



# the NATIVITY Scene

*Holy Nativity Episcopal Church • Panama City, Florida*

June/July 2023  
Volume 27, Issue 6

Mother's Day! We honored our Mothers, our Graduates, and our Acolytes!  
More Photos on Facebook!



May 22, 2023

Dear Ones,

While I knew this day would come, it doesn't make it any easier. Tonight, I announced to our Vestry my intention to retire effective May, 2024. This decision has been the result of much prayer, thought and reflection. Serving as the Rector of Holy Nativity and Chaplain at Holy Nativity School have been one of the great joys of my life. And 18+ years is a long run by any standard. I came here all those years ago, even when I wasn't sure it made sense personally, because I believed I was called to be here. And now I will leave you feeling that same sense of call. As the writer of Ecclesiastes tells us, "For everything there is a season." I believe I'm being called not only to a new season in my own life but that, you too, are being called to a new season in the life of this beloved parish.

You'll notice that the effective date of my retirement is a year from now. I'm excited about that and hope you will be too. Our Bishop asked if I would consider a different model for retirement and for your next search process. He will be allowing that process to begin immediately which will minimize any time you might have an Interim Rector. I think that's a wonderful thing, especially for Holy Nativity. This process is new for the diocese and a reflection of the Bishop's trust in you as a healthy and faithful parish. Details about the process will be forthcoming and the Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary (responsible for transition ministry) will be with you on Sunday, June 18 while I'm in Israel.

Lori and I will continue to live in Panama City. Lori will continue running her business. Both of us are interested in more travel. And we do have a lot of birthday parties, school events, football, soccer and baseball games to catch up on in Dallas. As your rector for still another year I intend to continue to serve as best I can. We'll continue our programs, plans, ministries, and dreams. And I will give thanks to God each day for the honor of being the Rector of this incredibly wonderful place.

God love you, Steve+

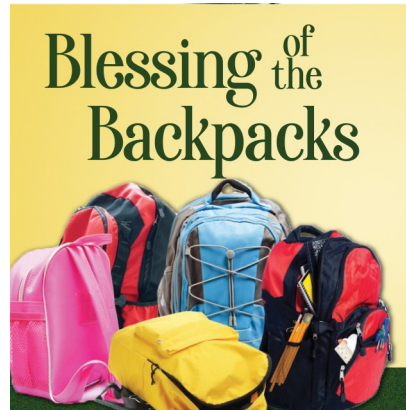
## MARK YOUR CALENDARS

The Rev. Ashley Freeman, our Diocesan Canon to the Ordinary (responsible for transition ministry) will be with us for both services on June 18 while Father Steve is in Israel. He will be preaching at both services and will be available for any questions you might have regarding the transition process. Please join us in welcoming Ashley.

## It's time to update the Church Directory!

There will be copies of the church directory on the welcome table for you to check your contact information. Please make corrections if needed.

Update  
your  
Information.



### ***Rally Day and Blessing of the Backpacks:!***

***August 6, 2023***

*Join us for this fun Sunday!*

*Lay Ministry Fair all morning.*

*Blessing of the Backpacks during the 10:30 service.*

*Parish Potluck after the 10:30 am service. Meat will be provided.*

*Kids: bring your swimsuits for the waterslide.*

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## Shell Island Sunday is September 17th!

Service at 11 am at the island. Both regular services will be held at the church.  
Come in your own boat, hitch a ride with a friend, or sign up to ride the ferry. A display will be out in August in the foyer.  
Parish Picnic after the service. Bring a side dish and meat will be provided.  
Please bring your own beverages.

### Children's Ministry *By Liz Ward*

Happy Summer! I am pleased and honored to be serving as the new Director of Children's Ministry here at HNEC. For those of you that don't know me, my name is Liz Ward and I'm wife to Matt and Mom to Isaac (13) & Evan (9). I've been a member of the Episcopal church my entire life, and part of HNEC the past 8 years. I teach PreK, Elementary Drama, and a Middle School elective at HNES. My love and calling to ministry with children has been in my heart since I was a Counselor at Camp Beckwith many years ago, and has been a big part of my life since moving back to Panama City in 2015. During our first Sunday service Mrs. McDaniel hugged my neck, signed me up, and had me teaching Children's Church before I even unpacked! I'm so glad she did and am blessed to have her continued support as she begins her well earned retirement and I move into this new role. I look forward to getting to know the needs of our children and families better this summer. I want to know what you love about what we do in Children's Ministry, and what you'd love to see us do in the future. HNEC is a church with a heart for children. I look forward to working together with you to help our children to know God's love deeply in their hearts.





## Birthdays

June 4 Michele Hahn, Bruce Josten  
 June 5 Madelyn Reeder  
 June 6 Garrett Healey  
 June 8 Cristina Jansenius, Dan Johnson  
 June 9 Tricia Berry, Pat Nease  
 June 11 Michael Lovchuk  
 June 12 Paula Hart, Lisa McLendon, Liz Robin  
 June 14 Don Hodges  
 June 16 Rick Staurt  
 June 17 Jason Smith  
 June 18 Mary Ellen Harding  
 June 20 Ken Davis, Greg Gladden  
 June 23 Lauren Berry, Taylor Bradley  
 June 24 Zachary Cox  
 June 26 Marcus Duffy, Jim Dunham, Mike Morrow  
 June 27 Paula Weaver  
 June 29 Katherine Pride  
 June 30 Peggy Vasta  
  
 July 3 Will Lark  
 July 5 Candee England, Kirsten McCord, John Thompson  
 July 7 Trey Hutt, Beka Leebrick, Kate Leebrick  
 July 9 Finn Oenbrink, Celia Stamps  
 July 10 Paul Brust, Mary Darrah, Mary Kathryn San Juan, Linda Weller  
 July 12 Molly Grace Bradford  
 July 13 Boopie McInnis, Bud Shuler  
 July 14 Carol Calton, Morgan Williams  
 July 15 Tiffany Ennis, Florence Fortier  
 July 16 Eliza Jeffery  
 July 17 Caleb Jeffery  
 July 18 Jenny Collier  
 July 19 Kirstie Cantrell  
 July 20 Jack Casady  
 July 21 Charles Bonham, Evan Cox  
 July 24 Chris Young  
 July 25 Ginny Leebrick, Kathy Mills  
 July 26 Dennis Boston, Joe Ciccarelli, Jim Hixson  
 July 29 Laura Johnson  
 July 30 Melanie Coulliette  
 July 31 Garrett Bonham, Kimberly Gailfoil, Nancy Phares, Maggie Wattenbarger



## Anniversaries

June 1 Powell and Tiffany Ennis  
 June 2 Arthur and Michelle Kraut  
 June 3 Egon and Karen Seubert  
 June 6 Adam and Kirstie Cantrell  
 June 7 Charles and Mary Bonham  
 Drew and Maki Jernigan  
 June 10 Parker and Connie McClellan  
 June 12 James and Krissy Oenbrink  
 June 13 Jason and Ashley Steiner  
 June 15 John and Teresa Durgan  
 June 16 Don and Dianne Hodges  
 June 18 George and Boopie McInnis  
 June 20 John and Joy Thompson  
 June 22 Russell and Beth Brock  
 June 24 Gordon and Patti Akst  
 Mark and Nina Godwin  
 June 27 Jan and Stacy Herring  
 June 29 Tom and Linda Weller  
 June 30 Scott and Pat Clemons  
  
 July 1 Dennis and Rita Boston  
 Ben and Shani Lee  
 July 3 Steve and Kathy Dick  
 July 12 Steve and Lori Bates  
 July 13 David and P.D. Landreth  
 July 23 Marcus and Taylor Duffy  
 July 30 Joe and Sandy Ciccarelli  
 July 31 Mitch and Ann Leonard

The Church Calendar is always  
 on the homepage of the  
 church's website.  
[www.holy-nativity.org](http://www.holy-nativity.org)

## Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for June 2023

June 4	June 11	June 18	June 25
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Gene and Kathleen Wicker, Tricia Berry, Mary Bonham	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Dan and Robin Finley, Nancy Roupp, Joyce Dannecker, Joanne MacPhee	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Joanne MacPhee, Kaew Sump-ton, Alice Allen	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Rhonda Miller, Victoria Wil-liams, Nancy Breland, Boopie McInnis
<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell <b>10:30 am:</b> John Hutt and Trey Hutt	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Tim Phillips and Tim Pride <b>10:30 am:</b> Ian Crelling and Daniel Melzer	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Dan and Laura Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> John Thomp-son and Chris Mills	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan <b>10:30 am:</b> Charles and Mary Bonham
<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Marla Church-ill <b>10:30 am:</b> TBA	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Monica Phil-lips <b>10:30 am:</b> TBA	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Phyllis Hunt <b>10:30 am:</b> Jani Smith	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Ursula Hixson <b>10:30 am:</b> Michael Fuller
<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Theresa Town-send and Joanne Mac-Phee <b>10:30 am:</b> Kelly Rob-erson and Scott Clemons	<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Dan and Laura Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> Joe Ciccarelli and Brian Leebrick	<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Theresa Townsend and Joanne MacPhee <b>10:30 am:</b> Ian Crelling and George McInnis	<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Dan and Laura Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> Lisa McLen-don and Kelly Roberson
<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Nicolas Pereira, Isaac and Evan Ward, Scarlett Jer-nigan, Esteban Pereira	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> John Moore, Esteban Pe-reira, Alex and Tom Moore	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Grady Oenbrink, Jackson Lee, Wyatt Syfrett	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Jackson Lee, Emma and Matheson Crellng, Laney Lee
<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> TBA	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Michael Lovchuk	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Daniel Melzer	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Rich Doran

## Worship Lay Ministry Schedule for July 2023

July 2	July 9	July 16	July 23	July 30
<b>Altar Guild:</b> Marla Churchill, Mary Bonham, Lisa McLendon	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Marla Churchill, Cheryl Duffey, Amy Russell, Barbara Knowles	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Tim and Monica Phillips, Mary Mitti- ga and David Burrs, Katy Bradford	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Dan and Robin Fin- ley, Joanne Mac- Phee, Nancy Roupp, Tricia Berry	<b>Altar Guild:</b> Gene and Kathleen Wicker, Joyce Dannecker, Melanie Cox
<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell <b>10:30 am:</b> Linda Weller and Lori Bates	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Dan and Laura Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> Russell and Beth Brock	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Tim Phil- lips and Tim Pride <b>10:30 am:</b> John Hutt and Trey Hutt	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Jim Hixson and Parker McClellan <b>10:30 am:</b> Ian Crel- ling and Daniel Melzer	<b>Ushers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Bert Churchill and Jerry Darnell <b>10:30 am:</b> John Thompson and Chris Mills
<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Marla Churchill <b>10:30 am:</b> Michael Fuller	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Phyllis Hunt <b>10:30 am:</b> Linda Weller	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Monica Phillips <b>10:30 am:</b> Jani Smith	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Ursula Hixson <b>10:30 am:</b> Michel Fuller	<b>Greeters</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Marla Churchill <b>10:30 am:</b> Lori Bates
<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Joanne MacPhee and Cheryl Duffey <b>10:30 am:</b> Ian Crel- ling and Scott Clemons	<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Gene and Kathleen Wicker <b>10:30 am:</b> George McInnis and Nancy Breland	<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Dan and Laura Johnson <b>10:30 am:</b> Brian Leebrick and Joe Ciccarelli	<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Theresa Townsend and Cheryl Duffey <b>10:30 am:</b> Lisa McLendon and Joyce Dannecker	<b>Chalice Bearers</b> <b>8:00 am:</b> Gene and Kathleen Wicker <b>10:30 am:</b> Scott Clemons and Kelly Roberson
<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Brody Fuller, Grady and Finn Oenbrink, Scarlet Jerigan	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> John, Alex, and Tom Moore, Charlotte Eberhard	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Nicolas and Esteban Pereira, Isaac and Evan Ward	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Bailey and Will Melzer, Lauren Ber- ry, Wyatt Syfrett	<b>Acolytes for 10:30</b> Jackson and Laney Lee, Emma and Matheson Crelling
<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> None	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Holly Melzer	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Michael Lovchuk	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Rich Doran	<b>Lector at 10:30 am</b> Daniel Melzer



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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/Video Production- AJ Jeffery*  
*Director of Music - John Durgan*  
*Administrative Assistant - Madge Smith*  
*Children's CE Director - Liz Ward*  
*Children's Choir Director - Leigh Gladden*  
*Church Bookkeeper – Kathy Mills*  
*Sexton - Deana Gailfoil*  
*Nursery Attendant - Kaew Sumpton*

## **THE VESTRY**

*Fr. Steve Bates - Rector*  
*Tricia Berry 2023*  
*Beth Brock 2026*  
*Joe Ciccarelli 2024*  
*Anna Eberhard 2024*  
*Mark Godwin - Treasurer*  
*Jim Hixson 2026*  
*John Hutt 2024*

*Terry Jangula 2026 Jr. Warden*  
*Joanne MacPhee 2023*  
*Ivan Pereira 2022 Sr. Warden*  
*Karen Shores 2023*  
*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 with Children's Chapel</i>

<i>Wednesday 5:30 pm -</i>	<i>(Sept.-May) five-thirty casual service followed by supper and programs</i>
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