



the NATIVITY *Scene*

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

February 2021
Volume 25, Issue 2



February 7, 2021
Wear your team
colors!

Bring your soup for
the Backpack
Ministry!

Place your cans in
either the Chiefs side
or the Buccaneers
side.

Who will win?

ASH WEDNESDAY SERVICE



FEBRUARY 17, 2021

7:30 AM AND 6 PM

**IMPOSITION OF ASHES
WITHOUT EUCHARIST**

**(NO WEDNESDAY NIGHT SUPPER
OR ACTIVITIES)**

Wonderful Wednesdays Resume?

It is our goal to resume Wonderful Wednesdays on February 3rd. While we are able to worship and have our programs safely inside, the Bishop has requested that the serving of any meals take place outside. And our meals together are such an important part of Wednesdays. We'll plan to cancel any Wednesday program where we'll be unable to eat outside. Any cancellation will be communicated by at least the Sunday before. So, stay tuned! We'll resume on February 3rd (hamburgers and hot dogs for dinner) and continue as weather allows and resume in full force by March. You'll receive notices in the bulletin and the weekly What's Happening email. Remember the motto, "blessed are the flexible for they shall not be broken." Adaptability is a way of life for us right now and we want to do everything we can to reclaim some normalcy but at the same time to do it safely and within the parameters established by the Bishop and public health officials. We will definitely be together on February 17 for Ash Wednesday services (no meal will be provided and no Wednesday programs that night). We will not be having an organized Lenten Program for adults on Wednesdays but programs for children and youth will resume during the season as we get back together on a regular basis. Watch your emails and parish announcements and continue to bear with us!



Adult Christian Education: Father Tom

With covid and with Age, there's no EfM, and no Mid-week Bible Seminar. But our Sunday School class is holding strong. Nine or ten folks these days instead of the nearly two dozen we had "before". We are social distancing as required, and I'm still learning to "teach" wearing a face-mask and talking to our class of Christians Militant here in the Room, and Christians Distant beyond Madge's iPhone streaming us into the ether. No televangelists, we're keeping it together, having as much fun as ever. In the Parish Library down the yellowing brick path past Smith Pavilion to the double doors of the one-story building, we convene Sunday mornings between services at 9:15 to 10:45. Always coffee, a snack of some sort or other. Bible study involving either the Sunday lectionary readings, or something about the Church Season, or a Bible or other book we agree in class to look at - sometimes such as one of the Books of the Apocrypha such as Bel and the Dragon, or a non canonical book such as Sayings Gospel Thomas. Pretty soon we're going to have a look at the stories about Jesus as a little boy in Infancy Gospel of Thomas. Come Early, Come on Time, Come Late, everyone is welcome and invited. (I'm serious: Come Late is fine, just come on in).

AND THIS, CONFIRMATION CLASS.

The bishop is scheduled to come on Mothers' Day, May 9th. Accordingly, our 2021 confirmation seminar, which we ALWAYS have as part of our regular Adult Sunday School class sessions, will be a feature of Lent 2021. Ash Wednesday is 17 February. Everything you need to know to be Confirmed will begin as part of class on Sunday, 21 February. It will go several Sundays and will be livestreamed on Facebook. How many Sundays? IDK, depends on who comes and who's interested in what. Everything we do is informal, free and loose. IF YOU THINK YOU MAY BE INTERESTED IN BEING CONFIRMED WHEN THE BISHOP COMES IN MAY, TELL MADGE. Madge Smith 850-747-4000 email madge@holy-nativity.org. You'll be joining our regular Adult Sunday School class for a few weeks.

Right Shoe First & Praise The Lord
Tom+

Humbly Grateful: Place of My Heart

One of the key human facets of any job, work, task, assignment, ministry is whether one feels valued and valuable, appreciated, loved. I love rehearsing this memory. Holy Nativity has been a place of my heart since that Sunday morning a Spring day of 1955. Nineteen years old, a UnivFlorida just graduated sophomore, now rising junior home for summer vacation, I was surprised when my parents drove east, instead of west out Beach Drive as I expected, and parked in deep sand at the corner of two rutted dirt roads, 3rd Street and Bonita Avenue. There, in a sandy lot not yet completely cleared of scrub oaks, was a new gray concrete block building, plain. Very plain, unpainted. Pretty? Uh, no. Promising, but not pretty yet.

Stickers still on the windowpanes. Hot inside, dusty concrete floor, nothing covering the windows against the morning sun glaring in, if the sun shines in your face, hold your Smith's Funeral Home fan over your eyes. Metal folding chairs. On the concrete block wall up front, over an Altar of sorts hung, as I recall, a large, wide-spreading, silver-painted cross, right in the center of which was the smaller cross in an oval, which I had known all my life as marking the door on the aumbry at St Andrew's Episcopal Church where I'd grown up. I knew the aumbry for certain from my years as acolyte there, 1945 to 1953. The aumbry (a tabernacle for the Reserved Sacrament) was never used in my years there, in fact it was kept in a closet in the sacristy, which I also knew well from having, off and on over the years, opened to help myself to a gulp of communion wine from the half-gallon bottle of cheap port (long decades ago confessed privately to God and absolved by myself).

As we got out of the car (yes, green 1948 Dodge sedan) my mother introduced me to the building as "our new church". I asked her What's its name? She said it's "either Nativity or Holy Nativity, we haven't decided yet". Our priest was Father David Damon, recently graduated from Sewanee. The Damons were no strangers: they'd been members with us at St Andrew's Church while David was an engineer at the Navy Base; and as a younger teen I had many times babysat for David and Olive's children at their home in the Cove.

That was my beginning here, and my first memory. What? Going on 66 years? I have felt accepted, appreciated, and loved here since that first Sunday morning. It was here that Father Damon advised me against seminary, to try the Navy. Linda and I were married here, our children were baptized here on weekends when we were home on Navy leave. The place of my heart. To serve here as the rector's clergy helper in my retirement years as an Episcopal priest is the joy of my life. Father Steve is fun to work with, and he knows I don't covet his job (BTDT). The astonishing gift I received from you at Christmas bowled me over, knocked me down. Jiminy! Thank you so very much. Do you really like me that much? Even at 85, how can I retire to 7H from helper ministry as Priest Associate at a church where I feel so loved?! What, Father Tom retire? Well, there comes a Time. Maybe not yet. Maybe a little longer.

Thank you. Sincerely, thank you.
With love and gratitude,
Tom+

Thank You

I am humbled and grateful for the incredible kindnesses so many of you showed to Lori and me over the holidays. We are especially thankful for the monetary gift that was coordinated by the vestry. Your graciousness is a gift we will always remember and celebrate. While our year has not been what any of us would have hoped, our life as a community of faith continued uninterrupted in how we cared for each other and for those we are called to serve. I am grateful to be walking this path with you. It is an honor to be your rector and I look forward, as I know you do, to the opportunities this coming year will present for us. Thank you seems so inadequate, but I'm convinced that gratitude is an expression of God's presence; a presence so vividly on display in this wonderful parish.

God Love You and Thanks,

Steve+



The Good Book Club

Through this Season of Epiphany we are reading and lightly studying the Gospel according to Mark. As our parish part in that, I'm the designated contact working with the diocesan representative and daily publishing and commenting on each day's appointed reading -- publishing it in my +Time blog and then posting links to that both in my personal Facebook page and in the HNEC Facebook page, and it's also accessible through the Holy Nativity website. This is a task and ministry I especially enjoy for all sorts of reasons: I love Mark, which is my favorite gospel and (along with Revelation) my favorite New Testament book; it feels like a daily session with my adult Sunday School class (which is my favorite ministry); it gives me something to do mentally which is beneficial to me both as an elderly person and to engage Time during the pandemic; and when I do something like this I always learn more than anyone else. I hope parishioners are enjoying this travel through Mark's gospel, which finishes on Shrove Tuesday, February 16th.

In this regard, I've not been notified or asked yet, but my expectation is that -- just as we did three years ago when Mark was our principal gospel for Lectionary Year B -- I anticipate that The Good Book Club will continue, with the Book of the Acts of the Apostles through Lent and the Easter Season, which will go to Pentecost, May 23. But I decline, I'm giving myself a break, I'll not be the HNEC contact person for TGBC study of Acts. If you would be interested in taking this on (and doing it your way), and especially if you have completed EfM, I invite you to contact me twellerpc@gmail.com

Children's Ministry February 2021

By Beverly McDaniel

Would you like to celebrate the SOUPER BOWL? Would you like to wear your favorite team's colors to church? (Baseball, basketball, football, soccer, ice hockey...it doesn't matter.) Would you like to help stock our Backpack Ministry with soup? On Sunday, February 7th, you can do it all! Use your cans of soup to vote for the team that you hope will win, or for the team that you think will win. Each can of soup is one vote and you can vote many times. Do you want the TAMPA BAY BUCCANEERS or the KANSAS CITY CHIEFS? We are trying to get lots of soup for the backpacks so pick a team and bring many cans for them. If you can't go to the store for soup, you can use dollars. Each dollar equals one can of soup.

What a wonderful Christmas Eve Service Holy Nativity Episcopal Church was able to offer at Holy Nativity Episcopal School's "Holy Pavilion" on a cold and windy Christmas Eve during a world-wide pandemic! It was quite a challenge, and as it turned out, quite an accomplishment. Thank you, Fr. Steve, for having the courage and the confidence to carry on in spite of the weather. Thank you, Liz Ward, for pulling everything (costumes, props, a manger, Baby Jesus, etc.) together to present a pageant to remember. And thanks to Mr. Wonderful, Magic Matt Ward, and Emily Brock, for help with logistics and heavy lifting. Thank you, Madge Smith and A.J. Jeffery, for organizing and preparing the pavilion with the altar, furniture, and chairs spaced appropriately. We also appreciate A.J.'s expertise with sound systems so that he and John Durgan could provide the Christmas music that we love, and we could hear the gorgeous voices of Sharon Carroll and Leigh Gladden. I particularly appreciate Stephanie Skiba coming from Forest Park Methodist to play for the Children's Pageant. Also, many thanks go to our amazing Leebrick Sisters who sang with the children and who helped with anything and everything. For those of you who volunteered, and I have not had a chance to thank in person, I say, "Bravo! Way to Go! Great Job!". Although I was not among the congregation, I was watching and listening from my car. I was deeply touched and immensely proud of our church, the church staff, the volunteers, the youth group, the adorable children, and the faithful, hardy souls who came out in that weather to worship on Christmas Eve. The service certainly met the criteria for being both meaningful and memorable, and I will add, it was marvelous.



John

Feb. 1 **Morrow**
 Feb. 2 **Monica Phillips**
 Feb. 3 **Lenka Doran**
 Feb. 4 **Wes Eberhard, Shani Lee, Daniel Melzer**
 Feb. 5 **Mary Mittiga**
 Feb. 6 **Isaac Ward**
 Feb. 7 **Dana Ledman**
 Feb. 9 **Samantha Smith**
 Feb. 10 **Monica Cramer, Michelle Kraut, Brian Leebrick**
 Feb. 11 **Hannah Davis, Gene Miller, Susan Nelson, Hercules Pettis, Jeannette Tremaine**
 Feb. 13 **Levi Barton, Scott Clemons, Krista Niziol**
 Feb. 15 **Connie McClellan**
 Feb. 16 **Kate Smith**
 Feb. 17 **Arthur Kraut**
 Feb. 18 **Charlotte Eberhard, Nancy Hebert**
 Feb. 19 **Jackson Lee**
 Feb. 21 **Martin Brust, Bert Churchill, Eddie San Juan**
 Feb. 22 **Steve Dick, Allen Nease, Mario San Juan, Lauren Stewart**
 Feb. 23 **Suzanne Grossman**
 Feb. 24 **Hansson Henneberg**
 Feb. 25 **Lori Faison, Nancy Pride, Kevin Wattenbarger, Sue White**
 Feb. 26 **Edyth Brown, David Burris**
 Feb. 27 **David Lithway**
 Feb. 28 **Ashley Doran**



Feb. 5 **Ted** and **Ina Joy Conrad**
 Feb. 16 **Martin and Kathy Brust**
 Feb. 19 **Wayland and Glenda Patterson**
 Feb. 24 **Dunkin and Edwina McLane**

Not ready to return to in person church?

Online Offerings:

Sunday 9:15 am Adult Sunday School
 Sunday 10:30 am service
 Wednesday 5:30 pm service

You can go directly to our Facebook page or go to www.holy-nativity.org/echurch and click on the "view live services" tab. Look for reminder's in your email and on Facebook.



Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for February 2021

Feb. 7	Feb 14	Feb. 21	Feb. 28
Altar Guild: Joanne MacPhee and Kaew Sumpton	Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller, Victoria Williams, Nancy Breland	Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Mary Bonham, Lisa McLendon	Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Amy Russell, Barbara Knowles
Ushers 8:00 am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: Linda Weller and Lori Bates	Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips and Dawn Johnson 10:30 am: Russell and Beth Brock	Ushers 8:00 am: Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan 10:30 am: John Hutt and Wes Eberhard	Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Max and Joyce Dannecker
Greeters	Greeters	Greeters	Greeters
NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC			
Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Gene Wicker 10:30 am: Scott Clemons	Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Joanne MacPhee 10:30 am: Kelly Roberson	Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Nancy Breland	Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Dan Johnson 10:30 am: Brian Leebrick
Acolytes for 10:30 Ashtyn Williams	Acolytes for 10:30 Shelby and Stevens Roberson	Acolytes for 10:30 Tyler Shores	Acolytes for 10:30 Brody Fuller
Lector at 10:30 am Tom Ledman	Lector at 10:30 am Daniel Melzer	Lector at 10:30 am Holly Melzer	Lector at 10:30 am Jenny Collier
Tablecloth Ministry:	Tablecloth Ministry:	Tablecloth Ministry:	Tablecloth Ministry:
NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC			

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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
Director of Music - John Durgan
Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith
Children's CE Director - Beverly McDaniel
Church Bookkeeper – Kathy Mills
Sexton - Deana Gailfoil
Nursery Attendants - Emily Brock & Kaew Sumpton

THE VESTRY

Fr. Steve Bates - Rector
Tricia Berry 2023
Joe Ciccarelli 2024
Ian Crelling 2022 Sr. Warden
Tiffany Ennis 2022
Mark Godwin - Treasurer
John Hutt 2024
Tom Ledman 2024

Brian Leebrick 2023
George McInnis 2023
Ivan Pereira 2022 Jr. Warden
Mary Ellen Pettis-2023
Kelly Roberson 2022
Madge Smith - Clerk
Gene Wicker 2023

SCHEDULE OF WORSHIP SERVICES

<i>Sunday 8:00 a.m. -</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Rite I</i>
<i>9:15 a.m. -</i>	<i>Adult Sunday School</i>
<i>10:30 a.m. -</i>	<i>Holy Eucharist - Rite II</i>
<i>Wednesday 5:30 pm -</i>	<i>five-thirty casual service fol-</i>
<i>lowed</i>	<i>by supper and programs</i>