



# the NATIVITY Scene

*Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida*

December 2012/January 2013  
Volume 16, Issue 11

## *Holy Nativity Episcopal Church* *Advent and Christmas Season Schedule 2012*

- Dec. 2, 2012 A Morning with St. Nicholas at 9:15 am**  
Join us for a special gathering in Battin Hall to celebrate St. Nicholas Day. There will be special music and activities for the children...and maybe a special guest!
- Dec. 5, 2012 A Festival of Lessons and Carols**  
Join us for this very special service filled with the scriptural lessons and wonderful music of the season.  
5:30 pm Christmas Potluck Dinner begins. Please bring a holiday side dish to share. Meat will be provided.  
6:30 pm Service begins.
- Dec. 9, 2012 Children's Pajama Party**  
Wear your best pajamas to church and bring a new set of pajamas for the needy to be presented at church at the 10:30 am service!  
**Acolyte Rededication at the 10:30 am service.**  
**Parish Breakfast at 9:15 am sponsored by the Church Vestry.**
- Dec. 19, 2012 Children's Pageant Rehearsal at 3:30 pm**  
All children are invited to rehearse for the pageant and for final costume fitting!  
**Youth Group Christmas Party and Advent Outreach Shopping!**  
**Meet at 5:00 pm at Target on Hwy 77.**
- Dec. 23, 2012 Greening of the Church**  
Everyone is invited to help decorate the church after the 10:30 am worship service.
- Dec. 24, 2012 Christmas Eve Services**  
4:00 pm Service Prelude Music begins  
4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service with the Children's Christmas Pageant  
10:00 pm Service Prelude Music begins  
10:30 pm Christmas Eve Service  
*For more information, please call the church office at 747-4000.*

## Hello Youth! Happy December!

Dec. 5th is Lessons and Carols. Come at 5:30 to eat with the congregation. We will do a little service project for the choir (I promise it won't be difficult) and then head upstairs to have fun and fellowship like we usually do.

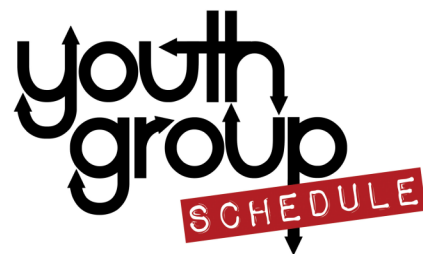
Dec. 12th is a normal night. Meet us in the upstairs room at 6pm. As usual, parents, if you would like to feed us that Wednesday, we would be happy to eat!

Dec. 19th will be a little different. This will be our annual Christmas party and shopping for the advent families. On that Wednesday, please meet at the Target store on 23rd St and Hwy 77 at **5pm**. We will spend the money our lovely congregation has collected, and buy gifts for the family or families chosen to benefit from our Christmas spirit. Any grown-ups who are brave enough to stay and help us shop are more than welcome! I plan to leave Target around 6pm and head back to the church. I will have the big green Excursion, but will need at least one more driver to get kids and purchases back to Holy Nat. Once we get back to the upstairs room, we will wrap presents, eat junk food, have some Christmas-themed fun, and end by 8pm as usual. I will put something extra in the bulletin the week before, as a reminder and update.

Dec. 26: We will decide as a group if we will meet on the Wednesday after Christmas.

January should look alot like a normal month, whew!

I look forward to seeing all of you in the upstairs room. Judy/248-6624/[judydickey@gmail.com](mailto:judydickey@gmail.com)



IRS Regulations require donations for the 2012 tax year must be given to the church no later than 12/31/2012 or mailed to the church in an envelope postmarked no later than 12/31/2012. This includes both yearly pledges and pledges to the Building Fund. As always, thank you for your support of the ministries of our parish.

### ACOLYTE REDEDICATION DECEMBER 9, 2012 10:30 AM SERVICE

New acolytes will dedicate themselves and current acolytes will rededicate themselves to service at the Altar in this new church year.

All acolytes are scheduled to serve on this Sunday.



*Charlotte Battin is turning 80 years old and her five daughters and their families would love you to join them in celebrating her special day.!*

*Saturday December 29th  
2 - 4pm in the Battin Hall  
at Holy Nativity.*

*Enjoy a "sweet time" of desserts and fellowship. No gifts please, but cards and stories are welcome!*

## MISSIONS AND OUTREACH NEWS

### ***Food Bank and Backpack Ministry***

Please keep bringing your Food Bank and Backpack Ministry donations! Just put both in the grocery cart in the foyer on Sunday!

### ***“Backpacks: Something Special for Christmas”***

Remember when we told you a few days ago how much we preferred getting food donations to cash? Well, that's still true, but now we're asking that you pitch in monetarily to help with our final delivery of backpacks before Christmas. This year, we will be including something special, and functional, in the backpacks we send home in four weeks. The group is looking at socks, underwear, stocking caps, and maybe markers, along with the usual delivery of food. Your contributions will go a long way toward making sure all 93 of our kids receive something we all take for granted, but they often cannot. Oh, and we still need food. Thanks for your generosity, and helping to make this program a success.

### ***SUPPER AT GRACE***

Holy Nativity sponsors Supper at Grace on the Second Thursday of each month. This is an outreach at Grace Episcopal to feed those in need of a meal. We have been averaging over 50 dinners and 50 take-outs each month..... We are having a terrific time each month. We are still looking for a back-up crew – someone(s) willing to step in at the last minute to help when a regular is unable to be there. Contact Gayle Ahrens at [tgahrens@bellsouth.net](mailto:tgahrens@bellsouth.net) if you are able to participate, either as a regular or a back-up. Thank you to those of you who have been making monetary

contributions towards the dinners. We appreciate you! Cold weather is moving in (afraid so) and many of our guests don't have warm clothing for the cooler days and nights. Would you please consider donating jackets, gloves and hats for us to distribute at our dinners. You may leave them in Battin Hall or at the church office.

## ADVENT OUTREACH

### **Outreach Families**

Advent begins Dec. 2nd and Holy Nativity will begin collecting donations for our Advent Outreach families. Every year we help families in need in our community and parish. The youth will go shopping with the funds collected and wrap the gifts for Christmas. On your check, just put “Advent Outreach Family” in the memo section.

### **Holy Nativity's Angel Tree**

Look for the Angel Tree located in the foyer beginning on Dec. 2nd. There will be ornaments with names from a local nursing home with a few items on each one. Just return the gifts by the deadline indicated.

### ***Annual Meeting and Parish Breakfast January 27, 2013 at 9:15 am***

Everyone is invited to attend Holy Nativity's Annual Meeting in Battin Hall at 9:15 am.



SimpleDailyRecipes.com

## Children's Ministry December 2012

Dec.	<b>Sunday School 9:15</b> In our Chapel Room in the two-story building	<b>Children's Church 10:30</b> In Kids' Kingdom after the children's sermon at the beginning of the worship service. They return to "big church" for communion.	<b>Nursery 10:15</b> Younger children enjoy being in the nursery with Callie Mills and our wonderfully faithful nursery Volunteer.
2	<b>A Morning with St. Nicholas</b> in Battin Hall at 9:15 am	"An Angel Appears to Mary"  Judy Bennett 215-1579 Brandi Kelley 785-1139	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
9 <b>Pajamas In Church Day</b>	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	We get to wear pajamas to church ...and we bring new pajamas to Children's Church for presentation at the altar for the children at Bethel Village.  "The Journey To Bethlehem" Jenny Collier 215-6554 Trey Hutt 814-7934 Charlie Commander 819-5850	Kaew Sumpton 872-3782
16	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"Shepherds and Angels"  Judy Bennett 215-1579 Amy Russell 960-5263	Nancy Reeder 596-9538
23	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	<b>Practice Pageant/Finalize Costumes</b> Casey Cole 319-4376 Ashley Eaton 769-8533 Karen Shores 867-1084 Sharon Carroll 784-6961 Candace Leebrick 522-9240 Jenny Collier 215-6554	Theresa Durgan 913-3471
30	NO PROGRAM	"The Baby Jesus" Judy Bennett 215-1579 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Pat Spangler 215-5247

### Other Important Dates To Remember

**Wednesday, Dec. 19th - 3:30 pm - Our only in-the-church pageant practice!**  
**Monday, Dec. 24th - 4:00 pm - Christmas Eve Service. Children, please be here by  
 3:45 pm to get into your costumes!**

**Beverly McDaniel**

## Children's Ministry January 2013

Jan.	<b>Sunday School 9:15</b> In our Chapel Room in the two-story building	<b>Children's Church 10:30</b> In Kids' Kingdom after the children's sermon at the beginning of the worship service. They return to "big church" for communion.	<b>Nursery 10:15</b> Younger children enjoy being in the nursery with Callie Mills and our wonderfully faithful nursery Volunteer.
6	<b>Epiphany</b> Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"The Wise Men"  Judy Bennett 215-1579 Holly Melzer 896-0609	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
13	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"Noah's Ark"  Trey Hutt 814-7934 Charlie Commander 819-5850	Kaew Sumpton 872-3782
20	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"God's Promise"  Candace Leebrick 522-9240 Lenka Doran 832-2768	Pat Spangler 215-5247
27	<b>No Program</b> Annual Parish Meeting and Breakfast in Battin Hall at 9:15 am	"The Tower of Babel"  Jenny Collier 215-6554 Kathy Brust 265-3172	Theresa Durgan 913-3471

## *Adult Christian Education* *Fr. Tom*

This is an exciting time for our adult Sunday School class. We go into Advent 2012 looking at Luke as our gospel for Lectionary Year C, with a bit of apocalyptic, a bit about John the Baptist, and ultimately Luke's nativity story about the Holy Family traveling to Bethlehem. As promised early in the fall season, we will spend one Advent Sunday session discussing General Convention A049, "Authorize Liturgical Resources for Blessing Same-Gender Relationships."

Adult Sunday School in January will read and discuss the Gospel according to Luke, coming at it from a historical-critical perspective as we have done Mark and John in the past..

For the mid-week Bible Seminars, Tuesday mornings and Wednesday afternoons, our final three sessions will be looking at the Gospel according to Luke, concluding December 11th and 12th. We will then take a sabbatical of sorts through the Christmas and Epiphany Seasons --

-- resuming for Spring 2013 for the Seasons of Lent and Easter, convening date TBA. Members of the seminar decide what we study and discuss, but have already generally agreed that our Easter study will be the book of Revelation.

Fr. Tom+

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## from Marqua Brunette, Director of Choirs

### The Chancel and Rite One Choirs

Rehearsal evenings in December will continue to be quite busy for the Chancel Choir as we practice throughout the month and right up until Christmas Eve. The entire month of December will be filled with special musical offerings and we are working hard to prepare music for Advent, when we 'prepare' for the birth of Jesus. In addition to our rehearsals for the four Sundays of Advent, there will be our annual service of Lessons and Carols on December 5th. This will be the first time that the Chancel and Rite One Choirs unite to sing together. On Christmas Eve we will offer a half an hour of seasonal music prior to each service as part of the prelude music. That means the music starts at 4:00 and 10:00 PM! After the first of the year we will be able to catch our breath only a little before we start learning new anthems for 2013 in time for the Annual Diocesan Convention and Lent!

The Rite One Choir will sing during Advent on Dec. 2<sup>nd</sup> and then we will take a brief break until after Christmas. Look for rehearsals to resume on January 10<sup>th</sup>. We hope our early morning choir has added to your worship experience and perhaps inspired more people to join us. You are always welcome. Weekly rehearsals are Thursday evenings from 5:30 – 6:30 PM in the church. Come and join us!

We are very grateful for all of our dedicated choirs who give so much of themselves throughout the year to provide the music for our worship services week after week. God bless them! We always welcome new voices and would love to have you join us too.

### Festival of Lessons and Carols – Wednesday, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup>

The Chancel and Rite One Choirs will present our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Wednesday evening, Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> starting at 6:30 pm. This year we will be blessed with several soloists and instrumentalists who will be sharing their musical gifts with us. For the second time we will have a String Quartet. This year they will also be joined by flute, along with our organ and piano. The glorious music of these fine musicians will resonate within our sacred space and hearts as they play on their own and accompany many of the anthems and carols.

Many years ago, this beautiful service originated based upon the medieval vigil service. A Dean of King's College Chapel, in Cambridge, England, later modified it. This service is traditionally sung there on Christmas Eve. Later, still, an Advent service of Lessons and Carols was begun. While we will still officially be in Advent as we present our Lessons and

Carols, we have elected to follow the King's College format. The service will consist of a procession, service of light, bidding prayer with the Lord's Prayer, Invitatory, nine lessons with appropriate carols and hymns sung by the Chancel and Rite Choirs and/or congregation, closing prayer, benediction and a hymn. There will also be anthems sung by the Chancel and Rite One Choirs. This seasonal presentation provides a wonderful opportunity for you to invite your friends to visit us at Holy Nativity and share in this evening. We sincerely hope that you will appreciate this special musical offering from our choirs.

The Annual Christmas Holiday Dinner will begin in Battin Hall starting at 5 :30 PM. Please call the church office to make your reservations. There is always plenty of food but we would hate to run out ! Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish to share.

### Children's Choir

The Children's Choir continues to grow – musically and spiritually. Their enthusiasm and energy abound and the excitement is contagious and praying with these children each week warms my heart. Each year offers new challenges – a few years ago, several children were missing front teeth, affecting diction. Now, in addition to missing teeth, we have several children with shiny and colored braces. All of these represent little opportunities to work together to make sure our diction is clean and clear, thereby telling the story that we sing so that you can understand. Hard work is very evident at each rehearsal.

Once again, the Children's Choir will sing on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the 2<sup>nd</sup> service for 'Pajama Sunday,' when they wear their PJ's and slippers and robes to church and bring a set of new pajamas to donate to needy children. All of the Children of Holy Nativity will be leading the congregation in our sung version of The Lord's Prayer that morning.

They are also busily rehearsing their musical selections for the early service on Christmas Eve. They will play an active role in leading all of the children in the Christmas Pageant in songs and are quite excited about the music they will be singing this year. We hope that it will make the service more meaningful for you. Following our musical offerings on Christmas Eve, we will take a break from rehearsals while school is out and return to practice on January 9<sup>th</sup>. If your child (grades 1-6) is interested, please have them join us weekly on Wednesday afternoons in the Choir office from 4:00 – 5:00. We guarantee some hard work and lots of fun! If you have any questions, please contact Marqua Brunette, Director of Choirs.



## December

- 2 Steve and Laura McClain
- 7 Terrell and Georgie Hartzog
- 9 Joseph and Carolyn Parell
- 12 Mike and Amy Zinszer
- 18 Newton and Alice Allen
- 23 Charles and Barbara Knowles
- 26 Dan and Faith Smith
- 27 Bill and Jennifer Ethridge
- 29 Mike and Mary Ellen Harding,  
Edwin and Elizabeth Stewart
- 30 Gene and Rhonda Miller

## January

- 7 Chuck and Missie Coley
- 14 Byron Matthews and Karen Tucker
- 23 Edward and Mary Kathryn San Juan
- 28 Stewart and Kaew Sumpton



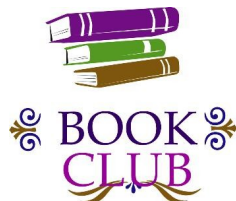
## December

- 1 Joyce Cospers, Dunkin McLane
- 2 Lee Gagnet, Lora Healey
- 3 Jaimie Camenzind
- 4 Bill Eaton, Molly Thompson
- 5 Jennifer Ethridge, Isabella Smith
- 6 Terry Jangula, Callie Pettis, Jim Roberson,  
Peyton Saluto
- 7 Gayle Ahrens, Carolyn Cramer
- 10 Matt Cole, Jim Dickey, Ashley Eaton, Greg  
Russell
- 14 Nancy Dingus, Grace Ennis, Karen Tucker
- 16 Mark Brust, Marla Churchill
- 18 Ted Gagnet, Margaret Scott, Ashtyn Williams
- 21 Jordanne Osborne
- 23 Matthew Smith, Kathleen Wicker
- 25 Peggy David, Helena Dawe
- 26 Dianne Hodges, Jerry Shores
- 27 Jeffery Rahn
- 29 Jim Fortier, James Rahn
- 31 Victoria Lithway

## January

- 1 Sylvia Mormike
- 2 Charlotte Battin, Julia McArthur
- 5 Juliette Josten, Jase Ledman
- 6 Tiffany Fraioli
- 7 Doug Messer
- 8 Carolyn Parell
- 9 Newton Allen, Lucas Matthews
- 10 Logan Sheffield
- 11 Claire Fisher, Nina Godwin
- 13 Todd Williams
- 14 Foster Jenings
- 16 John Darrah, Kristina Dick
- 18 Brynn Ledman
- 23 Kathy Brust, Carola Cole, Genevieve Smith
- 24 Eunice Collatz, Liza Smith, Ryan Yessman
- 26 Jeffery Frazier
- 27 Bob McLendon, Mary Troxell
- 28 Rhonda Miller
- 29 Raven Davis

*Join the Book/Kindle Club  
this month!*



They will meet next on January 28, 2013.  
5:30 pm at Panera Bread Restaurant  
6:30 pm at the Parish House  
(They meet every 4th Monday of the month!)

*December: no meeting*

*January: "Unbroken-A World War II Story"  
by Hillenbrand*

*February: "Search Committee" by Tim Owens*



## **HOLY NATIVITY** EPISCOPAL CHURCH

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

E-mail: [info@holy-nativity.org](mailto:info@holy-nativity.org)  
Website: [www.holy-nativity.org](http://www.holy-nativity.org)



*Merry Christmas*

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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 .***

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### **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 - Callie Mills*

### **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*