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August 2011 Volume 15, Issue 7

the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

Shell Island Sunday

August 7, 2011 - 11:00 a.m.

Join us for a time of worship, Eucharist,
Baptism and Fellowship on Shell Island!

*Bring your own boat or make reservations on the St. Andrews Ferry
(\$10/person/Pay Fr. Steve July 31st or at the ferry on Aug. 7th)*

Sign up sheets and directions are in Battin Hall
or call the Church office to reserve your spot.

Picnic on the island following worship. Bring a dish to share!
Fried Chicken will be provided!

T-Shirts
will be on
sale **Sunday,**
July 30th, or
in the office,
Aug. 1-3 or at
the island on
the 7th!

\$8.00

*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
Charles Bonham 10-13
Max Dannecker 09-12
Mike Dickey 11-14
Richard Doran 11-14
Mark Godwin - Treasurer

Donna Hairston 09-12
Jim Hixson 11-14
Brian Leebrick 10-13
Mary Ellen Pettis 11-14
Amy Russell 09-12
Madge Smith - Clerk
Stewart Sumpton 09-12
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
Chapel (Aug. - May)
*10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II***

**Nursery Provided*

***Children's CE and Nursery Provided*



BLESSING OF THE BACKPACKS

August 21, 2011

At the 10:30 am service

**Kids...bring your filled
backpacks to church
for a special blessing
before school begins!**



Rally Day and Bring a Friend Sunday

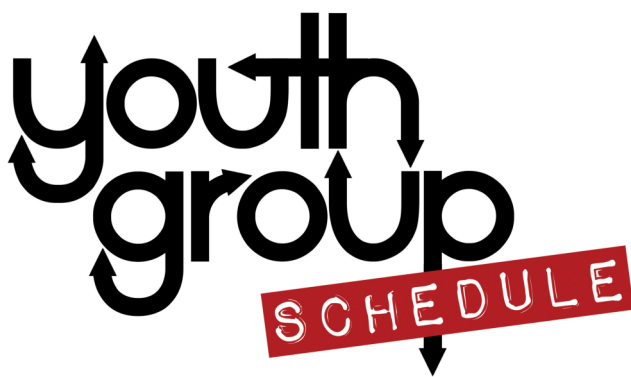
August 28, 2011

**Join us for this special annual event of
Holy Nativity Episcopal Church!**

Parish Luncheon (bring a dish to share!) after the 10:30 am service
at the Parish House/Office backyard!

Jumpy/Waterslide for the kids! Bring your swimsuit!

Displays will be in Battin Hall about all our new Fall Christian
Education classes and information on all our ministries!



First of all, a big thank-you to the Bonhams, who hosted our Lake Party again this year. Even with the water level down, a huge wet good time was had by all!

Shell Island

Our next upcoming event is the Shell Island service on August 7th. Ben Churchill and Lizzy Zinszer will be playing the service music, along with a few other youth. If you play an instrument and I somehow missed asking you to participate, please contact me so I can put you in touch

with Ben. Drew Dickey will be the youth Lector for this service, and we will be baptizing our own Logan Rygula. If you and your family have not signed up yet because of a transportation issue, let me know.

Christian Rock

August 26th and 27th, Panama City Beach is hosting a "Christian Music Fest" with some big-name groups. Tickets are not yet available to the general public, but I will let you know prices when they go on sale, which is advertised to be 15 days before the concerts. Check out the website for more information: <http://www.visitpanamacitybeach.com/events/detail.cfm?eventid=552>

Raising Money

As a fundraiser for Rock The Universe, I would like to host a Parents Night Out at the church. For you members of the youth group, this would mean spending an evening hanging out with younger kids from our congregation, playing games, watching a movie, and so on - kind of like the activities we did during Lent. Weekends in August are filling up fast, but I'm shooting for Friday, August 19th or 26th. I will send you a separate email to find out who is interested and available - any money we raise will go towards your personal cost of Rock The Universe if you help out.

Wednesday Nights

We will start Wednesday night again with a great big kick-off the first week of school, August 24th. Meet in the upstairs room at 6pm, and bring a friend. All middle-school and high-school kids are welcome.

And speaking of Rock The Universe . . .

Posters are up, registration forms are out, and I'm looking for deposits so I can reserve a couple of houses for us to stay in. We will leave the church grounds early Friday morning, September 9th, and return Sunday afternoon, Sept. 11th. I think we can do it for the same price as last year, which is \$175. This includes your transportation, lodging, park admission, and breakfasts at the house. I also need adult chaperones! Check their website for more information: http://www.universalorlando.com/Events/Rock_the_Universe/2011.aspx

It's going to be a great year! Judy



August Birthdays

- Aug. 1 Katy Brust, John Kob
- Aug. 3 Joanne Mallary, Mary Ellen Pettis, Sunny Pettis, Caroline Zinszer
- Aug. 4 Marilyn Hauser, Benny Watts
- Aug. 5 Joyce Dannecker, Holly Melzer, Joan Morrow
- Aug. 6 Penny Hutt, Carolyn Roberts
- Aug. 7 Steve Bates
- Aug. 8 Nancy Reeder
- Aug. 9 Lily Braddford, Glenn Eddleman, Laura McClain, Robert Sale
- Aug. 10 Rita Boston
- Aug. 11 Max Dannecker
- Aug. 12 Earnest Jordan, Ashlee Phillips
- Aug. 13 Mary Sittman
- Aug. 15 Gracie Cole, Bruce McLawhorn
- Aug. 16 Gordon Akst, Lori Bates
- Aug. 19 Bob Dean
- Aug. 20 Seth Patterson, Caroline Smith
- Aug. 21 Michael Gailfoil, Mark Hawley, Ed Richards, George Walrond
- Aug. 22 Jenna Rahn
- Aug. 23 Brian McClain
- Aug. 24 Kathy Dick
- Aug. 25 Samantha Eaton, Donna Hairston
- Aug. 26 Anji Dunlap, Peggy Ferrante, Connor Kelley
- Aug. 27 Anthony Collier, John Hutt, Chuck Knowles, Aaron Shores
- Aug. 28 Lee Scott
- Aug. 29 Phyllis McLawhorn, Jonah Reeder
- Aug. 31 Gregory Miller

August Anniversaries

- Aug. 1 Richard and Jo Bruhn
- Aug. 3 Brian and Candace Leebrick
- Aug. 6 Rick and Kathy Stuart
- Aug. 7 Allen and Pat Nease
- Aug. 8 Bob and Patricia Dean
- Aug. 12 David and Suzanne Grossman
- Aug. 14 Joe and Peggy Ferrante
- Aug. 22 Jim and Ursula Hixson
- Aug. 23 Bill and Carolyn Cramer, Mike and Judy Dickey
- Aug. 24 Tim and Nancy Pride
- Aug. 29 John and Mary Frances Hutt



*Dawn Johnson-Broege
30 Woodland Road
Southport, FL 32409
481-5845*

*Max, Kirsten, and Anna McCord
1803 East 9th Street
Lynn Haven, FL 32444
270-1969*

*Katie Moreno
2840 Longleaf Road
Panama City, FL 32401
785-8820*

*Phillip, Deborah,
Ashlyn, and Addison Pack
104 Tuscany Way
Panama City Beach, FL 32407
249-7799*





By Marqua Brunette, Director of Choirs

The Rite One and The Chancel Choirs

The choir have enjoyed some free Thursday evenings due to summer schedules but we resume regular weekly practices after Labor Day. While vacations may cease for some, football season beckons many a fan from our choir. We have been blessed with some wonderful voices in our choirs but we are continually searching for additional members to join. Rumor has it; some of those new voices are sitting out in the congregation but have not made it to rehearsals yet. We encourage you to join us any Thursday evening. The Rite One Choir rehearses on Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 and we usually sing once a month. The Chancel Choir sings weekly at the 10:30 service and rehearses on Thursdays from 6:30 – 8:30 and Sunday mornings at 9:30 before church.

Our choirs are not only opportunities for musical growth but a time for prayer and spiritual sharing. Lately it seems our prayer time has been consumed with prayers for healing for various members. Now are prayers are also being focused on major changes in the lives of several members. Rite One member, Jane Burkett, leaves us soon to go to seminary at Nashotah House in Wisconsin. Chancel Choir member Julia McArthur will continue her journey and education pursuing a Masters of Arts in Theology at Sewanee where she also plans to sing with the wonderful Sewanee Choir. Also, Aaron Glass, 2nd Lieutenant currently stationed at Tyndall AFB, will soon be stationed at Vandenberg AFB in California. To each of these special people, you will be greatly missed. Thank you so much for sharing your musical gifts with our choirs and Holy Nativity. Each of you helped to make all of us better! Our prayers will be with you and there will always be a place in our choirs for you! God bless you all.

OUR SPECIAL MILITARY CHOIR!

I am still seeking additional voices to join our one-time-only Military/Civil Service Choir for a special music selection to be sung on Sunday, September 11th, the 10th anniversary of the 9/11 attacks. PLEASE email me or speak with me soon. Rehearsals will begin in August but the exact day and time is not set in stone. I need your input!

Thanks, Marqua (marquab@comcast.net)



We would love for more people to join us. Music for Advent, Lessons and Carols, and Christmas will soon find its way into all of our music folders and additional voices would be a blessing to our choirs as well as to our church. We look forward to welcoming you to our choirs. If anyone has any questions, please ask me or any choir member. Do not be afraid if you cannot read music, most choir members do not read music, but they all learn enough to follow their part and share their gift of music. If God has given you a voice, please come and share it.

Children's Choir

Children's Choir has been on summer vacation from rehearsals but we resume Wednesday practices after Labor Day. All children in grades one through eight are welcome to sing in Children's Choir. Weekly rehearsals are held on Wednesday afternoons from 4:00 – 5:00 in the Choir Office, located in the Kids' Kingdom Building.

The Children's Choir sings several times throughout the school year at the 10:30 services and for the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. We already have plans to sing for the Wednesday evening St. Francis Blessing of the Animals in early October! This is an excellent opportunity for your child to grow musically and spiritually and learn what it means to give back to the church by serving and sharing their gifts. We look forward to having your child join us. In the meantime, if you have any questions, please contact me at 769-9034.

Fr. Tom: Fall Weekday Morning Bible Study

Place: in Fr. Tom's office at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church right across the street from the church: Parish House/Church Office
1011 East Third Street
Panama City, FL 32401
Phone 747-4000

Tuesday mornings starting September 6, 2011, the day after Labor Day
Gather 9:45 to 10:00 a.m. for tea, coffee, donut or some such
Class convenes 10:05
Class adjourns 11:15
Start and stop time will be prompt so everyone can count on it
If class members want to change the start and stop times we'll do that at the first session

The first session I will have a syllabus and schedule
I will have handouts, probably each week
There will be no class the Tuesday of Thanksgiving Week
The final class will be Tuesday, December 20, 2011

Prior classes have focused on one area for the entire time; for example, last fall's study of Genesis. This class let's try a series of short studies so that folks who have to miss sessions won't feel left out or falling behind and having to catch up.

The only thing class members need to bring is your Bible. A study Bible is best, but any Bible is fine. If you don't have a Bible, we have plenty in my office. You don't need to buy a Bible, but if you do want to purchase a study Bible, I recommend The New Oxford Annotated Bible New Revised Standard Version with the Apocrypha (Oxford University Press) **OR** The New Interpreter's Study Bible New Revised Standard Version With The Apocrypha (Abingdon Press). The Oxford one is available in some bookstores, both are available from Amazon.

Folks who have studied EfM with me, and folks who have been with me in mid-week Bible classes in the past know that I do not do a devotional style Bible study. It's more like what's sometimes called a "historical critical" method that is used in mainline church seminaries.

Everyone is invited and welcome regardless of church membership, or no church membership.

In the unlikely event class membership proves too large to meet in my office, we will simply move across the street to my Sunday School classroom, which is the Mary Stuart Poole Library. We will start in my office though.

It will be helpful to me if people email me that they are coming so I can plan accordingly.

More details as we get closer, but this email allows you to put it on your calendar.

Tom Weller+

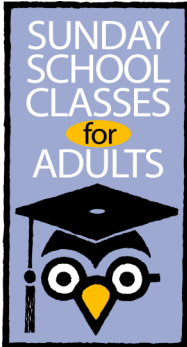
CALLING ALL CHILDREN'S CHOIR MEMBERS – PAST AND PRESENT

The Children's Choir will sing during our annual *Blessing of the Backpacks* on Sunday, August 21st, during the 10:30 service. We are singing two selections that we ALL know really well and will plan to process in wearing our red robes and backpacks! Please speak with Director, Marqua Brunette at church to coordinate the details. I am hoping to make this a one-time rehearsal event the morning of the 21st.



ADULT CHRISTIAN EDUCATION – FR. TOM

BEGINNING SEPTEMBER 11TH AT 9:15 AM



ADULT SUNDAY SCHOOL CLASS WILL BEGIN FOR THE FALL ON SEPTEMBER 11TH, THE SUNDAY AFTER LABOR DAY. THERE WILL BE ALL NEW STUDY BIBLES FOR EVERYONE, WITH HELPFUL SCHOLARLY NOTES INSTEAD OF JUST THE ORDINARY PULPIT BIBLES THAT WE'VE HAD IN THE PAST. WE'LL HAVE AN INTERESTING AGENDA FOR THE FALL, INCLUDING LEARNING ABOUT AND PRACTICE WITH EXCELLENT NEW EUCHARISTIC LITURGIES THAT GENERAL CONVENTION HAS AUTHORIZED IN *ENRICHING OUR WORSHIP*. EVERYONE WHO ATTENDED JANE BURKETT'S CLASSES ENJOYED FASCINATING SESSIONS ABOUT THE EUCHARIST, AND THAT WILL PROVIDE AN EXCELLENT BACKGROUND FOR FURTHER DISCUSSION OF OUR EUCHARISTIC THEOLOGY THROUGH EXAMINING THE NEW EUCHARISTIC PRAYERS. MARY STUART POOLE LIBRARY, 9:15 TO 10:15 ON SUNDAY MORNINGS.

Grief Support Group being offered for this Fall



Grief has been described as a gift that no one wants to receive. A gift, because, while nobody wants to suffer the loss of a loved one, grief comes to almost everyone in due course; and grieving is actually a healing process of nature. The alternative to healthy, embraced grief may be unending and unbearable despair. For some people, one means of helping face grief is in a support group with others who are also are grieving.

A Grief Support Group is a group of people who gather to share and support each other in their bereavement over the loss of a loved one. Such a group typically meets for an hour, one evening a week, for eight weeks. Folks who are interested sign up and commit to the group, and to each other in the group, and to attending the weekly meeting as absolute first priority of caring and loving-kindness, to arrive on time, and to allow only emergencies to keep them from the meetings. The commitment to other group members is everything.

The ideal group size is not more than six or not fewer than three members. Members may be from the same family, or not.

The group is led by a facilitator, whose task is to convene and adjourn the group on time each week, to lead the group to agreeing on ground rules for the meetings, to make sure that each member of the group has equal time, and to help the group stay on track.

I have facilitated several Grief Support Groups in the past. I am willing to sponsor a group again, if three or more people are interested and are willing, and are serious enough to make the absolute commitment of time and caring to the group.

Although the group would be sponsored by Holy Nativity, and would be facilitated by a Holy Nativity priest, it is not a religious group or denominational group, and anyone of any age, about eighteen or up, with a church or without a church, would be welcome. Often, church members know of friends who might need, and would be interested in, a Grief Support Group.

I am proposing to offer a Fall 2011 Grief Support Group, meeting in my office in the Parish House, nine evenings. The first evening would be for finding out if you are interested, and if yes, signing up to make the absolute commitment, for organization, and for introductions. Eight weekly meetings would follow. Tuesday evenings, gather at 5:45 p.m., convene promptly at 6:00 p.m., adjourn promptly at 7:00 p.m. If the group preferred, the time could be 6:30 p.m. to 7:30 p.m..

I am thinking that the first, organizational meeting would be 5:45 p.m., Tuesday evening, September 6, 2011. Anyone who is interested, or who knows of someone who might be interested, is invited to contact me, Tom Weller by email at twellerpc@gmail.com or by phone at 785-8417. You can also call the church office at 747-4000 and leave a message, phone number and email address so I can contact you. For group viability we would have to have at least three members, not counting myself.

Fr. Tom+

Many Thanks

We have received a thank you note from the Rev. David Meginniss, Rector of Christ Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama. The donations made by our parish to Alabama tornado relief have been sent to the Rev. Meginniss discretionary fund. Funds are being requested on a daily basis for everything from food to utility deposits. We felt that David could best direct your contributions to the greatest areas of need. Father Meginniss writes that part of the funds will be used for a new "rebuild" ministry established by Christ Church. (Father Meginniss lost his own home during the tornado). This ministry will allow the parish to host mission groups who want to come work in the area. Thanks to all of you who contributed to this worthy cause.

Steve+=

VACATION BIBLE CAMP 2011

