



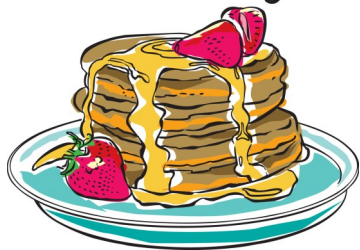
# the NATIVITY Scene

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*Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida*

February 2012  
Volume 16, Issue 1

Shrove  
Tuesday



## PANCAKE SUPPER

**FEBRUARY 21, 2012 AT 5:30 PM/Parish House**  
COME ENJOY SOME PANCAKES, SAUSAGES, AND APPLE SAUCE BEFORE LENT BEGINS! (small charge)

Get the "baby" from the King's Cake and win reserved parking and seating on Easter Sunday!

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Ash Wednesday Services  
With Imposition of Ashes  
February 22, 2012  
7:30 am and 6:00 pm

*Ash  
Wednesday*

## LENTEN

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And Program

Join us Wednesdays during Lent for a soup supper and a great Lenten program afterwards.

Feb. 29, Mar. 7, 21, 28

(No program on Mar. 14 during spring break)

5:30 pm Soup Supper

6:30 pm Program begins

We need 6 pots of Soup and bread for every Wednesday. Sign up in Battin Hall!



Dear friends and members of Holy Nativity,

Our wonderful Holiday Season 2011 has come and gone so quickly, and once again I am overwhelmed with gratitude and thanksgiving for being a member of Holy Nativity, a community of incredible lovingkindness. Thank you for making Linda and me so welcome and letting us have such gratifying ministries among you. Thank you for your love, concern, cards, visits, messages, prayers and patience during my heart event, visit to Cleveland Clinic, surgery and recovery; and also during my mother's final days and afterward this year. Thank you at this time for your extraordinarily generous Christmas gift and the love for us that it shows. We are filled with gratitude toward you, and with happiness that you are such a tremendous part of our lives.

May God bless and keep each of you and all of us together throughout the New Year.

Tom+



Happy February!

We are back upstairs on Wednesday nights, from 6pm to 8pm - I hope to see you there! Sunday School is at 9:15am, and I would love to see you there as well.

Ash Wednesday is February 22nd, and there will be no youth group meeting on that day. However, Tuesday the 21st is the whole-church pancake supper, and I hope you all plan to be there! If enough youth show up, we will go upstairs after eating and do something fun.

We will be starting confirmation classes this month for anyone who wants to become a full member of Holy Nativity. These will be instead of the regular Sunday School classes (the ones at 9:15am), beginning on February 26th. Even if you don't plan to be confirmed this year, or have already done so, you should come to these sessions. There is a lot of very cool information about what Episcopalians believe, and why we believe it.

Our Lenten soup suppers begin at the end of February, with our first one on the 29th. On these Wednesdays, we will meet at 5:30 to eat together, then do some fun activities with the younger kids, and go home at 7:30.

I'm still looking for a few parental units to volunteer to bring dinner on February 15th. If you can come up with a teen-friendly spread that feeds about 10, please come talk to me!

Please join us in the upstairs room. We are having fun!

[Judy/248-6624/judydickey@gmail.com](mailto:Judy/248-6624/judydickey@gmail.com)

Dear Friends,

*It seems I keep repeating myself in saying what an honor it is to be your Rector. We truly are a healthy and thriving family of God and I am thankful to be a part. Again, Lori and I are overwhelmed and humbled by your graciousness towards us during the holiday season. We never cease to be amazed by your generosity. As we begin our seventh year together we give thanks that God has called us together at this place, in this time. Words alone cannot express how grateful we are. You fill our hearts with joy and thanksgiving and we thank God for you.*

*May God continue to bless us all in the coming year.*

*Steve and Lori Bates*

## ***Backpack Buddies***

You are invited to join in this wonderful new ministry in conjunction with Holy Nativity School that will provide meals for needy children. Many children in local public schools receive their only meals of the day at school. This ministry will provide food for eligible children through the weekend. Our partner school has over 90 children who are Title I and eligible for free meals. Fifty-three families have already signed up to be a part of this program.



### **HOW DOES IT WORK?**

Children will receive a backpack of non-perishable food each Friday afternoon. The backpacks are provided by the Church. They return the backpacks on Mondays. They are refilled and delivered again the next Friday. Church members are taking care of the logistics.

### **HOW CAN I HELP?**

1. Sponsor a Backpack-If you sponsor a backpack, you are asked to bring the following to church:
  - \* 2 breakfast items (breakfast bars, etc.)
  - \* 6 juice boxes, 2 lunch items (Vienna sausage, soup, beanie weanies, etc.)
  - \* 2 dinner items (ravioli, canned meat, Chef Boyardee, etc.)
  - \* 4 snacks (Goldfish, crackers, etc.)
2. Bring an offering-Bring one of more of the above items to church each week.
3. Make an offering - Monetary donations are certainly accepted. It is estimated that a "backpack of food" costs approximately \$10 week.

### **STILL HAVE QUESTIONS?**

Feel free to contact Fr. Steve (747-4000), [fr.steve@holy-nativity.org](mailto:fr.steve@holy-nativity.org), or Mike Dickey at 867.2550 or [mdickey@barronredding.com](mailto:mdickey@barronredding.com).



**The Bishop of the Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast  
will be at Holy Nativity on May 13, 2012.**

**Would you like to be confirmed or received into the  
Episcopal Church?**

**Confirmation classes will begin soon!**

**Adult classes begin: February 26th at 9:15 am in the Library  
or February 28th at 9:45 am in Fr. Tom's Office in the  
Parish House.**

**Youth Classes begin: February 26th at 9:15 am in the Youth Room.**

**For more information or to sign up, please call the church office  
at 747-4000.**

**ECW Meeting and Program  
February 12, 2012 at 6:00 pm  
in the Parish House**

Their Guest Speaker will be David Smith  
The title of his presentation will be



*“Ten Minute Financial and Estate Planning Quiz  
and Other Things Women Need To Know!”*

All ladies of the church are invited to  
attend and bring something great to munch on!

We say welcome to our new  
vestry members!

Edyth Brown  
Carolyn Cramer  
Betty Grammer  
Michele Hahn

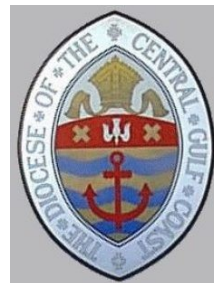


We say thank  
you very much to our  
outgoing vestry members! Thank  
you for your service!

Max Dannecker  
Donna Hairston  
Amy Russell

*The 2012 Convention of the Episcopal  
Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast  
February 2-4, 2012  
Christ Church Cathedral in Mobile, AL*

*Holy Nativity's delegates are Brian  
Leebrick, Gayle Ahrens, Mary Ellen  
Pettis, and Madge Smith.*



## Children's Ministry February 2012

Feb.	Sunday School 9:15	Children's Church 10:30	Nursery 10:15
5	Tom Hairston 784-6319 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	"Souper Bowl" Sunday Bring cans of soup for the Back- pack Ministry or the Food Bank Amy Russell 784-0096	Sandy Ciccarelli 265-9276
12	Tom Hairston 784-6319 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Trey Hutt 814-7934 Judy Bennett 215-1579	Nancy Reeder 596-9538
19	Tom Hairston 784-6319 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Judy Bennett 215-1579 Kathy Brust 522-9240	Kaew Sumpton 872-3782
26	Tom Hairston 784-6319 Beverly McDaniel 265-8033	Ashley Eaton 769-8533 Judy Bennett 215-1579	Pat Spangler 215-5247



Touchdown!!! February 5<sup>th</sup> is Super Bowl Sunday, and for Children's Church that day, we want to make it "Souper Bowl" Sunday also. We are asking the children to bring cans of soup for the Holy Nativity Food Bank or to contribute to the Backpack Ministry. We can help in filling weekend backpacks for children at a local school by bringing soups that are easy to open and favorites of your children...Judy Dickey calls them "kid-friendly". We are hoping to use this all-American football event to emphasize sharing and caring for others.

Ash Wednesday on February 22 marks the beginning of Lent and during the Lenten season, we will be offering Wednesday evening programs for our children following the soup suppers. Again this year, we will be joining with our EYC middle school and high school students for activities that are appropriately service-oriented and fun as well. Last year it was great to see the various ages bonding and working together.

Thank you all so much for your support for our Children's Ministry. Please call me with your comments or suggestions. If you are scheduled to serve and cannot, please arrange as soon as possible to swap with another teacher, or call me at home or at the church office.

Beverly McDaniel





The music program at Holy Nativity is enjoying a little respite from all of the hectic, and sometimes stressful, preparations of Advent and Christmas and greatly appreciating this time of Epiphany. We always have to work ahead of time so music for Ash Wednesday (February 22<sup>nd</sup>), Lent, Easter, confirmation with The Bishop, and Pentecost is already finding its way into our folders. Spring will be busy and additional voices would really be welcomed.

It seems only appropriate to begin the New Year by thanking all of the dedicated choir members and musicians who helped to make our Advent and Christmas services so special. As their Director, I offer my sincerest thanks to each and every one of them from the bottom of my heart! They all did an outstanding job and their hard work and dedication were well worth it.

The Children's Choir sang beautifully on "Pajama Sunday" and Christmas Eve. Each child is able to keep their excitement level under control on those two special occasions and focus on their singing. Whether there are wearing pajamas or pageant costumes, they sing with complete abandon and delight. They take their music ministry very seriously and love sharing their song!

Lessons and Carols was our 'best' ever and will be hard to top next year! I was thrilled with the attendance and congregational participation so I first thank each of you who came to this special evening of music and scripture. I had worked hard to create a mood musically to correspond to the readings and I felt that this year we truly captured the essence of the service as it is intended.

The participation of our children and youth was especially moving and I thank Shelby and Stevens Roberson for their sweet singing of the first verse of "Once in Royal David's City" from the back of the church. Thanks are also extended to our acolytes, Drew Dickey, Callie Mills and Jack Thompson for serving. Each of our readers, Scott Clemons, John Barnett, Ginny Leebrick, Tom Ledman, Kelly Roberson, Callie Mills, Dawn Johnson-Broege, Fr. Tom and Fr. Steve read their lessons clearly and with moving expression and I thank them for making the scripture come alive. I would like to thank John Durgan for his lovely organ music on carols and the beautiful bell sounds for one of our anthems. Special thanks are extended to Mary Ellen Reedie for her joy and love of music, for lending her voice and violin, and her organization and leadership of a string quartet, including Yasya Brown, Cathy Stevens, and Kathryn Vittitoe. I have already requested they join us next year as well. Thanks also to Inge Churchill for Altar Guild and Nell and John Barnett, for serving as greeters. Next I need to thank the entire staff for all of their help in making this evening possible. I could not do this service alone without the help from the staff to create invitations and send them, create our beautiful keepsake booklet (thank you, Madge), orchestrate the lighting and décor (thank you, Carolyn Cramer – your flowers and greens were stunning), clean the church, etc. – the list goes on and on. Lessons and Carols is a real team effort.

Next on my list of thank-yous is for The Chancel Choir including Charlotte Battin, Joe Ciccarella, Mary Darrah, Brianna Fisher, Sam Henderson, Judi Lawrence, Margie Mahalak, Hercules and Mary Ellen Pettis, Mary Ellen and Arthur Reedie, David Smith, Mary Troxell and soloists Arthur and Sam. I am so very proud of each of them – for their hard work and dedication and willingness to keep trying and trying at every rehearsal. We have been working on this music for months and it showed. Choirs do not just turn up and sing – it takes many long hours of rehearsal and we are blessed with many voices who come week after week to learn their music and help the person sitting next to them. Each choir member deserves a special thank you so please share your thoughts and feelings as you see them in the weeks ahead. Last of all, my thanks turn to God for giving us His Son, whose birth inspired such beautiful music and scripture and for our gift of music for sharing that blessed story.

The glory of Christmas Eve was filled with music, from the voices of choirs to organ, piano, harpsichord, tympani, Mary Ellen Reedie on violin and our own Chris Mills on trumpet. I have heartfelt thanks for The Chancel Choir and The Children's Choir for their music. The good news was alive with the sounds of the season filling the air.

Happily, we continue to grow and improve. Voices have returned to the Chancel Choir after many illnesses among members but the 8:00 Rite One Choir is still missing several members so we continually look for new voices to join all of our choirs. Children's Choir is back in full swing with their high energy and enthusiasm. Many adults have vacations planned this winter so don't be concerned when you see fewer people singing on any given Sunday, just know how much we would appreciate YOUR voice joining us!

We look forward to seeing you at one of these rehearsals:

#### The Chancel Choir

Thursday evenings in the church from 6:30 – 8:30 PM  
and

Sunday mornings from 9:30 – 10:15 AM

#### The Rite One Choir

Thursday evenings in the church from 5:30 – 6:30 PM

#### The Children's Choir

Wednesday afternoons in the Choir Office from 4:00 – 5:00 PM

May each of you have a blessed New Year and keep a song in your heart!



Feb. 1	John Morrow
Feb. 2	Neil Bates, Alexander Catron, Monica Phillips
Feb. 3	Lenka Doran
Feb. 4	Daniel Melzer
Feb. 5	Elizabeth Ciccarella, Mary Mittiga
Feb. 7	Dana Ledman
Feb. 8	Zach Bewick, John Messer
Feb. 9	Samantha Smith
Feb. 10	Brian Leebrick
Feb. 11	Gene Miller, Susan Nelson, Hercules Pettis
Feb. 12	Jeff Mahalak
Feb. 13	Scott Clemons
Feb. 14	Dawson Gall
Feb. 18	Nancy Hebert
Feb. 20	Sophia Eaton
Feb. 21	Martin Brust, Bertram Churchill, Eddie San Juan
Feb. 22	Steve Dick, Allen Nease, Mario San Juan
Feb. 23	Carolyn Calvin, Betty Ellis, Suzanne Grossman
Feb. 25	Carol Ann Osborne, Nancy Pride, Kevin Wattenbarger, Ann Watts, Sue White
Feb. 26	Edyth Brown, David Burris, Allison Yessman
Feb. 27	Robert Ahrens, Frank Cole, Cayden Dunn, David Lithway

## Did you know that Holy Nativity has a Facebook page?

On Facebook, go to  
"Holy Nativity Episcopal Church"  
and "Like" us!



Feb. 1	Neil and Malinda Bates
Feb. 5	Ted and Ina Joy Conrad
Feb. 12	Billy and Ina Joy Wicker
Feb. 16	Martin and Kathy Brust Paul and Bobbie Hunt
Feb. 19	Wayland and Glenda Patterson
Feb. 23	John and Esther Laughter
Feb. 24	Dunkin and Edwina McLane

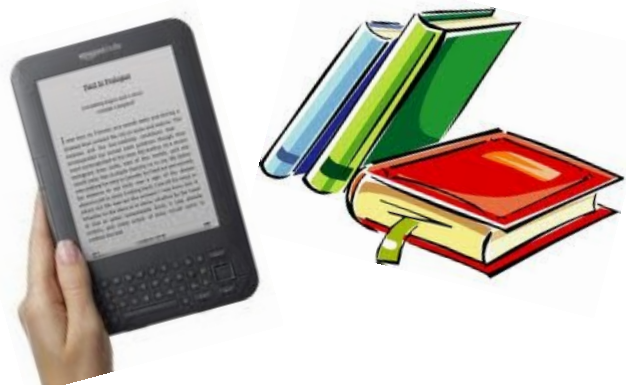
## *Holy Nativity Book (Kindle) Club!*

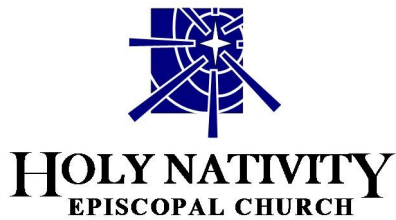
Everyone is invited to read along and join  
the Book Club every 4th Monday at  
6:30 pm in the Parish House to discuss the  
book.

Here is the schedule for the coming months!

February: Sarah's Key  
March: The Beach Trees  
April: Hotel At The Corner Of Bitter Sweet  
May: Steve Jobs

For more information please call Betty Grammer  
at 763-5095.





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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

<i>Fr. Steve Bates - Rector</i>	<i>Michele Hahn 12-15</i>
<i>Gayle Ahrens 10-13</i>	<i>Jim Hixson 11-14</i>
<i>Charles Bonham 10-13</i>	<i>Betty Grammer 12-15</i>
<i>Edyth Brown 12-15</i>	<i>Brian Leebrick 10-13</i>
<i>Carolyn Cramer 12-15</i>	<i>Mary Ellen Pettis 11-14</i>
<i>Mike Dickey 11-14</i>	<i>Madge Smith - Clerk</i>
<i>Richard Doran 11-14</i>	<i>John Thompson 10-13</i>
<i>Mark Godwin - Treasurer</i>	

## 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*