



the NATIVITY *Scene*

Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida

April 2021
Volume 25, Issue 4



HONORING OUR GRADUATES!

**May 2, 2021
10:30 am Service**

Celebrate with us as we honor
our 2021 graduates!

If you know of any graduate(s) that
need to be included, please contact
the church office.
madge@holy-nativity.org
or 747-4000.

BISHOP'S VISIT AND MOTHER'S DAY! MAY 9, 2021

Join us as we celebrate
Mother's Day
and
we welcome

Bishop Russell Kendrick
to Holy Nativity!

Confirmation Service at 10:30 am





**SHELL ISLAND SUNDAY RETURNS!
MARK YOUR CALENDARS FOR MAY 16TH!**

**This will mark our tenth anniversary of worship and
fellowship at Shell Island.
Look for T-shirts and ferry sign-up sheets soon!**

Wonderful Wednesdays!

(Wonderful Wednesdays are on a tentative schedule due to the cold weather. Please check your emails with updates).

5:30 pm: Casual Eucharist (Live-streamed on Facebook)
 6:00 pm: Supper at the Pavilion
 6:30 pm: Programs for all ages



WEDNESDAY NIGHT END OF THE YEAR BLOWOUT!! MAY 19TH!

5:30 pm: Casual Eucharist Service
 6:00pm: Cookout with special guest-30A Oyster Guy!

Special Activities for the kids!
 Water Slide: Kids bring your swimsuits!



Thank-you to all those who assisted with the Spring Spruce-up, the campus looked so good for Easter!

Spring and Wednesday nights, there is nothing better. Come and worship and hang-out with us for food and friends.

Summer with soon be here but first we have some events,
 Packing the Backpack Buddies
 Mothers Day Service
 Confirmation with Bishop Russell
 Shell Island Sunday
 End of Season Blow Out! with an inflatable!!

Hope to see you here.

AJ Jeffery, Youth Director
 832-8324
aussie_aj@holy-nativity.org

The Mary Martha Circle Of the Episcopal Community Outreach Report

The Mary Martha Circle of Holy Nativity donated 100 Easter Gift bags to the residents of St. Andrew's Bay Nursing Center as part of their community outreach.

The modest gift bags included a pair of bright Spring socks, a bookmark and an Easter Egg. There were also two dozen hand knitted Easter Chicks, created and donated by Theresa Townsend. The bags were delivered to the Home Easter Week.

If you would like to become part of this women's group or find out more information, please contact Joanne MacPhee at jomacoms@gmail.com or 247-2923.

Adult Christian Education, Father Tom

Dear friends, good morning/afternoon, and shalom!

After a year we are still in various levels of lockdown and restrained social involvement due to covid, including at church and Sunday School - - and I don't know about you, but speaking for myself, vaccinated, healthy and reasonably alert, I'm trying take the optimist view, and am indeed experiencing, that we humans are innovative to accommodate circumstances, and we seem to be bringing some good out of even this.

More than ever, Linda and I appreciate living into retirement together and at home overlooking St Andrews Bay to our south, east and west, a lovely park and downtown St Andrews to the north. We somewhat miss dining out, but not really, and I've found a source for fried oysters - - call first then go down to Hunt's Oyster Bar and pick up my order - - Hunt's are so close I can see them from my office here!

Church attendance, and Sunday School attendance, are lean, much sparser than "before", but like the rest of Life, this is now not then, and as the bill on my orange cap proclaims, Life Is Good. Both are streamed online for anyone who wants to attend from a distance, and I've learned to ignore the camera and not let it bother me, more certain than ever that I'm not called to televangelism. Worship, church services, are somewhat abbreviated and I've grown to prefer it this way. It takes longer to prepare a shorter sermon, but that's good. There's less ceremony, and I'm appreciating that. John's prelude music beautifully takes the place of our "before" prelude and processional hymn combo, I'm good with keeping it that way opening and closing, having just the sequence for our one sung hymn. Though instead of sitting I'd prefer to stand for the sequence as that's when, theologically, we honor Christ coming into the midst of us, the Word present in and as the Gospel. You can read the Nicene Creed as well as we can all stand and recite it, and I'm always good with that.

Anymore, the eucharistic feast is Bread only now, and line up to come up front for it instead of kneeling at the Altar rail: that's longstanding practice in Roman Catholicism, and I'm all for it as a new Tradition even though forced upon us. Speaking for myself alone, I cannot see the common chalice ever returning, and for all the reasons that the chalice is suspended now, I'd favor keeping it this way; here at Holy Nativity most people had gotten around to receiving only the Bread anyway.

So what else to say? Adult Sunday School class goes on, 9:15 to 10:15, between services, in the parish library. Come early, come on time, come late, all are welcome. Class sessions are no longer as wonderfully noisy as pre-covid, but we are keeping on keeping on, including through the Spring and Summer into Fall - - I do not like sitting out the time between services, so we'll continue without taking the summer break that some other parish events do. Mostly Bible study, mostly the readings appointed by the Lectionary for the Sunday; although I'm thinking that during the summer we may digress into some of the Bible books we're less familiar with - - an Apocrypha book or two, maybe one of those short OT prophecies like Obadiah, maybe a Titus, Timothy, or John epistle. Maybe a non-canonical gospel or epistle from Early Christian Writings. Stay tuned, things are getting better and better!

Lovingly,
Tom+

Children's Ministry April 2021

By Beverly McDaniel

Easter services at Holy Nativity Episcopal Church were particularly glorious this year. Since the pandemic, many of us classified as high risk (and some just old and “with an abundance of caution”), had not attended church in person for a year. (Father Tom and Linda make me feel like such a weakling.) Some of us, recently vaccinated and returning from self-imposed quarantine, became quite emotional upon seeing each other and in being able to worship together in our beautiful church. It was joyful indeed.

Drawing from an informal survey of the children and their parents, it was joyful for them as well. Although we did without an Easter Egg Hunt, the children seemed to be incredibly happy with their age-appropriate and carefully curated Easter Bags. The middle schoolers and high school students were surprised and delighted that they also received Easter Bags. Best of all, no children went home upset because their siblings or their friends had more eggs than they did.

During the rest of April and May, there will be several special events and schedule changes that we need to mark on our calendars. As the CDC and our Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast relax some Covid restrictions, we will follow suit. We will return to having our volunteers in the nursery and have volunteer teachers helping with Children's Church and Wonderful Wednesday Evenings. We do appreciate very much Emily Brock's work in Children's Ministry and in the nursery during this time. Please call me or text me with your preferences for volunteer positions. (850-832-8324)

May's schedule will be a bit different. On Sunday, May 2nd, we will be recognizing our high school seniors. May 9th is Mother's Day with children participating in the service, AND ALSO the Bishop will visit for confirmation. The 16th is Shell Island Sunday. Other information is included in this newsletter and in forthcoming notices. BOLO.

Please call me or text me with your ideas and suggestions for Christian Formation. What do you want for your children? As we become vaccinated and accustomed to safety measures, we want to develop children's programs that are comprehensive, engaging, and fun so that our children are eager to be at church. Let us be so thankful that we can be together again. Please be thinking of ways to make this happen. Let's use this pandemic as a positive springboard to re-energize our children's programs toward the understanding and development of a loving spiritual relationship with God, the Church, and each other.



Apr. 2 Jim Sandlin, Duncan Scott,
Chris Stamps
 Apr. 3 Avery Wattenbarger
 Apr. 4 Alyssa Shores
 Apr. 5 Mac Bonham, Mason
Wattenbarger
 Apr. 9 Anna McCord
 Apr. 10 Sarah Dick
 Apr. 11 Deana Gailfoil
 Apr. 13 Jewell Harding, Parker
McClellan
 Apr. 16 Richard Doran, Wylie Roupp
 Apr. 18 Rosemary Cramer, Greg Presser
 Apr. 19 Bethany Nowak, Esteban
Pereira
 Apr. 20 Ben Lee
 Apr. 22 Henry Breland, Steve McClain,
Joe Parell, Stephanie Pettis,
James Thompson, Joseph
Thompson
 Apr. 23 Wyatt Syfrett
 Apr. 25 Robert Dozar
 Apr. 26 Adam Cantrell
 Apr. 27 Alex Phillips, Faith Smith
 Apr. 28 Abram Jeffery
 Apr. 29 Bailey Melzer, Madge Smith
 Apr. 30 Alvin Peters, Marion Wallace



Apr. 8 Robert and Cristiana Jansenius
 Apr. 9 David and Madge Smith
 Apr. 16 Max and Joyce Dannecker
 Apr. 17 Chad and Sunny Barton
 Apr. 20 Jim and Kelly Roberson
 Apr. 21 Chris and Kathy Mills
Hercules and Mary Ellen Pettis
 Apr. 22 Dan and Laura Johnson
 Apr. 30 Jeff and Kate Watson

Important Websites for you to visit!

[Holy Nativity Episcopal Church | Panama City, FL \(holy-nativity.org\)](http://holy-nativity.org)
[The Online Book of Common Prayer \(bcponline.org\)](http://bcponline.org)
[Home | Episcopal Diocese of the Central Gulf Coast | United States \(diocgc.org\)](http://diocgc.org)
[Home – The Episcopal Church BECKWITH - HOME \(beckwithal.com\)](http://beckwithal.com)
<https://www.wilmerhall.org>
[Murray House Assisted Living \(murrayhouseliving.com\)](http://murrayhouseliving.com)



Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for April 2021

| Apr. 4 Easter! | Apr. 11 | Apr. 18 | Apr. 25 |
|---|---|--|--|
| Altar Guild: Rhonda Miller, Victoria Williams, Nancy Breland | Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Mary Bonham, Lisa McLendon | Altar Guild: Marla Churchill, Amy Russell, Barbara Knowles | Altar Guild: Tim and Monica Phillips, Mary Mitiga, David Burris |
| Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips and Dawn Johnson 9:15 am: Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan 10:30 am: Max and Joyce Dannecker | Ushers 8:00 am: Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell 10:30 am: Charles and Mary Bonham | Ushers 8:00 am: Dan and Laura Johnson 10:30 am: John Thompson and Chris Mills | Ushers 8:00 am: Tim Phillips and Dawn Johnson 10:30 am: Linda Weller and Lori Bates |
| Greeters | Greeters | Greeters | Greeters |
| <i>NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC</i> | | | |
| Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Dan Johnson 9:15 am: Brian Leebrick 10:30 am: Joe Ciccarelli | Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Theresa Townsend 10:30 am: Lisa McLendon | Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Joanne MacPhee 10:30 am: Scott Clemons | Chancel Ministers 8:00 am: Kathleen Wicker 10:30 am: Kelly Roberson |
| Acolytes 9:15 am: Ginny, Beka, and Kate Leebrick 10:30 am: Carson and Lauren Berry, Bailey and Will Melzer | Acolytes for 10:30 Ashtyn Williams | Acolytes for 10:30 Tyler Shores | Acolytes for 10:30 Nicolas Pereira |
| Lector 9:15 am: Rich Doran 10:30 am: Holly Melzer | Lector at 10:30 am Tom Ledman | Lector at 10:30 am Jenny Collier | Lector at 10:30 am Ivan Pereira |
| Tablecloth Ministry: | Tablecloth Ministry: | Tablecloth Ministry: | Tablecloth Ministry: |
| <i>NOT ACTIVE DURING PANDEMIC</i> | | | |

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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
Anna Eberhard 2024
Tiffany Ennis 2022
Mark Godwin - Treasurer
John Hutt 2024

Joanne MacPhee 2023
Ivan Pereira 2022 Jr. Warden
Mary Ellen Pettis-2023
Kelly Roberson 2022
Madge Smith - Clerk
John Thompson 2024
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 followed by supper and programs</i> |