feb. 20 Sophia Eaton
 Feb. 21 Martin Brust, Bertram Churchll, Eddie San Juan
 Feb. 22 Steve Dick, Allen Nease, Mario San Juan, Lauren Stewart
 Feb. 23 Suzanne Grossman
 Feb. 24 Frank Cole
 Feb. 25 Lori Faison, Nancy Pride, Kevin Wattenbarger, Ann Watts, Sue White
 Feb. 26 Edyth Brown, David Burris, Allison Yessman
 Feb. 27 David Lithway, Clayton Syfrett
 Feb. 28 Ashley Doran



Feb. 5 Ted and Ina Joy Conrad
 Feb. 16 Martin and Kathy Brust
 Feb. 19 Wayland and Glenda Patterson
 Clayton and Kimberly Syfrett
 Feb. 20 J.R. and Lauren Williams
 Feb. 24 Dunkin and Edwina McLane

Holy Nativity Episcopal School
 14th Annual 5K Run, Walk, & 1-Mile
 Fun Run

205 Hamilton Ave.
 Panama City, FL 32401

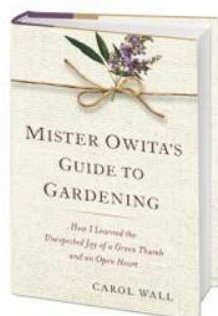
SATURDAY, FEB. 13, 2016



More info, entry forms and Sponsorship forms are at the welcome table. Feb. 5th is the deadline for sponsorship.

*A Note from David Wall
 12/22/15*

*Thank you for hosting such a great event this month. It was a true pleasure to share Carol's story with your group. The crowd bought 42 books at \$15 each. Wholesale price is \$9.60 each. I am pleased to enclose a check for \$226.80. Have a blessed Christmas.
 Peace, David*



Note: The \$226.80 went toward our Advent Outreach Ministry.



Happening

This spring, our diocese will be hosting "Happening: A Christian Experience" at St. James in Fairhope. Happening is a spiritual formation weekend presented BY teenagers FOR teenagers with the help of clergy and lay adult leadership. Happening seeks to bring young people to a fuller personal knowledge of and relationship with Jesus, and to a deeper level of commitment and apostleship. During the Happening weekend, there are activities designed for fun and Christian community building among participants including: talks given by teenage staff and clergy, games, music, prayer, and unique worship experiences. St. James will be transformed over the weekend into a sacred space just for this event.

When is Happening?

Happening is February 26-28, 2016 at St. James Episcopal Church in Fairhope, Alabama.

Who is invite to attend?

All 10-12th Graders in the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast.

Who leads the event?

Happening is led by a staff of teenagers who have been through a Happening weekend previously. Natalie Smith (12th Grade, St. James Fairhope) will be the Lay Rector. Philip Iversen (12th Grade, Holy Cross Pensacola) will be the Head Gofer, which is the other main leadership position. The spiritual directors for the weekend will be The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick and The Rev. Mary Alice Mathison. **Jen Manning** is the Happening Coordinator for the Diocese.

Registration and Cost

If you know a 10-12th grader who may be interested, have them contact Jen or register online. The cost for the weekend is \$60 and financial assistance is available upon request.

Love Thy Neighbor

Once again the Love Thy Neighbor program was a great success due to the generosity of our church. The youth group delivered 55 full backpacks, a large tub of extra goodies and a large tub of beauty products. This allows the SOAR Program to share some hope and love the we are so lucky to experience through our wonderful church and families. Thank-you.

Christmas Fun

Elves, inflatable reindeer and human Christmas trees! The festive season fun at Holy Nativity allowed all to see how special this time of year is for the children. The youth helped this excitement through the Elves Bootcamp and really showed how to have fun. Well Done.

Backpack Buddies

The youth this season are part of the packing rotor for the Backpack Buddies Ministry. During our program have designated youth who explain what and how and run the production line.

Camp-out

The youth would like to Camp-out! DO you have a land we could use? Would you like to me help organize the trip? Contact me with suggestions for dates, locations of volunteers.



Looking forward to the fun,
A.J. Jeffery, Youth Director
319-1953 aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org

Children's Ministry Feb. 2016 *by Beverly McDaniel*

Feb.	Sun. School 9:15 In our Chapel Room in the two-story building	Children's Church 10:30 In Kids' Kingdom after the children's sermon at the beginning of the worship service. They return to "big church" for communion.	Nursery 10:15 Younger children enjoy being in the nursery with Abby Dingus and our faithful nursery Volunteers.
7 Souper Bowl Sunday	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"God Tests Abraham" Karen Shores 867-1084 Casey Cole 319-4376	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
14	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"A Wife for Isaac" Holly Melzer 896-0609 Lindsey Crelling 319-6226	Kaew Sumpton 624-1290
21	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"Esau and Jacob" Laura King 625-0705 Christy Smith 258-9394	Pat Spangler 215-5247
28	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"Jacob Gets A Blessing" Trey Hutt 814-7934 Liz Ward 864-420-5855	Teresa Durgan 913-3471

Let me once more express appreciation to all of you who helped with the Christmas Pageant. Thank you so very much for your contributions, especially with costumes, crowd control, and clean-up. Our goal is to retell the glorious story of Christmas with joy and tradition but without stress for our children or their parents. I reminded the actors that we have a special mission to portray the holy nativity of Jesus because we are Holy Nativity Episcopal Church. Again this year, we had several visiting children participate in the pageant. They were quickly fitted with costumes by the adults, and they were well-guided by the children who had practiced. Thank you all for making them feel so welcome and so comfortable. Their parents and grandparents were delighted.

Super Bowl Sunday will also be **Souper Bowl Sunday** us. Please remember to let your children bring cans of soup to church on February 7th to donate to our Backpack Ministry or Food Pantry. We may also wear "fan gear" (jersey, jacket, jewelry, etc.) supporting our favorite sports team. And, don't miss the **Shrove Tuesday Pancake Supper** on February 10th. The children love that. Again, let us be building meaning and memories for our children that will last their whole lives long.

Souper Bowl
Sunday
February 7, 2016

Wear your favorite
team shirt and
bring cans of Soup
for donation!



**SOUPER
BOWL**

A Party, Lots of Wine and a Miracle

The following is a copy of my sermon from January 17th. It is intended as a heartfelt "thank you" for the incredible anniversary celebration you honored me with and also the many gracious expressions given to Lori and me over the holidays. Many thanks. It is an honor to be your Rector. The sermon is based on the gospel reading, John 2:1-11; the story of Jesus' first miracle at a wedding in Cana of Galilee.

I'm not even going to pretend I've got a sermon for this morning.

This isn't a day for "sermonating." This is a day for thanksgiving.

Today, is the 61st annual meeting of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church. We did the business part of that between services. (And if you're visiting with us today and some of this doesn't make sense or seems more like a family conversation, I apologize. But if nothing else, maybe you'll come to know what an incredible, healthy and dynamic parish this is).

But I've got to talk about Wednesday night. I am blown away, overwhelmed, humbled, grateful and in a weird way feeling pretty inadequate from the incredible celebration of our 10th anniversary together. I can't begin to thank you or to thank all who made it happen because truly with the exception of what was shared with me, it was a surprise.

Thank you for the service, your gifts, notes and cards, the wonderful party afterwards, everything was beyond my imagination. And thank you seems so inadequate.

But I truly believe that gratitude is an expression of God's presence; a presence that is so vividly on display in this parish. And here's something I believe with all my heart. Thanksgiving is an expression of how much we depend on God and each other. It is recognizing how much we have received from God and from the people around us. And I hope you heard what Bishop Russell had to say in his remarks. Thanksgiving comes from the trust and friendship that is so prevalent in our lives together.

And it says a lot about us.

Saying thank you recognizes that we are in a relationship with each other; that we're tethered to other people who travel with us along the way. It's an acknowledgement that we can't go it alone and what we accomplish comes through the commitment we have to each other and to God.

Ten years is a long time. Thank you for celebrating it. But what's happened in the last ten years is not because of me. That's not trying to be humble. I really believe that. What's happened in the past ten years is because of a true and sacred commitment by everyone here to the kingdom of God in this place we call home.

And the belief that just maybe the world and God's kingdom needs a place like us.

Look at our facilities that are beautiful and second to none. It feels like church. I celebrate and give thanks for so many who made this happen. I look at the ministries happening now in this place both public and behind the scenes. And I celebrate and give thanks. I thank God that we are living out the challenge of Jesus Christ that what we do until one of the least of these we do for him. I celebrate and thank God for our youth and children's programs, our music ministry, our joy in worship. I remember a visitor not long ago who was a life long Episcopalian and told me after church that in all her life she'd never experienced such an atmosphere in the Episcopal Church. I thanked her but told her I was pretty sure it was the Holy Spirit.

And you know it.

The presence of God in this place is palpable. All because when Jesus has knocked on the doors of our lives, we have opened that door with joy and let him in.

Folks, What we do here matters. What happens here for many makes all the difference in the world. The kingdom of God is here; among us. May we never settle for just being a church.

And I am so grateful to be a part.

Now it's not lost on me that today's gospel lesson has to do with a big party, a lot of wine and most importantly a miracle. The big party and lots a wine reminds me a whole lot of Wednesday night.

But the miracle.

Well, just look around you. The miracle is that in all the paths we take in life and all the people who share our journey that God has chosen to bring us all together for the past 10 years. Blessed people of God as different as we can be but who together have allowed God to use us to make a difference in this world.

And may that celebration never end.

God love you,
Thank you
Steve





HOLY NATIVITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH



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The Nativity Scene is the newsletter of Holy Nativity Episcopal Church. The deadline for announcements and articles is the 15th each month prior to publication .

DIOCESE OF THE CENTRAL GULF COAST

The Rt. Rev. Russell Kendrick - Bishop
The Rev. Steven B. Bates - Rector
The Rev. Tom Weller, Associate

CHURCH STAFF

Youth Director - Andrew Jeffery
Children's CE Director - Beverly McDaniel
Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith
Director of Choirs - Stacey Holliday
Church Organist - John Durgan
Church Bookkeeper - Kathy Mills
Sexton - James Rahn
Nursery Attendants - Catherine Churchill and Emily Brock

THE VESTRY

Fr. Steve Bates - Rector
Gayle Ahrens 15-18
Peggy Bowen 16-19
Beth Brock 15-18
Mike Dickey 15-18
Tiffany Ennis 16-19
Mark Godwin - Treasurer
Tom Hairston 16-19

Jim Hixson 15-18
Brian Leebrick 14-17
Madge Smith - Clerk
Hercules Pettis 14-17
Stewart Sumpton 14-17
Joy Thompson 16-19
Todd Williams 14-17

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

*Sunday 8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite I **
9:15 a.m. - Adult and Youth CE, Children's Sunday School (Sept. - May)
*10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II***
*Wednesday 5:30 pm - five-thirty Eucharist * and programs*

**Nursery Provided*

***Children's Church and Nursery Provided*