



the NATIVITY Scene

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

December 2015
Volume 19, Issue 10

Advent and Christmas Season Schedule 2015

Dec. 2

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.
Turkey will be provided.

6:30 pm Service begins. Dessert and coffee will be served after the service.

Dec. 6

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. 9 &
11**

Elves Bootcamp 5:30 pm to 7:30 pm

The Youth Elves will guide small groups of younger children in small groups through what it takes to become one off Santa's Elves.

Dec. 11

Youth Group Foul Festive Christmas Sweater Lock-In

As a reward for service during the Elves Bootcamp, an overnight lock-in will be held in appreciation.
Come dress to impress in your most hideous Christmas sweater.

Dec.13

Children's Pajama Party

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

**Dec. 16 &
23**

Children's Pageant and Children's Choir Rehearsals at 3:30 pm

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

Dec. 20

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

10:00 pm Service Prelude Music begins

10:30 pm Christmas Eve Service



ANGEL TREE!

Look for our Angel Tree in Battin Hall in a week or two! 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!

This year’s Advent Outreach family has been selected and we look forward to providing another wonderful Christmas for a deserving family. This year the family is a neighbor. She is a single mother with four children who has recently relocated to the area. Her husband and the children’s father recently died from cancer. Please consider making a monetary gift or purchase one of the gifts that will be published following Thanksgiving. Let’s make this Christmas season another example of Holy Nativity generosity for those in need! Please note on your check “Advent Outreach”.



Acolyte Rededication 2015



Adult Christian Education: Fr. Tom

This is the most exciting time of the year in the Church, and no less so for our Adult Christian Education programs. Sunday School will plow through every Sunday at our wonderful time, 9:15 to 10:15 in the Mary Stuart Poole Library. Typically our discussions center on the lectionary Bible readings for each Sunday. So, we'll be featuring the Gospel according to Luke, the Advent and Christmas readings. Come, compare Luke's and Matthew's nativity narratives with us, they are quite different but our cultural custom is to stir them up into a single Christmas story like unto a delicious fruitcake. Everyone is invited and welcome, just come. Come early, come late, bring your coffee and cake or cookie. Fr. Tom and Mike Dickey class moderators!!

Bible Seminary meets Tuesday mornings in the Mary Stuart Poole Library. We gather between 9:30 and 10:00, sit down with informal prayer at ten sharp, then read, contemplate and discuss until 11:15. We're off Thanksgiving week, then meet December 1, 8, and 15 to read and discuss the Gospel according to Luke. Fr. Tom takes a two month sabbatical over the winter, then Bible Seminar resumes February 16 for our Spring session to read and discuss Luke and the Revelation of John.

TW+

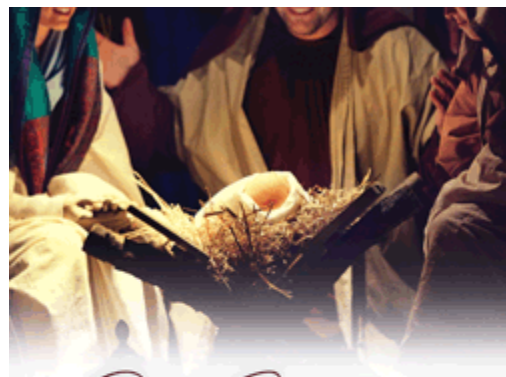


Chrismons are Christmas decorations with Christian symbols on them. They help Christians to remember that Christmas is the celebration of Jesus's birthday. They are often used on Christmas Trees in Churches and Christians homes. Holy Nativity through Advent will have a Chrismon Tree in the church.

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

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 10th.



O Come
Let Us
Adore Him

Wonderful Wednesdays!
Join us for the most fun night of
the week!
Dec. 9th and 16th



4:00 pm: Children's Choir Rehearsal
5:30 pm: *five-thirty* service, supper and programs for all ages
(B.H. Fellowship, EfM class, Youth Ministry, and Children's Ministry)
6:30 pm: Choir Practice

Mike Dickey to Attend Sewanee's School of Theology

For several years now Mike Dickey has been discerning a call to ordained ministry. In the Episcopal Church this process is long and thorough. Discerning this call involves community and the larger Church and includes approval by a Commission on Ministry, the Bishop and our own vestry, which Mike received two years ago. However, from a personal and family perspective the timing was never right for Mike and his family to make the move to one of the Episcopal seminaries.

Bishop Kendrick has decided to allow Mike to attend the School of Theology at The University of the South in Sewanee through the new non-degree theological studies program. Mike will be the first and currently only postulant from our diocese allowed to do this and will place him on track for ordination as a deacon and priest in the Episcopal Church. The program features an intense classroom curriculum for two years meeting in two-week sessions each January and June. There is additional on-line work. But the most significant aspect of the program is the practical studies component within a parish setting. This "internship" allows Mike to participate in numerous parish activities along with a priest that he might not have been a part of as a lay leader. Bishop Kendrick has asked that Holy Nativity serve as Mike's field education parish.

In January, you'll begin to see Mike in all kind of different liturgical roles. He'll participate in hospital visits, weddings, funerals, case studies and assist in numerous other administrative and pastoral activities. Mike will also preach on occasion. I know you'll all join me in congratulating and supporting Mike during this time. We should all be proud that the Bishop has chosen him to proceed in this way and that he'd like us to be the parish to nurture him along.

If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact Mike or myself.

God love you,
Steve+



Dec. 1	Joyce Cosper, Dunkin McLane
Dec. 2	Lee Gagnet, Lora Healey
Dec. 3	Jaimie Camenzind
Dec. 4	Bill Eaton, Molly Thompson
Dec. 5	Jennifer Ethridge, Isabella Smith
Dec. 6	Terry Jangula, William Melzer, Callie Pettis, Jim Roberson
Dec. 7	Gayle Ahrens, Carolyn Cramer
Dec. 10	Matt Cole, Jim Dickey, Ashley Eaton, Greg Russell
Dec. 11	Sydney Syfrett
Dec. 14	Nancy Dingus, Grace Ennis, Karen Tucker
Dec. 16	Mark Brust, Marla Churchill
Dec. 18	Ted Gagnet, Margaret Scott, Ashtyn Williams
Dec. 21	Ryan Caldwell, Nancy Connolly, Evan Ward
Dec. 23	Matthew Smith, Kathleen Wicker
Dec. 25	Helena Dawe
Dec. 26	Dianne Hodges, Jerry Shores
Dec. 27	Lindsey Crelling, Jeffery Rahn
Dec. 29	Jim Fortier, James Rahn
Dec. 31	Victoria Lithway



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. 10	Tom and Peggy Caldwell
Dec. 11	Rick and Elizabeth Holden
Dec. 12	Mike and Amy Zinzser
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. 28	Alex and Laura King
Dec. 29	Mike and Mary Ellen Harding
Dec. 30	Edwin and Elizabeth Stewart Gene and Rhonda Miller

A MORNING WITH ST. NICHOLAS!
DECEMBER 6, 2015
9:15 AM IN BATTIN HALL

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!



The Amazing Race-Youth Edition 2015





Thank-you to all the racers and volunteers who attended the first and very enjoyable Amazing Race. We had perfect weather and a great turn-out. The next race is being planned and let's hope, if we travel, our Mega Trophy comes home with a Holy Nativity Team.

Collecting for homeless youth!

Last year Youth Ministry collected, packed and distributed with the help of Anchorage Children's Home program SOAR, thirty "survival" packs for homeless and at risk youth. This year with

your help we would like to double that offering of love and hope for some of the **700** homeless youth in Bay County. To make this possible the youth will be collecting items on a wish list to fill basic needs for their peers in need. All offers are greatly appreciated. Look for the drop off area in the foyer.

Wish List per pack...Wet-wipes x 1 packet, Deodorant x 1 stick, Scarf, hat & gloves x 1 set, Toothbrush & paste x 1 set, Chapstick x 1 stick, Canned meals ring-pull x 4 cans, Emergency poncho x 1, Granola bars x 4 bars, Crackers x 4 packet, Fruit cups x 4, Candy bar x 2, Sun-screen Bug Repellent.

Elves Bootcamp.

Mission:- To recruit the next generation of Santa's Helpers

Field of Operation:- Holy Nativity Church

Hours of Deployment:- Dec. 6th, Camp Set-up 14:00-16:00

Dec. 9th- Wednesday Night Showtime after Worship til 19:30

Dec. 11th- Friday Night Finale 16:00 -19:00

If you accept this mission you must let me know before. Successful completion of this mission will grant you access to the Foul Festive Sweater Lock-In.

Adult volunteers required.

Foul Festive Sweater Lock-In

As a reward for service those who helped on two or more nights of the Bootcamp are entitled to attend the Lock-In. The Lock-In will be held at the church on Friday Dec. 11th till 8:00am Saturday morning. Over night adult volunteers required.

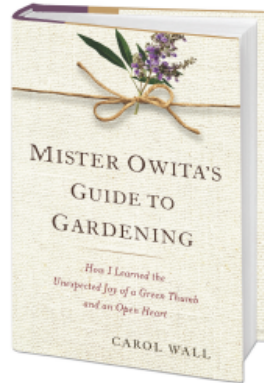
As our numbers continue to increase do know any mature and responsible young adult who would be interested in joining the ranks of youth ministry?

Looking forward to the fun,
A.J. Jeffery, Youth Director
319-1953
aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org



Dick Wall to speak at Holy Nativity on Wednesday, December 9th

With thanks to our own literary agent, Kathie Clemons Bennett, Dick Wall will be our guest speaker on following our regular five-thirty service and supper. Dick is an inspirational speaker with a compelling story. Hope to see you there! Bring a friend! See Dick's story below.



Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening

A book about living *written by Carol Wall*



"One of 10 books we loved reading in 2014!"

"One of the best books of the year!" **AARP**

"Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening: How I Learned the Unexpected Joy of a Green Thumb and an Open Heart," is the first-person, nonfiction story about Carol Wall's unlikely friendship with Giles Owita, a Kenyan-born landscape designer who took on the arduous task of rehabilitating Wall's neglected yard in Roanoke, Virginia. More importantly, though, he tended to Wall's wounded spirit. Diagnosed with cancer before she met Owita, Wall had begun to lose faith in her religion, humanity and herself. The book follows their blossoming friendship; their unusual relationship creating a bond that bridged their disparate backgrounds and taught them both about the wonderful secrets life has in store.

Wall's debut book, "Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening" was published March 4, 2014 to critical acclaim, named one of the top ten books of 2014 by USA Today and one of the best books of 2014 by AARP.



Carol Wall and Giles Owita

"In this profoundly moving memoir, Owita teaches Wall how to find grace amid heartbreak and to accept that beauty exists because it is fleeting—as in her garden, as in life." ★★★★★

People

"You will put Wall's memoir down with a new appreciation for how far roots can travel for nourishment, especially those that spring from our hearts."

The New York Times Book Review

Wall received her third cancer diagnosis in 2012, just a few months before "Mister Owita's Guide to Gardening" was published by Amy Einhorn Books. Wall was too sick to make appearances, and she passed away in December 2014, just nine months after publication.

Since Carol's death, the Wall family, led by her husband Dick, has redoubled their efforts to promote Carol's work. Son Chad Wall, 37, and daughter-in-law, Ashley, have spoken with to book clubs done media interviews in their mother's stead. Daughter Jennie Gelfand, 34, manages her mother's website and social media accounts from her home in York, Pennsylvania. Youngest son Phil Wall, 31, a filmmaker in Philadelphia, made his mother's promotional videos. Dick has traveled the east coast speaking at festivals and events.



Dick Wall at The VA Festival of the Book in 2015

Dec.	Sun. 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 Abby Dingus and our faithful nursery Volunteers.
6	A Morning with St. Nicholas Battin Hall	"The Legend of St. Nicholas: Giving" Karen Shores 867-1084 Holly Melzer 896-0428 Floencia Pereira 319-4870	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
13	Pajama Party Wear PJs, bring PJs, stuffed animal or a book	"Let Him In" Trey Hutt 814-7934 Tiffany Ennis 784-4762	Kaew Sumpton 624-1290
20	Pageant Costume Fitting (Kids' Kingdom)	Pageant Practice Kathy Brust, Sharon Carroll, Casey Cole, Lindsey Crelling, Tiffany Ennis, Laura King, Candace Leebriick, Holly Melzer, Flo Pereira, Karen Shores, Christy Smith, and Liz Ward	Pat Spangler 215-5247
27	Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"Ring Those Bells" Judy Bennett 215-1579 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Teresa Durgan 913-3471

December is a wonderful time to be at Holy Nativity, and especially to be with our children. It is a busy and exciting time for them, and it is our goal to make it meaningful for them as we prepare for the coming of Jesus.

On December 4th at 9:15, we will celebrate "A Morning with Saint Nicholas" as we hear his story of kindness and generosity, enjoy special activities and refreshments, and have the blessing of the candy canes. There will also be opportunities to have a picture made with St. Nicholas. (Thank you again, Matt Cole.) Parents, please bring bags of wrapped candy (no gum please) for filling the children's shoes.

Also on the 4th, the sign-up board for the Christmas Pageant will go up in Battin Hall. Please talk with your children to get their preferences for this year. If there are multiple requests for a single role, we will draw names. For these specific parts, please make sure that the children can attend the practices at 3:30 Wednesdays, the 16th and 23rd. The board will remain up through Pajama Sunday, 13th; however, if you can't be here during this time, please call me and I will add names to the list. Parents, if you or your children have special requests, questions, or recommendations, please let me hear those too.

Who wears pajamas to Sunday School and church? We do, for a Sunday School Pajama Party on December 11th. Wearing our favorite pajamas and/or robes will be fun, and certainly different, and thus will be a reminder for each to bring a pair of new pajamas, or a book, or a cuddly stuffed animal for a needy child. Please have your children in Kids' Kingdom by 10:15 to process in with their gifts for the 10:30 worship service. What a great opportunity for us to practice St. Nicholas's example of generosity and giving to those who are in need!

You may have noticed that I have listed (without prior consent) many mothers' names to help with the Christmas Pageant and also, though unlisted, the same great volunteer labor force for St. Nicholas's morning. Please let me know if you will be out of town or otherwise unavailable. As the children decide what roles they want, we may need some talented mothers to put together other costumes. All children are welcome to participate so please help us get the message out that any children attending the service will be invited to take part. We will have shepherds' robes, lambs' ears, and angels' halos ready for our new cast members. If you know that you will have children visiting, please let me know so we can look for them. We want our portrayal of the holy nativity at Holy Nativity to be especially meaningful and memorable for everyone.

Again, thank you so much for your help in making our church a wonderful place for our children.

Beverly McDaniel

Sunday	Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday	Saturday
		1 10:00 am-Bible Seminar 6:30 pm - Rehearsal for both Choirs	2 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	3	4	5
6 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	7	8 10:00 am-Bible Seminar 6:00 pm-EfM Alumni Christmas Party	9 4:00 pm-Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm-EfM 5:30 pm-five-thirty service and dinner 5:30 pm-Youth Group Elves Boot Camp 6:30 pm-Choir Rehearsal	10 2:00 pm - 8:30 pm Supper at Grace volunteer work	11 5:30 pm-Youth Group Elves Boot Camp YOUTH LOCK-IN!	12
13 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	14 Book Club 6:0 pm-Parish House	15 10:00 am-Bible Seminar	16 3:30 pm - Children's Pageant Rehearsal and Children's Choir Rehearsal 5:30 pm-EfM 5:30 pm-five-thirty service and dinner 5:30 pm-Youth Group 6:30 pm-Choir Rehearsal	17	18	19
20 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 Vestry/Staff Christmas Party GREENING OF THE CHURCH	21 SCHOOL OUT UNTIL JAN. 4TH	22	23 3:30 pm - Children's Pageant Rehearsal and Children's Choir Rehearsal 6:30 pm - Rehearsal for both Choirs	24 CHRISTMAS EVE SERVICES 4:00 PM AND 10:00 PM	25 MERRY CHRISTMAS! 	26
27 The 1st Sunday after Christmas Day 8:00 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite One 9:15 am - Christian Education for all ages 10:30 am - Holy Eucharist/Rite Two with Children's Chapel	28	29	30	31		
<div>    </div> <div> NOEL HALLELUJAH MERRY CHRISTMAS HAPPY NEW YEAR </div> <div>    </div>						

Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for December 2015

Dec. 6, 2014	Dec. 13, 2014	Dec. 20, 2014	Dec. 27, 2014
Altar Guild: Amy Russell, Barbara Knowles, Marla Churchill	Altar Guild: Tim and Monica Phillips, Mary Mittiga and David Burris	Altar Guild: Nancy Hebert and Inge Churchill	Altar Guild: Max and Joyce Dannecker, Gene and Kathleen Wicker
Greeters 8:00 am: Larry and Kay Young 10:30 am: Tony and Jenny Collier	Greeters 8:00 am: Dennis and Rita Boston 10:30 am: Sue White and Mary Ellen Harding	Greeters 8:00 am: Monica and Alex Phillips 10:30 am: Charles and Mary Bonham	Greeters 8:00 am: Dorbre McMullen 10:30 am: Sandy Ciccarelli, Joe Ferrante, and Charlie Commander
Ushers 8:00 am: Susan Nelson and Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Steve Dick and Bill Bradford	Ushers 8:00 am: Terry Jangula and Tim Pride 10:30 am: Max and Joyce Dannecker	Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips and Dawn Johnson 10:30 am: John Thompson and Chris Mills	Ushers 8:00 am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Hercules and Mary Ellen Pettis
Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Suzanne Grossman and Theresa Townsend 10:30 am: Brian Leebrick and George McInnis	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Lou and Inge Churchill 10:30 am: Edyth Brown and Todd Williams	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Byron Matthews and Karen Tucker 10:30 am: Scott Clemons and Kelly Roberson	Chalice Bearers 8:00 am: Gayle Ahrens and Gene Wicker 10:30 am: Joyce Dannecker and Mike Dickey
Acolytes 8:00 am: Madelyn Reeder 10:30 am: Team 1 Jack Thompson, Jacob Brock, Grace Ennis, Mia Carroll, James Thompson, Linda Taylor King	Acolytes 8:00 am: Lauren Stewart 10:30 am: Jenny Leebrick, Morgan Williams, Shelby Roberson, Michael Watts, Ashtyn Williams, Sevens Roberson, Payton Lam	Acolytes 8:00 am: Madelyn Reeder 10:30 am: Drew Dickey, Camryn Commander, Kate Leebrick, Bekah Leebrick, Sean Dickey, Andrew Collier	Acolytes 8:00 am: Lauren Stewart 10:30 am: Ben Bradford, Paul Brust, Hannah Hickman, Chappell Syfrett, Joseph Thompson
Lector at 10:30 am Jackie Rahn	Lector at 10:30 am Rich Doran	Lector at 10:30 am Don Hodges	Lector at 10:30 am Michael Lovchuk
Tablecloth Ministry: Teresa Durgan	Tablecloth Ministry: Barbara Knowles	Tablecloth Ministry: Natasha Lithway	Tablecloth Ministry: Nancy Hebert

Lessons and Carols Acolytes (Dec. 2): Jenny Leebrick and Morgan Williams
(please arrive and vested by 6:10 pm!)

Christmas Eve at 4:00 pm

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

Chalice Bearers:

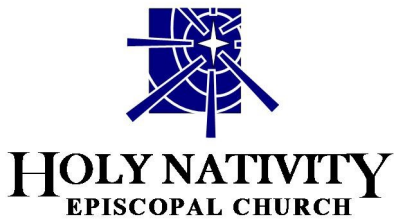
Acolytes: TBA

Christmas Eve at 10:00 pm

Ushers and Greeters: Jim and Ursula Hixson and Parker McClellan

Chalice Bearers: Lou and Inge Churchill

Acolytes: TBA



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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. Russell Kendrick - 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 - Stacey Holliday
Church Organist - John Durgan
Church Bookkeeper - Kathy Mills
Sexton - James Rahn
Nursery Attendants - Catherine Churchill and Emily Brock

THE VESTRY

Fr. Steve Bates - Rector
Gayle Ahrens 15-18
Henry Breland 13-16
Beth Brock 15-18
Joe Ciccarelli 13-16 Jr. Warden
Mike Dickey 15-18
Mark Godwin - Treasurer
Mike Harding 13-16 Sr. Warden
Jim Hixson 15-18
Brian Leebrick 14-17
Chris Mills 13-16
Hercules Pettis 14-17
Madge Smith - Clerk
Stewart Sumpton 14-17
Todd Williams 14-17

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

<i>Sunday</i>	<i>8:00 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite I *</i>
	<i>9:15 a.m. - Adult and Youth CE, Children's Sunday School (Sept. - May)</i>
	<i>10:30 a.m. - Holy Eucharist - Rite II**</i>
<i>Wednesday</i>	<i>5:30 pm - five-thirty Eucharist * and programs</i>

**Nursery Provided*

***Children's Church and Nursery Provided*