



# the NATIVITY Scene

*Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida*

May 2012  
Volume 16, Issue 4

**all things  
bright and  
beautiful**



Shell Island Sunday II • 2012  
Holy Nativity Episcopal Church

*Mark Your Calendars!*

Shell Island Sunday

June 3, 2012

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

Once again this year, the St. Andrew's Ferry is available to the first 40 to sign up (\$10 payment due at time of reservation). The ferry will leave at 10:00 a.m.

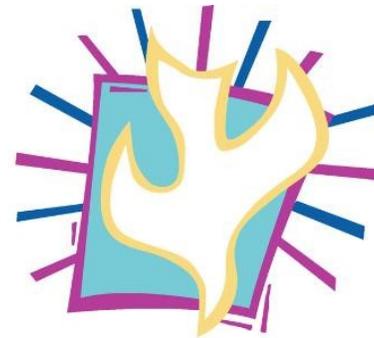
Be sure an order your T-shirts now! (\$10 each)

Sign up sheets and order forms are located in Battin Hall.  
Please call the Church Office for information!



**Confirmations and Bishop's Visit  
May 13, 2012**

Bishop Duncan will preach at both services!  
Celebration Brunch at 9:15 am  
at the Parish House!



Just like last year, we are handing our recipe cards in  
Battin Hall!

Everyone who wants to bring something to eat can pick either a Sausage and Egg Casserole card, a Fruit Salad card, or a Bread/Pastry card. When all the cards are gone we will have enough food for the brunch!

## **PHASE II BUILDING PROGRAM**

# Building a Legacy

Hopefully, you've seen the exciting progress taking place with our building program. The current schedule anticipates completion in early July. Currently, the vestry is making decisions regarding Phase III of the program that includes an outdoor pavilion, landscaping and fencing. Current pledges will not cover that expense. If you have not yet participated in this program, please prayerfully consider ways you can become involved. No pledge is too small and certainly no pledge is too large! Together we can make this happen and complete our facility needs for the foreseeable future. Won't you be a part? If you need information or a pledge card, please contact the Church office.



## **Honoring our Graduates!**

On Sunday, May 6, 2012 we will honor our EfM and High School Graduates at both services.

The Children's Choir will sing at the 10:30 am service and they will be given their yearly pins and certificates!

*High School graduates are Ben Churchill, Connor Healey, John McLendon, Eddie San Juan, and Molly Thompson.*

If you are a senior this year, or know one who is not on this list, please contact the church office at 747.000/madge@holy-nativity.org or Judy Dickey at 248-6624/judydickey@gmail.com.

May 2012

## *Sabbatical: A Time of Rest and Renewal*

I announced at our annual meeting in January that I would be taking a time of Sabbatical this summer. The concept of sabbatical is intended to be a balanced time of rest, renewal, learning and recreation. Sabbaticals for clergy are a part of diocesan policy and included in most clergy contracts. I am grateful to the parish and especially the vestry for your support in taking this time (after 6 ½ years of service to Holy Nativity and 10 years of ordained ministry). I am grateful to the vestry for allowing me to use \$2000 from discretionary funds as well as travel points earned from the Church credit card for the educational portions of my travel. Between that and travel points Lori and I have earned personally this time will be a little more affordable than would otherwise be the case. Father Tom has graciously agreed to assume pastoral, liturgical and sacramental responsibility for the parish during my absence that will begin June 10<sup>th</sup> until the day after Labor Day. A detailed plan for administrative responsibilities is being developed in conjunction with the vestry and will be communicated soon. This will include finishing the Phase II portion of our building program that is expected to be completed in early July.

In planning my sabbatical, I have prayerfully attempted to find balance that I believe will not only serve my own interests and needs, but also will benefit the parish upon my return. June will be a time of personal renewal. In July I will focus on educational and learning opportunities. And August will be a time dedicated to family and friends. Planning this sabbatical has itself been a time of learning and frankly, it's been great fun!

On June 9<sup>th</sup>, I will officiate at my niece's wedding in Birmingham. This will be the first of the "cousins" to marry and it promises to be a wonderful family event. On June 10<sup>th</sup>, I depart for my great "bucket-list" adventure. I have always wanted to take a "cross-country" drive that focuses on national parks and cities I've not visited before. My journey will include San Antonio, Austin and Palo Duro Canyon, Texas, Taos, New Mexico, Monument Valley, Utah, the Grand Canyon, Yosemite, California wine country, Lake Tahoe, Park City, Utah, Rocky Mountain National Park, the Grand Tetons, Yellowstone and stops in Kansas, Arkansas and Mississippi on the way home. Lori's business will prevent her from making the entire trip with me, but she will join me in the west for several days to see places that interest both of us. During this time, I intend to spend a lot of time writing. Writing is something that energizes me. Yet, with the demands of weekly sermons, classes and programs, I find most of my writing is Church related. It's my intent to take time to write, just for fun. (Maybe only writers will understand that). In planning this trip, I've been amazed at how many people I'll know along the way because of college, seminary, church or work. It's my hope to have time to visit with some of them and also learn from some of the programs, ministries and schools that they work with.

During the month of July, I will be focusing on educational opportunities. I have identified 4 different programs of interest. I have also applied to a preaching institute and will finalize my plans once I find out if I've been accepted to the program. Also, during this time I will engage in a time of self-study. I in-

tend to study issues surrounding Church size and implications, especially Churches our size that are in-between pastoral sized congregations and resource sized congregations. I intend to study similar Churches and the strategies and ministries that have made them successful. I also intend to study (and develop) an Episcopal middle school religion curriculum that is sadly lacking in most Episcopal schools.

In August, I will focus on family and friends. Lori and I will be spending a few days in New York because it's one of our favorite cities. I'll spend my usual week with some college friends (this marks our 29<sup>th</sup> consecutive year to get together during the summer). And finally, Lori and I will "tour" a few cities in Texas, ending up in Dallas (where our oldest daughter lives). Coincidentally, Alabama will play their first football game of the season in Dallas Cowboys Stadium against the University of Michigan. We will be attending. Roll Tide!

It is common during sabbaticals for clergy to "disconnect" from the life and ministry of the parish. While I know I'll be able to disconnect from the daily operations of the parish, it is simply not in my personality to be able to disconnect for the pastoral needs of the parish. We are family and while distance may preclude my physical presence it does not preclude my pastoral presence. In other words, while Father Tom will take care of daily pastoral needs, I'll only be a phone call away if needed. I am trying to find ways to keep in touch with the parish whether through a blog, Face book, or parish emails and will let you know of those plans prior to my leaving. I also intend to keep in touch through prayer. Using our Church directory, I intend to pray for a few of you by name each day I'm away. I hope you'll keep me in your prayers as well.

It is also not uncommon for a priest to take sabbatical and resign their position soon after returning. Rumors of sabbatical as a time of "searching for a new position" are common. It's the idea that sabbatical is a time to "find" oneself and re-establish vocational goals. Let me assure you, that is not the case with my sabbatical. It truly will be a time of rest, rejuvenation and renewal. I'm not looking to "find" myself. I've already "found" myself. I've found myself in the midst of a truly precious parish and school where I am made full, personally and professionally, and I cannot imagine being any more blessed. And for that I say thanks be to God and to you.

God Love You,  
Steve

## Adult Christian Education: Father Tom

Our adult Christian education curriculum is seasonal this year, and during the Easter Season we're tying it to the lectionary for Sundays. Our focus therefore is First John (the epistle), the Gospel according to John, and some bits of Luke's second volume, the Acts of the Apostles. This is both for Sunday school and for our Tuesday morning Bible seminar. In both classes we enjoy wandering off the subject and part of the routine, and never finish any of it. But that's the way of creation and life. Come join us! Sunday mornings, 9:15 in Mary Stuart Poole Library. Tuesday mornings, 9:45 in my office *Through the Garage* at the church parish house/office building across the street.

Tom+

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**Wednesday Nights and Sunday School** are back to our regular schedule. Join us at 9:15am on Sundays for middle-school and high-school discussions of each week's readings. It usually ends up being pretty interesting! Wednesday nights are back in the upstairs room from 6 to 8pm. Join us to eat and play.



**Graduate Sunday** is May the 6th. The list I have of Holy Nativity Seniors is  
Ben Churchill  
Connor Healey  
John McLendon  
Eddie San Juan  
Molly Thompson

**If you are a senior this year, or know one who is not on this list, please tell me.** We will be recognizing them (with presents) during the services on Sunday the 6th. Our church family will be giving each graduate a laundry basket filled with the things they may need to head out into the world. Would you like to help, or do you have some great ideas? Call me!

**Confirmation Sunday** is May the 13th. Join us for brunch with the Bishop between services. Youth confirmands (that means all of you that went through confirmation class) please meet at the door to the church at 10:10 for last-minute instructions. Bring your sponsors, too.

Summer is right around the corner. We will be holding a yard sale in July to raise money for Rock The Universe. If you are clearing out that garage or closet, please let us help you get rid of your unwanted stuff. I'm also looking for some lucky family who would like to have a horde of unruly teenagers descend on their pool or condo for a summer party/cookout. I would like to do that in August.

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

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## Children's Ministry May 2012

May	Sunday 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 Megan or Molly Thompson and our wonderfully faithful nursery volunteers.
6	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Judy Bennett 215-1579 Kathy Brust 814-8014	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
13 Confirmation and Mother's Day	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033 Celebration Brunch	"What is Confirmation?" Judy Bennett 215-1579 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Nancy Reeder 596-9538
20	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Judy Bennett 215-1579 Cassie and Charlie Commander 265-4400	Kathy Brust 814-8014
27	No Sunday School Summer Break	Judy Bennett 215-1579 Casey Cole 215-3727	Pat Spangler 215-5279

Easter was a glorious day for our children at Holy Nativity. Having the brunch and hunting for Easter eggs at the parish house proved to be just fine. Thank you, Lord, for the beautiful weather and for the kindness and consideration shown by our older children for the younger ones. And thank you to all who helped direct the egg hunt and the Flowering of the Cross. Such occasions make long-lasting memories for our children. To add meaning to the memories, our lessons in Children's Church focused on the crucifixion and resurrection...what happened and why it is so important to us now. Quiz your children to know their levels of understanding. Their perceptions and their questions are always interesting and sometimes quite thought provoking.

Beverly McDaniel



*Easter 2012!*





By Marqua Brunette, Director of Choirs

## *The Chancel and Rite One Choirs*

Alleluia! The Lord is Risen! Make no mistake about it, the glorious musical sounds of Resurrection morning are still echoing through the sanctuary at Holy Nativity. I would like to thank all of our choir members for their hard work in order to offer music for Palm Sunday and throughout all of Holy Week culminating with Easter that was so meaningful. We are blessed to have dedicated voices and I thank all who shared their gifts. The numerous rehearsals and hard work paid off and I hope that their musical offerings brought God's message to you as you sang or listened. Once again, we had outstanding instrumentalists who played during Holy Week and Easter and their participation was most welcomed. Now we are busily focusing on May 13<sup>th</sup> and our new anthem for the Bishop's visit and confirmation.

During the summer months, many members will be on vacations and weekends away during summer. We are always looking for new voices to join us. Chancel Choir rehearsals are on Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:30 PM in the church and Sunday mornings at 9:30. The Rite One Choir also practices on Thursdays from 5:30 – 6:30 PM. During summer we will take some rehearsals nights 'off' so feel free to contact me or the church office to make sure there is rehearsal that night if you want to come. We would love it if you would share your voice with us!

## *Children's Choir*

This Children's Choir is completing another successful season, making this the seventh year I have lead them. Their musical gift was beautifully offered on Palm Sunday. I am always so proud of them, their dedication, and their never ending enthusiasm and energy. Their final musical offering this school year will be on May 6<sup>th</sup>. The children have learned two very special songs, one song being a new twist on an old round that corresponds to our scripture lessons for that morning and the other is a song to be sung with Chancel Choir member, Arthur Reedie. They are most excited about singing with him and with his wife, our favorite violinist, Mary Ellen Reedie. They are always eager to work on these songs.

On May 2<sup>nd</sup>, at the end of our final rehearsal for the school year, each child will receive their certificates and choir pins

for participation in Children's Choir. Each choir pin recognizes their years of participation and they will be placed on their robes, which will be worn with great pride on May 6<sup>th</sup>. Fr. Steve plans to join us at rehearsal and parents are also invited. It is our pleasure to honor 12 children this year for their service in Children's Choir. Those who receive their first year pins are Grace Ennis, Chloé Khan, and Ashtyn Williams. Those receiving second years pins are Mia Carroll, Camryn Commander, Beka Leebrick, Kate Leebrick, and Chappell Syfrett. Third year pins go to Shelby Roberson, Stevens Roberson and Sydney Syfrett. Ginny Leebrick receives her pin for four years in the choir.

The participation of these fine children in the music ministry would not be possible without the commitment from their parents and a special thank-you goes to all of them. They are on summer break after May 6<sup>th</sup> & will resume rehearsals in September. We will continue to rehearse on Wednesdays from 4:00 – 5:00. All children in grades first through eighth are welcome. Please consider your child's participation in this wonderful opportunity for sharing in the worship services and music ministry at Holy Nativity.





THIS MONTH'S  
Birthdays

- May 1 Marqua Brunette, Kevin Catron, Lou Churchill, Kyle Fisher, Katie Marie Hutt, Jessica Nash, Tim Pride, Larry Young
- May 2 Bonnie Kell
- May 3 Cayla McLawhorn
- May 4 Barbara Knowles, Susan Messer
- May 6 Pat Clemons, Brandi Kelley, Ina Joy Wicker
- May 7 Amy Zinszer
- May 10 Bobbie Cook
- May 11 Mary Ellen Reedie
- May 12 Lyman Barger, Natasha Lithway
- May 14 Jason Dunn, Ella Ennis, Betty Heminway
- May 15 Camryn Commander, John Wambo
- May 16 Emily Smith
- May 18 Con Davidenko, David Hurst, Buster Niquet, Glenda Patterson
- May 19 Doug Smith
- May 20 Mary Jane Doll, Anna Walrond
- May 21 Bill Bradford, Alice Kinney, Scott Wattenbarger
- May 22 Ashley Shores
- May 23 Christina Cotton, Philip Cotton, John Sarno
- May 24 Kevin Healey, Lynn Sarno
- May 26 Drew Davis, Virginia Scarpine
- May 27 Malcolm Fisher
- May 29 Kelly Roberson
- May 30 Tim Phillips



THIS MONTH'S  
Anniversaries

- May 4 Robert and Sharon Carroll
- May 5 Rich and Lenka Doran
- May 11 Foster and Helen Jenings
- May 12 Denis and Lora Healey
- May 13 Larry and Kay Young  
Todd and Victoria Williams
- May 15 Jason and Rachael Dunn
- May 17 Michael and Deana Gailfoil
- May 19 Chad and Margot Gall  
Tim and Monica Phillips
- May 24 Patrick and Brandi Kelley
- May 25 Bertram and Marla Churchill
- May 28 Glenn and Sue Eddleman  
Kevin and Maggie Wattenbarger
- May 31 Bryant and Kate Bewick

**Holy Nativity has a AED or Automated External Defibrillator located in the back of the Nave were the stairs are located.**

In case of emergency, this is used to start the heart beating again. It is VERY EASY to use and anyone can do it. Just follow the vocal directions given. If anyone is interested in watching the 5 minute demonstration CD, please call Madge Smith at 747-4000. This is not required to use the machine though.

*Supper Club Mixer  
Prom Night!*





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

## **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*