



June 2012
Volume 16, Issue 5

the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

Shell Island Sunday, June 3, 2012

Service begins at 11:00 a.m. Picnic and Fellowship Following!

Things to Know!

***THE ST. ANDREW'S FERRY LEAVES
AT 10:00 AM!***

(BY THE SHRIMP BOAT RESTAURANT)

- *Bring a side dish for the picnic. Barbecue, fried chicken and paper products will be provided.*
- *If you're bringing your own boat, come as early as you can and help reserve spaces for other boats.*
- *Bring our own beverages of choice to enjoy for the picnic.*
- *The snack bar on the ferry will have beverages for sale.*
- *There is a restroom aboard the ferry.*
- *If you have a pop-up tent or canopy for shade, please bring it.*
- *Pick up your T-shirt at the Island! We will have only a few extra available there at \$10 each.*
- *Watch your email, our Facebook page and website for any event changes due to weather.*

all things bright and beautiful



Shell Island Sunday II • 2012
Holy Nativity Episcopal Church

Regular Worship Services
will still be held
at the church!

A Word from Father Tom, Summer Priest

It is my honor and pleasure to serve as your Summer Priest while Father Steve is away on sabbatical June, July and August. This is something for which I feel reasonably qualified, having served as vicar and rector at three other parishes, in addition to having done this here at Holy Nativity during summers for previous rectors before I transferred to Grace Church, PCB and St. Thomas, Laguna Beach. And too, Holy Nativity has been Linda and my home parish for fifty-seven years, since June 1955. So, we are not strangers!

As of Monday, June 4, 2012, you must feel as welcome to contact me 24/7 with issues and problems and pastoral matters as you do Father Steve. My contacts are

Home phone 850-785-8417

Cell phone 850-532-0114 (phone & text) (though I sometimes forget to carry my cell phone with me, do kindly be patient)

Email twellerpc@gmail.com

I have in mind for the summer, that along with Father Steve, we also shall take a bit of a sabbatical and enjoy a time of refreshment and peace in our worship, and perhaps learn some things, before buckling down to the fall schedule. As well as the *Book of Common Prayer* and *The Hymnal 1982*, General Convention of the Episcopal Church has given us a variety of options for Sunday worship. And so, for the summer we shall try some of this. Our eight o'clock Sunday morning Rite One service of Holy Eucharist will stay the same; and the hymns we sing will be the same for both eight o'clock and ten-thirty services. But at our ten-thirty Summer Eucharist, we shall worship with the supplemental Eucharistic prayers and service music that the Church has given us. It's not "new," having been published by General Convention in 1998 and in use for fourteen years now; and we've used it for Wednesday evening Eucharists and in our EfM classes. We've studied it too, in Adult Sunday School and Confirmation Classes and in Tuesday Morning Bible Seminars. In other parishes that I have served, this material has been well received, and I hope you will like it too.

Tradition of the Episcopal Church is that one or two lessons are read, and when there is Holy Communion we always have a Gospel reading. You may like to know that our Bible readings this summer will focus on the stories about King Saul, and King David, and King Solomon, stories that many of us learned in Sunday School as children. They are the same good old stories, which our summer lectionary will have us reading from First and Second Samuel and First Kings. Taking advantage of some of the permissions that the prayer book rubrics give us, we shall focus on those Old Testament readings and on the Gospel according to Mark. Late in the summer, we shall read chapter 6 of the Gospel according to John, the material that is called Jesus' "Bread of Life Discourse." As summer ends, the lectionary will take us to the Letter of James and return us to Mark's Gospel.

Sometimes instead of a "Sequence" or "Gospel Hymn," we shall sing a "Gospel Acclamation Alleluia" from the supplementary worship music that the Church has given us. An ancient tradition as the liturgy moves toward the Gospel reading, is to stand and say or sing "Alleluias" acknowledging the presence of Christ and welcoming him into our midst as we prepare to hear him speak to us from the Gospel.

Enriching Our Worship contains no forms for the Prayers of the People. Rather, it calls attention to the generous and flexible — and frequently overlooked — provisions of the Book of Common Prayer. Of the six forms provided (BCP pp. 383–393), *none are required*. Any of them *may* be used or adapted to the occasion. They may also be replaced by other forms. And the six forms provided may also be used as models for the creation of completely new Prayers of the People, prepared and offered by members of the congregation, either written or offered impromptu. All that is required is that the topics listed at the top of page 383 be included in the prayers:

Prayer is offered with intercession for
 The Universal Church, its members, and its mission
 The Nation and all in authority
 The welfare of the world

June 2012

(Continued from page 2)

The concerns of the local community
 Those who suffer and those in any trouble
 The departed (with commemoration of a saint when appropriate)

You will find in our ten-thirty Summer Eucharist that the wording of the Nicene Creed is somewhat different. This is most noticeable in the paragraph about the Holy Spirit, the assertion that the Holy Spirit “proceeds from the Father and the Son.” The clause “and the Son” is called the *filioque* which is Latin for, literally, “Son-and.” Because the *filioque*, which was not in the original Creed authorized at Nicaea (325 AD) and Constantinople (351 AD), was added by the Western church without the authority of a General Council and without the consent of the Eastern church, the presence of the *filioque* in the Creed has for centuries been a matter of contention between the Western (Latin) church and the Eastern (Orthodox) church. In 1985, our General Convention recommended that the *filioque* be deleted from the Nicene Creed at the next revision of the prayer book. Nine years later, in 1994, General Convention resolved that the *filioque* would be deleted, and this was accomplished with the 1998 publishing of the supplementary book that we shall use this summer. We have discussed this in Adult Sunday School classes several times; and actually experiencing it in worship will be our adult Christian education program for the summer! Below, for everyone who would like to know more, is a statement that the Church has provided to help parish clergy introduce and explain the revisions to the Nicene Creed; and there are innumerable sites online to read.

The Nicene Creed. The 1994 General Convention affirmed the following resolutions:

Resolved, the House of Deputies concurring, That this 71st General Convention, following the resolution of the 68th General Convention, and responding to Resolution 19 of the joint meeting of the Primates of the Anglican Communion and the Anglican Consultative Council (Capetown 1993), hereby reaffirm its intention to remove the words “and the Son” from the third paragraph of the Nicene Creed at the next revision of the Book of Common Prayer.

Resolved, the House of Bishops concurring, That this 71st General Convention direct that when the English Language Liturgical Consultation (ELLC) text of the Nicene Creed (included in *Supplemental Liturgical Materials*) is used, the words “and the Son” be omitted, such use always to be under the direction of the diocesan bishop or ecclesiastical authority, and with an appropriate educational component.

The following background material provides the historical rationale for this decision, and provides material to be included in educational events.

The original wording of the Nicene Creed, “I believe in the Holy Spirit, who proceeds from the Father, who with the Father and the Son is worshiped and glorified,” was agreed upon at the fourth-century Ecumenical Council of Constantinople (Ecumenical Councils are councils of bishops and theologians of the entire Church). The wording was altered in the Latin half of the Church by the addition of the words, “who proceeds from the Father *and the Son*,” a change expressed in Latin by one word: *filioque*. This addition was made at a sixth-century regional synod meeting in Toledo, Spain. In this region many Christians had originally been Arians who denied the full divinity of the Son. The synod apparently believed that the constant liturgical repetition of the *filioque* clause would aid in teaching the faithful that the Son was fully God. The phrase gradually spread until, by the eleventh century, it was in general use in the Latin Church. Its inclusion has never been authorized by an Ecumenical Council and has never been adopted by the Eastern churches.

In the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, Anglican theologians were unanimous in claiming that the only true bases of doctrine were Scripture and the teaching of the undivided Church (i.e., the five Ecumenical Councils held between the years 325 and 451). The Church of England taught only what Scripture and tradition taught, they asserted. Not knowing the full history of the *filioque* addition and mistakenly assuming that it had always formed part of the Creed, Anglicans retained the phrase, and some divines even went to great lengths to explain why the Greeks deleted it!

Continued from page 3)

The continued use of the *filioque* phrase by churches in the West remains a source of irritation between East and West. The unilateral altering of a Creed originally authorized by an Ecumenical Council strikes Eastern Orthodox Christians as ecclesiologically high-handed and canonically indefensible. The theology of the Holy Spirit which has grown up in the West since the introduction of the *filioque* is a point of serious, but less-heated, misunderstanding between East and West.

In 1976, the Anglican members of the Anglican-Orthodox Joint Doctrinal Commission said in an Agreed Statement that the *filioque* should not be included in the Creed because it had been introduced without the authority of an Ecumenical Council. In 1978 Anglican bishops meetings at the Lambeth Conference recommended that churches of the Anglican Communion consider omitting the *filioque* from the Nicene Creed. The 1985 General Convention recommended the restoration of the original wording of the Creed, once this action had been approved by the Lambeth Conference and the Anglican Consultative Council. The change was then endorsed by the Lambeth Conference of 1988, the 1990 meeting of the Anglican Consultative Council, and the 1993 joint meeting of Anglican Primates and the Anglican Consultative Council. The 1994 General Convention affirmed the intention of the Episcopal Church to remove the *filioque* clause at the next revision of the Book of Common Prayer.

Whether or not to restore the original wording of the Nicene Creed is not primarily a theological issue. The relation of the Holy Spirit to the first and second persons of the Holy Trinity remains a matter of theological discussion and is ultimately unknowable, at least on this side of the grave. The real issue is twofold:

1. on what authority a statement of faith agreed upon by bishops and theologians of the whole Church, East and West, may be changed; and
2. what course is most faithful to the theological traditions of Anglicanism. A good introduction to the issues, suitable for parish study, is found in Marianne H. Micks, *Loving the Questions: An Exploration of the Nicene Creed* (Cowley Publications, 1993). —*The Rev. Dr. Ruth Meyers*

I look forward to a good summer with you. Father Steve will be in our prayers every time we gather.

For the Good Use of Leisure

O God, in the course of this busy life, give us times of refreshment and peace; and grant that we may so use our leisure to rebuild our bodies and renew our minds, that our spirits may be opened to the goodness of your creation; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

For Travelers

O God, our heavenly Father, whose glory fills the whole creation, and whose presence we find wherever we go: Preserve those who travel, in particular Father Steve; surround them with your loving care; protect them from every danger; and bring them in safety to their journey's end; through Jesus Christ our Lord. *Amen.*

Tom Weller+

Children's Ministry June 2012

June	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 Megan or Molly Thompson and our wonderfully faithful nursery volunteers.
3 Shell Island Sunday	Judy Bennett 215-1579 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
10	Kathy Brust 814-8014 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Nancy Reeder 596-9538
17	Judy Bennett 215-1579 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Kaew Sumpton 872-3782
24	Sharon Carroll 784-6961 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Karen Shores 867-1084

It's SUMMERTIME! For those of us who have lived much of our lives on school schedules, this is a time to evaluate and to appreciate. I have liked most of what we have done the past year, I have loved some, and I think some need to be revised. I hope that you who are parents will share your thoughts and the likes and dislikes of our target audience...your children. I am thankful, and you are blessed, to have Judy Bennett helping me with Children's Church. She has so many of the talents that I lack. She is an artist with planning and crafts. The treasures (for example, the darling wooly lambs) that the children have brought back into church were all from Judy. She and Ashley Eaton can make something adorable out of thin air. I appreciate them, and I appreciate you who volunteer each Sunday. The children enjoy and appreciate you also. This year we are planning not to abbreviate Children's Church during the summer so we will still need your volunteer time. Of course, the nursery schedule does not vary because of summer, so special appreciation must go to our terrific nursery volunteers all year around. The Children's Ministry is blessed to have the strong support of our volunteers and our entire Holy Nativity Church family. Thank you so much.

Beverly McDaniel



SUPPER AT GRACE

Vacation time is here and many of us are traveling by plane, train, and automobile! Supper at Grace is continuing each month on the second Thursday. We are having a lot of fun preparing and serving 100+ meals each time. While you are on your travels, please bring back the small toiletries distributed by hotels, and instead of tossing them in a drawer at home, bring them to Battin Hall and put them in the Green "Supper at Grace" basket. We distribute these items at Supper at Grace to people who have so little that a small shampoo or soap means a lot. Speaking of vacations, we could use a 'back-up crew'. If you cannot commit to becoming part of the 'crew' each month, but could help once in a while, as needed, please email me at tgahrens@bellsouth.net. Sometimes we're short-handed due to time conflicts or vacations and it would help to have someone in the wings that could be called at short-notice for a couple of hours. If this fits your schedule, please let me know.

Gayle Ahrens



EfM Registration is Open!

We still have a handful of slots available in our Education for Ministry group that meets in Father Tom's office from 5:45 to 8 p.m. on Wednesdays, starting in August. EfM is a program of Christian education and spiritual development administered by the School of Theology at Sewanee. Our time together each week includes a comprehensive study of the Old and New Testaments, the history of the Christian church, and different approaches to theology and spirituality, not only from our standpoint as Christians but from other faith traditions. We also develop our personal spirituality, and emerge with a sense of God's presence in the world and a framework for our own ministry as people of faith. Oh, and did I mention that we also share wonderful suppers each week, and develop deep friendships with folks we otherwise might not get to know? Simply put, EfM is an experience that will change your life as a Christian, and give you a confidence in your faith that grows from the knowledge and application of scripture, tradition and reason.

The cost of the EfM is \$350 per year, which includes two hefty looseleaf texts. This is a discounted rate that is available until we fill the class, so please let me know soon if you would like to become a part of our group.

Thanks, Mike Dickey/867.2550,
mdickey@barronredding.com

Summer is here!

We are planning a Shell Island Rafting Trip, a "Dive-In" movie night, and a Garage Sale! Look in your email and upcoming church information about the details about these events!



Make sure we have your correct email for updates and information!

We're having fun - Join us!
 Judy 248-6624
judydickey@gmail.com



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|-----------------|---|
| Aug. 19 | Blessing of the Backpacks! |
| Sept. 9 | Rally Day! |
| Sept. 12 | Children's Choir Rehearsal begins! |
| Sept. 16 | Sunday School begins for all ages! |
| Sept. 30 | Steak and Bake for Wilmer Hall! |



THIS MONTH'S Birthdays

- June 2 Alexandra Dye
- June 3 Cody Johnson
- June 4 Missie Coley, Michele Hahn, Bruce Josten, Margie Mahalak
- June 5 Rick Holden, Madeline Reeder
- June 6 Garrett Healey
- June 8 Dan Johnson
- June 9 Katie Fisher, Pat Nease
- June 11 Margot Gall, Michael Lovchuk
- June 12 Hannon Bishop, Lisa McLendon
- June 13 Sarah Eaton
- June 14 Charlie Commander, Don Hodges
- June 16 Harry Cooper, Bill Mormile, Griffin Russell, Rick Stuart
- June 17 Dorbre McMullen
- June 18 Avery Catron, Mary Harding, Conner Healey, Deborah Pack
- June 19 Ray Wishart
- June 20 Esther Laughter
- June 23 Taylor Bradley
- June 26 Sue Eddleman
- June 28 Torri Bishop, Addy Davis, Myra Frazier, Arthur Reedie
- June 29 Tim Madden, Katherine Pride



THIS MONTH'S Anniversaries

- June 2 Arthur and Michelle Kraut
- June 6 Tom and Dana Ledman
- June 7 Anthony and Jenny Collier
Charles and Mary Bonham
- June 9 Phillip and Deborah Pack
- June 10 Parker and Connie McClellan
- June 11 David and Michele Dawe
- June 12 Al and Judi Lawrence
Arthur and Mary Ellen Reedie
- June 13 Benny and Ann Watts
Dick and Nancy Hebert
- June 14 George and Anna Walrond
- June 15 Drew and Kathy Davis
John and Teresa Durgan
- June 16 Charlie and Cassie Commander
Don and Dianne Hodges
- June 18 George and Boopie McInnis
- June 19 Earnest and Evelyn Jordan
- June 20 John and Joy Thompson
- June 23 Nelson and Lee Scott
- June 24 Gordon and Patti Akst
Mark and Nina Godwin
- June 27 Jan and Stacy Herring
- June 30 Scott and Pat Clemons

Congratulations to everyone who were confirmed on May 13, 2012!




United Thank Offering

Look for the UTO display in Battin Hall!

Please fill your box with coins
(maybe count your blessings!)

or

You can write a check!

Please bring your UTO boxes and envelopes on Sunday, June 10th for the In-gathering!

Boxes and Envelopes are provided at the display!



HOLY NATIVITY
EPISCOPAL CHURCH

222 North Bonita Avenue
Panama City, FL 32401
(850) 747-4000

E-mail: info@holy-nativity.org
Website: www.holy-nativity.org



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Join the Book/Kindle Club
this month!

They will meet June 25th.
5:30 pm at Panera Bread
Restaurant

6:30 pm at the Parish House

They will be reading
"Miss Hildreth Wore Brown"
by Olivia Byrd

*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. Philip M. Duncan II - Bishop
The Rev. Steven B. Bates - Rector
The Rev. Tom Weller, Associate*

CHURCH STAFF

*Youth Director - Judy Dickey
Children's CE Director - Beverly McDaniel
Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith
Director of Choirs - Marqua Brunette
Church Organist - John Durgan
Church Bookkeeper - Kathy Mills
Sexton - Lawrence Long
Weekend Sexton - James Rahn
Nursery Attendants - Megan Thompson, Molly Thompson*

THE VESTRY

*Fr. Steve Bates - Rector
Gayle Ahrens 10-13 Sr. W.
Charles Bonham 10-13 Jr. W.
Edyth Brown 12-15
Carolyn Cramer 12-15
Mike Dickey 11-14
Richard Doran 11-14*

*Mark Godwin - Treasurer
Michele Hahn 12-15
Jim Hixson 11-14
Betty Grammer 12-15
Brian Leebrick 10-13
Mary Ellen Pettis 11-14
Madge Smith - Clerk
John Thompson 10-13*

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

*8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite I *
9:15 a.m. - Adult and Youth CE, Children's
Sunday School (Aug. - May)
10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II***

**Nursery Provided*

***Children's Church and Nursery Provided*