

December 2014 Volume 18, Issue 11

the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

Advent and Christmas Season Schedule 2014

Dec. 3 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. Dessert and coffee will be served after the service.

Dec. 7 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 a special guest!

Dec.14 Children's Pajama Party

Wear your best pajamas to church and bring a new set of pajamas, stuffed animals or a bed time storybook for the needy to be presented at church at the 10:30 am service!

Dec. 17 Children's Pageant Rehearsal at 3:30 pm

All children are invited to rehearse for the pageant and for final costume fitting!

Dec. 20 Youth Group Christmas Lock-In

The youth group will work on their local shoebox kids and will go shopping for their family in need with the donations given by church members, wrap and deliver them.

Dec. 21 Greening of the Church

Everyone is invited to help decorate the church after the 10:30 am worship service.

Dec. 24 Christmas Eve Services

4:00 pm Service Prelude Music begins

4:30 pm Christmas Eve Service with the Children's Christmas Pageant

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10:00 pm Service Prelude Music begins

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Service

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ANGEL TREE!

Look for our Angel Tree in Battin Hall! Please pick a name from a local nursing home and a small list if items are listed on each "ornament". Please return your wrapped gift by the deadline listed.

Advent Outreach Family!

Every year Holy Nativity's Youth Group helps a family in our community with Christmas gifts. They go shopping, wrap, and deliver the gifts! We are looking for donations to help with this wonderful ministry! Please put in the memo section of your check, "Advent Outreach".





With the festive season fast approaching please pencil in the following youth group dates with more information to follow.

November 26th No Youth Program (Thanksaiving)

December
3rd No Youth Program (Lessons and Carols)
10th Game Show Night
17th Movie Night
20th Festive Lock-In & Local Shoebox
24th No Youth Program (Christmas Eve)
31st No Youth Program (New Years Eve)



Leading up to the Festive Lock-In we will be collecting for the Youth Group's Local Shoebox, which will assist children and youth in our community over the festive season, Love thy neighbor.

Coach Jeffery

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Adult Christian Education: Fr. Tom

The pluses after our names is not a kiss, it's an Anglican affectation. Priest, and deacon too if they wish, get a plus, to the right of the name. A bishop gets a plus too, but it's to the left of the name: God help the priest who gets caught wearing a mitre or a purple shirt or puts his little plus to the left of his name. Fairly recently to my noticing, an archbishop styles him/herself with two little pluses and the title "Most Reverend." Other titles are "Right Reverend" for a bishop, and "Very Reverend" for the dean of a cathedral or seminary, and for deans in some dioceses who have deaneries. An archdeacon properly gets titled "Venerable." For myself, neither sophisticated nor holy, "Not Very Reverend" is perfect.

We've had a delightful "semester" of Tuesday morning Bible Seminars and Sunday School classes, though Mike and I've missed Jane terribly. For December, Tuesday morning Bible Seminars will be 2, 9. and 16 and then we'll take a break and see if folks want to begin again in mid-January. Generally with a full table, these have been the most fun Bible studies I've ever done. Adult Sunday School varies from Sunday to Sunday, another full table too for the most part, with people arriving as they can, which is fine. Sundays we try not to stray too far from something about the Sunday Lectionary, and as long as I am here anyway, we'll have Sunday School right straight through December, including the 21st and 28th, so come enjoy.

It's all good. Life Is Good too.

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Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the cele-

bration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on Christmas Trees in Churches and Christians homes. Holy Nativity through Advent will have a Chrismon Tree in Battin Hall. Do you have any winter coats or gloves or scarves that you would like to give away?

The people that come to dinner at "Supper at Grace" can use anything that you may have. Please drop off your items in Battin Hall! We will deliver them on December 11th when we serve.

Backpacks News!

Our four backpack teams are now taking turns sending 114 bags of food every week to St. Andrews School. If you would like to join a team, or want to form your own and get into the rotation (the current teams each pack about once a month), contact Mike Dickey at 867.2550 or mdickey@barronredding.com.

Over the last few years, the Backpack Ministry has seen the number of kids receiving food more than double, while its budget has struggled to keep up. Although we are doing all we can to make the loaves and fishes miracle happen, at our current pace we will reach the end of our budget well before Spring Break. Thus, if you are able to help financially, or to bring a few extra food items to church each week, it will go a long way toward keeping this ministry going in the face of massive need. Please give this prayerful consideration as you look for ways to put faith into practice in the coming year.

A NOTE ABOUT STEWARDSHIP

Hi, my name is Edyth Brown and I am a "cradle to grave" Episcopalian. I was baptized, confirmed and married at the same church in Philadelphia. Dick and I spent a short time at St. Anthony's in St. Petersburg and St. Andrew's in Jacksonville, and then almost 40 years at St. Andrew's in Miami. I have been a member of Holy Nativity since 2003. My husband Dick and I joined Holy Nativity after visiting several other churches in the area and decided that this was the place for us.

Stewardship for me is no more than "caring and sharing". Caring for the people and things around you and then sharing yourself and worldly goods and talents. Caring that shut-ins have a way to get to church, caring that the facility we worship in is well taken care of. Caring that the sick are provided for if need be. Caring that visitors feel welcome in our place of worship. Caring that our children feel provided for and not ignored.

Now comes the sharing part. Seeing that these things are taken care of. This is done by sharing our talents and worldly goods. It matters not how much you give, it matters that you do and with forethought. I was confirmed when I was 11 years old. Before that, starting about age 8, I was a member of the Junior Altar Guild and the Junior Choir. A week before confirmation our Sunday school teacher presented us with pledge cards and boxes of envelopes. These had two compartments, one for the church, and one for missions. I remember my first pledge, 5 cents for the church and 2 cents for missions. What a great feeling that gave me. I was not only serving the church but also supporting it; my allowance at that time was twenty-five cents a week. (I did have some outside income.) We had a real feeling of belonging and really taking over from our sponsors who spoke for us at baptism. As I grew older I continued to serve by teaching Sunday School, singing in the Senior Choir and by joining the YPF and Episcopal Churchwomen. Today I am still in love with the Episcopal Church and all it stands for. I love the liturgy and corporate worship and open-mindedness and serving the church is my way of serving God. I will close with lines from one of my favorite prayers, "A General Thanksgiving",



"And, we beseech thee, give us that due sense of all thy mercies, that our hearts may be unfeignedlly thankful;' and that we show forth thy praise, not only with our lips but in our lives, by giving up ourselves to your service and by walking before thee in holiness and righteousness all our days".

The Diocesan Transition Committee announces times, dates to meet bishop nominees

The slate of nominees for the Fourth Bishop of the Central Gulf Coast will be announced by the Standing Committee in early December. Please mark your calendar for January 2015 to meet the nominees. These meetings are open to all members of Episcopal parishes or missions in the Diocese.

The schedule is:

Monday, January 19
Lunch* - 11:00 am to 12:45 pm at St.
Francis of Assisi, Gulf Breeze

Walkabout** - 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at Nativity, Dothan

Tuesday, January 20 Lunch* - 11:00 am to 1:15 pm at St. Mary's, Andalusia

Walkabout** - 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at St. John's, Monroeville

Wednesday, January 21
Walkabout** - 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm at St. Paul's, Daphne

*Lunch meetings will be open to all members of the Diocese. The process for making lunch reservations will be announced by the Transition Committee as the time gets closer. Lunches will be informal times to meet the nominees. There will be no formal programs at these events.

**There will be three "walkabout" sessions held as all nominees travel around the Diocese together. At each location *anyone*, not only the lay convention delegates and clergy who will vote at the election convention, can gather to hear from and question the nominees as part of the discernment and calling of a new bishop. Again, the process for reservations and the exact agenda for these events will be announced later.

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Dec. 2	Steve and Laura McClain
Dec. 3	Philip and Diana Place
Dec. 7	Terrell and Georgie Hartzog
Dec. 9	Joseph and Carolyn Parell
Dec. 12	Mike and Amy Zinszer
Dec. 18	Newt and Alice Allen
Dec. 23	Charles and Barbara Knowles
Dec. 26	Dan and Faith Smith
Dec. 27	Bill and Jennifer Ethridge
Dec. 29	Mike and Mary Ellen Harding
	Edwin and Elizabeth Stewart
Dec. 30	Gene and Rhonda Miller



ACOLYTE RE-DEDICATION NOVEMBER 16, 2014





by 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 Sundays of Advent, there is our annual service of Lessons and Carols on December 3rd. Both the Chancel and Rite One Choirs will sing together for that service, as they did last year. On Christmas Eve, The Chancel Choir 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!

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. 4th

The Chancel, Children's, and Rite One Choirs will present our annual Festival of Lessons and Carols on Wednesday evening, Dec. 3rd starting at 6:30 pm. This year we will again be blessed with several soloists and instrumentalists who will be sharing their musical gifts with us. In addition to our organ and piano, we will have flute and a String Quartet. 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.

The Annual Christmas Holiday Dinner will begin in Battin Hall starting at 5:30 PM. The service will begin promptly at 6:30 in the Church. Dessert and coffee will be offered immediately following the service, once again in Battin Hall. Everyone is encouraged to bring a side dish to share.

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, Children's, and Rite Choirs and/or congregation, closing prayer, benediction and a hymn. There will also be anthems sung

by the Chancel, Children's 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 Children's Choir

The Children's Choir continues with their enthusiasm and energy and their excitement is contagious at this time of year. This year will be the second time that the Children's Choir will sing during the Service of Lessons and Carols. This requires lots of extra rehearsal and focus, but more importantly than that – this continues to expose these children to the beautiful services and liturgy within The Episcopal Church and I'm sure it will make lasting impressions on them. It's these kinds of lasting impressions that assure Holy Nativity of having future choirs because we are training them now!

The Children's Choir will sing the anthem during the 10:30 service on December 14th, our annual 'Pajama Sunday.' This is the Sunday when children wear PJ's to church and bring a new pair to donate to children in need. Usually they sing at the beginning of the service but their song this year is so poignant that I have chosen to place it within the service as the anthem. Once again, these children are growing musically.

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 7th. If your child (grades 1-6) is interested, please have them join us weekly on Wednesday afternoons in the Choir office from 4:00 – 5:10. We guarantee some hard work and lots of fun! If you have any questions, please contact Marqua Brunette, Director of Choirs.



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Children's Ministry December 2014 by Beverly McDaniel				
Dec.	Sun. School 9:15 In our Chapel Room n 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	A Morning with St. Nicholas Battin Hall	"Adventand the Nativity Story" Judy Bennett 215-1579 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276	
14 Pajama's in Church Day	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"We get to wear pajamas to churchbedtime books, and stuffed animals to Children's Church for presentation at the altar for children who need them "Giving" Trey Hutt 814-7934 Tiffany Ennis 319-4268	Kaew Sumpton 624-1290	
21	Beverly McDaniel	Practice Music for Pageant Finalize Costumes Sharon Carroll 784-6961 Casey Cole 319-4376 Tiffany Ennis 319-4268 Karen Shores 867-1084 Candace Leebrick 522-9240 Jenny Collier 215-6554	Pat Spangler 215-5247	
28	No program	"Jesus Lights UP My Life" Judy Bennett 215-1579	Teresa Durgan 913-3471	

Meaningful and **Memorable...**these are significant bywords to hold for our children during the joyous but busy Christmas season. Let us be so thankful that our church highly values our children and makes them an integral part of celebrating the Messiah's birth. And let us be grateful that our parents and parishioners are interested and involved in the Children's Ministry programs. Thank you so much for your help and for your many contributions.

Beverly McDaniel 265-8033

Please let me know if your family will not be in town for the Christmas Pageant on Christmas Eve. Some of the children were not sure and the sign-up board will be out on St. Nicholas Morning.

Now to offer some opportunities for service...for "A Morning with St. Nicholas", please bring large bags of wrapped candy (Halloween leftovers?) to help St. Nicholas fill shoes. Volunteers are needed for filling, table activities, cookie decorating, and of course, clean up.

Other important dates to remember:

<u>Wednesday, Dec. 17, 3:30</u> – Our only in-the-church pageant practice. <u>Wednesday, Dec. 24, 4:00</u> – Christmas Eve Service. Children, please be here <u>by 3:45</u> to get into your costumes.





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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

CHURCH STAFF

Youth Director - Andrew Jeffery
Children's CE Director - Beverly McDaniel
Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith
Director of Choirs - Marqua Brunette
Church Organist - John Durgan
Church Bookkeeper - Kathy Mills
Sexton - James Rahn
Nursery Attendants - Brynn Ledman, Emily Brock,
Abigail Dingus

THE VESTRY Fr. Steve Bates - Rector

Henry Breland 13-16
Edyth Brown 12-15
Joe Ciccarelli 13-16 Jr. Warden
Carolyn Cramer 12-15
Mark Godwin - Treasurer
Michele Hahn 12-15 Sr. Warden

Mike Harding 13-16
Betty Grammer 12-15
Brian Leebrick 14-17
Chris Mills 13-16
Hercules Pettis 14-17
Madge Smith - Clerk
Stewart Sumpton 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



Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
	1	2 10:00 am-Bible Seminar 6:00 pm - Rehearsal for both Choirs	3 4:00 pm-Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm-EfM 5:30 pm-CHRISTMAS DINNER 5:30 pm-Youth Group 6:30 PM-A FESTIVAL OF LESSONS AND CAROLS	4	5	6
7 The 2nd Sunday of Advent ST. NICHOLAS SUNDAY 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite One 9:15 am - St. Nicholas Sunday 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite Two with Children's Chapel	8	9 10:00 am-Bible Seminar 6:00 pm-EfM Alumni Dinner and program	10 4:00 pm-Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm-EfM 5:30 pm-five-thirty service and dinner 5:30 pm-Youth Group	11 2:00 pm - 8:30 pm Supper at Grace volunteer work 6:00 pm - Rehearsal for both Choirs	12	13
14 The 3rd Sunday of Advent PAJAMA PARTY SUNDAY 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite One 9:15 am - Christian Education for all ages 9:15 am - Vestry Meeting 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite Two with Children's Chapel	Book Club 6:00 pm-Parish House	16 10:00 am-Bible Seminar	3:30 pm - Children's Pageant Rehearsal 5:30 pm-EfM 5:30 pm-five-thirty service and dinner 5:30 pm-Youth Group	18 5:30 pm - Wine Women and Backpacks! 6:00 pm - Rehearsal for both Choirs	19	YOUTH LOCK- IN!
21 The 4th Sunday of Advent 88:00 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite One 9:15 am - Christian Education for all ages 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite Two with Children's Chapel GREENING OF THE CHURCH	SCHOOL OUT UNTIL JAN. 4TH	23	CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 4:00 PM AND 10:00 PM	MERRY CHRISTMAS!	26	27
28 The 1st Sunday after Christmas Day 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite One 9:15 am - Adult Christian Education ONLY 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite Two with Children's Chapel	NOEL HA	LLELUJAH	MERRY CHR	ISTMAS HA	APPY NEW	YEAR

Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for December 2014

Dec. 7, 2014	Dec. 14, 2014	Dec. 21, 2014	Dec. 28, 2014	
Altar Guild: Peggy Bowen and Inge Churchill	Altar Guild: Nancy Breland, Victoria Williams, and Rhonda Miller Altar Guild: Mary Bonham, Lisa McLendon, and Marla Churchill		Altar Guild: Amy Russell, Barbara Knowles, Inge Churchill	
Greeters 8:00 am: Betty Heminway 10:30 am: Tony and Jenny	Greeters 8:00 am: Monica and Alex Phillips	Greeters 8:00 am: Ursula Hixson	Greeters 8:00 am: Dorbre McMullen 10:30 am: Sue White and	
Collier	10:30 am: Sue White and Mary Ellen Harding	10:30 am: Charlie and Cassie Commander	Mary Ellen Harding	
Ushers 8:00 am: Sue Nelson and Jerry Darnell	Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips and Dawn Johnson Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan		Ushers 8:00 am: Dan and Laura Johnson	
10:30 am: Charles and Mary Bonham	10:30 am: Max and Joyce Dannecker	10:30 am: Steve Dick and Bill Bradford	10:30 am: Mark and Nina Godwin	
Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Suzanne Grossman and Theresa Townsend	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Lou and Inge Chur- chill	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Karen Tucker and Byron Matthews	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Gayle Ahrens and Gene Wicker	
10:30 am: Edyth Brown and Joe Ciccarelli	10:30 am: Nancy Breland and Stewart Sumpton	10:30 am: Scott Clemons and Mike Dickey	10:30 am: Joyce Dannecker and Joe Ciccarelli	
Acolytes 8:00 am: Lauren Stewart and Wes McClellan	Acolytes 8:00 am: Wes McClellan and Madelyn Reeder	Acolytes 8:00 am: Lauren Stewart and Wes McClellan	Acolytes 8:00 am: Wes McClellan and Madelyn Reeder	
10:30 am: Drew Dickey, Morgan Williams, Ashtyn Williams, Andrew Collier, Hannah Hickman	10:30 am: Jack Thompson, Jacob Brock, Michael Watts, Paul Brust, Shelby and Stevens Roberson 10:30 am: Sean Dickey, Chappell Syfrett, Ginny, Kate, and Beka Leebrick		10:30 am: Ben Bradford, James Thompson, Camryn Commander, Grace Ennis, Joseph Thompson	
Lector at 10:30 am Holly Melzer	Lector at 10:30 am Carolyn Cramer	Lector at 10:30 am Tom Ledman	Lector at 10:30 am Beverly McDaniel	
Tablecloth Ministry: Barbara Knowles	Tablecloth Ministry: Natasha Lithway	Tablecloth Ministry: Nancy Hebert	Tablecloth Ministry: Candace Leebrick	

Lessons and Carols Acolytes (Dec. 3): Wes McClellan, Lauren Stewart, Morgan Williams, Ashytn Williams (please arrive and vested by 6:10 pm!)

Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm

Ushers and Greeters: John Thompson, Chris Mills, and Sandy Ciccarelli

Chalice Bearers: Todd Williams and Leebrick

Acolytes: TBA

Christmas Eve at 10:00 pm

Ushers and Greeters: Russell and Beth Brock, Tony and Jenny Collier

Chalice Bearers: Lou and Inge Churchill

Acolytes: TBA