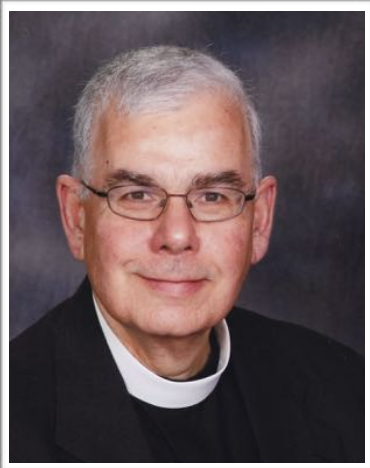




May
2019

THE NATIVITY SCENE



A Place of Grace for All People

I heard a sermon by Dr. James Forbes, who at the time served as Senior Minister at Riverside Church in New York City. Dr. Forbes recounted his childhood in North Carolina when all eight children were summoned to the dinner table by their mother. Everybody would gather around the table, and just as she was ready to serve the meal, she would always say, “Are all the children in?”

That’s a wonderful phrase, isn’t it? “Are all the children in?” Families, by their very nature, are supposed to be inclusive. If you’re part of the family, you have a place at the table. You might be a good family member. You might not be so good a family member. Whatever – if you’re part of the family, you have a place

at the table.

One of my main tasks as your Interim Rector has been to bring the people in this parish together in common mission. Frankly, I think we are a very different parish from the one I first experienced when I began my ministry with you in September 2017. Morale is high. Members feel good about the church and about themselves. Financially, we have no debt. Numerically, we are growing and attracting new members. Spiritually, people are thinking through their faith as never before. Pastorally, members are being cared for, visited and ministered to. Missionally, our outreach is at an all-time high, with many volunteers for a plethora of ministries. By any standard of measurement, Nativity is a healthy, wholesome, multigenerational church.

Of course, we have our challenges, as does any church. You may have read about a recent report on religion that church membership is at an all-time low – about 50% of Americans belong to a church or house of worship, even as 77% still claim to believe in God or a higher power. The largest religious demographic group in America are the “nones” – people without any church affiliation. Some nones are atheists, some agnostics, but the majority are simply “secular but not religious” – which means that even if they do believe in God, organized religion is not an option. Nones tend to be educated, liberal or moderate in their politics, solidly middle or upper middle class, concerned about the planet, and placing a high value on freedom and autonomy while also wanting community and connection. How does the Episcopal Church reach these people? No one has yet come up with an effective strategy to reach the nones, though Methodist theologian George Hunter has written a series of influential books on the issue. I am convinced that the key to Episcopal church growth is to reach secular people.

This parish and its new rector will need to work on a church growth strategy to reach secular people – I have my own thoughts on the matter. But what I want to share with you in this: the key to the future well-being of Nativity is to remain a united parish – holding together despite any political or even theological differences.

Continued on page 3

Nativity Schedule

22405 N. Miller Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255
Telephone:
480-307-9216
www.NativityScottsdale.org

Sunday Schedule!

8:30	Holy Eucharist Rite I
10:00	Festive Eucharist Rite II
11:00	Hospitality
11:00	Christian Formation
11:15	Bible Study for Adults



Wednesday Schedule

6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer Rite II with Holy Communion
6:30 p.m.	Bible Study Wednesday

Nativity Staff

The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi, Interim Rector
GaryNicolosi@TheNativity.net

The Rev. Dr. Wayne V. Whitney, Associate Rector
WayneWhitney@TheNativity.net

Juliana Witt, Music Director
julianawitt@TheNativity.net

Mandy Hodges, Christian Ed. Director
mandyhodges@theNativity.net

The Rev. Martha Durham, Deacon
marthadurham@theNativity.net

Fr. John Millar
Priest Associate

Mina Rafferty
Parish Administrator
MinaRafferty@TheNativity.net

Ernesto Escamilla, Sexton

Nativity's Vestry

Senior Warden:	Suzanne Cohen 480-586-6625 Secohenjd@yahoo.com
Junior Warden:	Warren Sambach 480-451-6995 nywarren@cox.net
Treasurer	Art Graf 602-695-3400 mxgk25a@aol.com
Sarah Banks	480-204-1732 sdwnaz@yahoo.com
Jon Bost	602-618-6781 JonRBost@yahoo.com
Margaret Cohea	703-717-1877 mvcohea246@gmail.com
Bill Deihl	480-223-7796 bjdeihl@aol.com
Jennifer Goins	480-655-5355 azjen13@hotmail.com
Norma Hyatt	623-516-9346 nvhyatt@gmail.com
Paul Rank	513-300-3729 paulrank1@mac.com

In my time at Nativity, there have been some parishioners who have left the parish and gone to either big independent churches, or Bible churches, or even the Catholic Church. I respect anyone's faith journey to choose the church that works best for them. But the truth is: there are no perfect churches because there are no perfect people. In the end, it is grace alone by faith alone in Christ alone that saves, not our doctrine or purity or righteousness or good judgments.

Right now, the Episcopal Church is changing rapidly. We are electing more and more female bishops, and I predict within the next ten years (or less) we will have parity between the sexes in the House of Bishops. At the parish level an increasing number of rectors are female - and that number is growing. Likewise, the number of gay and lesbian clergy is growing in the Episcopal Church and right here in the Diocese of Arizona - our own Dean of Trinity Cathedral is gay.

And yet, whatever the changes in the Episcopal Church, our mission remains unchanging. According to Jesus' Great Commission, our mission is to make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of our Triune God and teaching them to obey everything that Jesus commanded (Mt. 28:19-20). Jesus invites us into a radical way of loving that is unconditioned by our opinion of others' beliefs, actions, cultures, or lifestyles. In my view, we are to be as lavish with God's love as Jesus was and is.

In the Episcopal Church there is great diversity of opinion on ethical, economic, social, theological and political issues. I value that our church does not ignore or deny these differences but provides a place where we can safely and openly discuss them.

The church is always at its best when it is a community of love, acceptance and forgiveness - a place of grace for all people. It is only through love that we will know the mind of Christ. The gate to the kingdom of God is narrow, not because it requires a narrow mindset or viewpoint to enter; rather it is narrow because so few are able to trust that God's love is so wide. It is the wideness of God's love that embraces us all and unites us beyond our human divisions.

What holds us together as Episcopalians is not the purity of our beliefs, but the greatness of God's love shown to us in Jesus, and in our willingness to trust the Holy Spirit's guidance as the church seeks to discern where God would lead us.

Thus, we commit ourselves as a diverse people to worship together, to stay together in fellowship, to listen to one another, to support one another, to respect one another, to care for our neighbors, and in love to follow Jesus, who was and is the perfect expression of love in the world. Let us never forget that Jesus is the one who formed the church, not as a place to stand and divide, but as a place to love and unite.

I believe that the Church is the last best hope for the world. Why do I believe that? I believe it because in a world - and in a country - so deeply divided and politically polarized, the church is that one institution committed by Christ to be an agent of God's love and reconciliation.

Continued on page 4

There is enough division in our world today – Israelis and Palestinians refusing to settle their differences, Hindus and Muslims fighting on the India-Pakistan border, Muslims and Christians engaging in bitter conflicts in African nations, and the list goes on. People in our world seem unable or unwilling to respect differences and live with diversity.

The one place where diversity should not be a threat is the Christian Church. In the church, at least, we should be able to live with our differences. If we cannot do that, then Christians have nothing constructive to say to the rest of the world. Our witness to Christ's love will fall flat. We must show the world that unity amidst diversity is indeed possible in Christ.

In the end, we have more that unites us than divides us. Undergirding our life as Episcopalians is the preaching of the Word of God and the administration of the Sacraments. Week by week we continue to receive the Bread and Wine of Christ's Body and Blood, hear the words of pardon and absolution that our sins are forgiven, and share in our common life together as the people of God.

The Book of Common Prayer assures us that in our reception of the Body and Blood of Christ we are heirs of God's eternal kingdom. And so we are. Change is part of life, but God's love never changes. That love is with us now and forever. At your baby's baptism, at the marriage of your son or daughter, at the death of your loved one, in times of crisis and sickness, in a nursing home or hospital bed, the church is there for you – praying for you, blessing you, pardoning your sins and assuring you of a place in heaven.

So what more could you want in a church? Yes, we Episcopalians are not perfect, only forgiven. We know that the integrity of love is far more important than the purity of doctrine. We would rather be judged for loving too much than loving too little. Say what you like about the Episcopal Church, it is a place of grace for everyone willing to live with grace towards everyone in need of grace.

In this church we all have a place at the table. So, let us reach out to an increasingly secular America with the good news and good works of God's love in Jesus. Let us not just receive the Body of Christ but be the Body of Christ in the world.

And let us never give up on each other because our great God never gives up on us – never!

Your Friend and Interim Rector,
The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolos



One Last Word... About the Gift of Tongues

Heather Nicolosi

In a few weeks our family will be leaving Nativity, now that Gary's interim assignment is coming to an end. All three of us in the Nicolosi household have enjoyed getting to know you over the last 21 months of Gary's tenure. As some of you may recall, last October Gary conducted a S.H.A.P.E. workshop on spiritual gifts. As part of the program, he asked me to say a few words on a gift that I have, the gift of tongues. Some at the workshop wanted more information on the topic, which I am now happy to share with you.

One of the most well-known Bible stories that refers to the gift of tongues is the Pentecost narrative found in Acts 2. Jesus was gone. The disciples were in an upper room waiting for the promised Holy Spirit when suddenly there came upon them a mighty wind and what seemed like tongues of fire rested on each of them. The Bible says, "All of them were filled with the Holy Spirit and began to speak in tongues as the Spirit enabled them." This unusual experience allowed them to communicate the wonders of God with people from all over the known ancient world in their own languages. From that moment on, tongues related to an outpouring of the Holy Spirit.

The Apostle Paul also spoke in tongues. He favored his own language when instructing others, but he was still thankful for the gift (I Cor. 14:18). But why you might ask? He viewed tongues as direct communication with God, and he felt that when a believer was speaking in tongues it was the person's spirit that was praying directly to the Father. "For those who speak in a tongue do not speak to other people but to God" (I Cor. 14:2). He taught that when one was praying in tongues, they were speaking spiritual mysteries or revelations (I Cor. 14:2). Utilizing the gift was helpful in strengthening or edifying their inner spirit, much like the use of a devotional. Tongues might also have been a form of worship (I Cor. 14-15) and used for intercession when one felt burdened about a person and/or situation but didn't know what to say (Rom. 8:26).

Scripture uses phrases like "new tongues" (Mark 16:17), "tongues like fire" (Acts 2:3), "speak with tongues" (Acts 10:46), "different kinds of tongues" (I Cor. 12:10) and "tongues of mortals and of angels" (I Cor. 13:1). According to author Perry Stone, "The word tongues in Greek is glossa, and it can mean "languages" which in context with speaking in tongues are languages not known by the speaker but imparted by the Holy Spirit."

So, languages can be from other nations, other dialects or even heavenly in nature; but unknown to the speaker. I know of one Christian leader who wanted confirmation about what he was speaking. He was delighted when a young woman came up to him after a worship service and said she knew he was speaking Portuguese and that he said, "Hooray, long live Jesus!" Several years ago, an American missionary to Russia recognized immediately the language of a young Russian's new gift of tongues because he spoke English. And when a friend in Canada of Western European heritage speaks in tongues, her tongue has a distinct Asian tone to it, though she knows no Asian languages at all.

Continued on page 6

I myself received the gift of tongues through the laying on hands at an Intervarsity Christian Fellowship meeting one Friday night at college. A guest speaker spoke on the topic. The speaker then laid hands on me to receive the gift of tongues. In a short while, I was speaking in an unknown language. I want to be clear: this was not my religious background. I had strong Anglican/Presbyterian leanings. But it happened to me just the same. Unfortunately, I told the wrong person about my experience who shamed me into silence. It was only about 12 years ago that a dear friend urged me to start using this gift once again.

At the time I began to question the state of my faith. I sought out some help and connected with an Apostolic/Messianic group of Christians who were open to all the gifts of the Holy Spirit, including tongues and the interpretation of tongues. I have stayed connected ever since and have used this gift primarily in my prayer times. However, I have also witnessed its successful use by others in numerous corporate settings as well.

I know that speaking in tongues has strengthened my relationship with God. My faith has grown, and I am much stronger spiritually than in years past. There was a time when God seemed far-away - not anymore! In fact, sometimes I can feel the presence of the Holy Spirit. I know that the Spirit is near me and in me. The Spirit will receive my prayers and concerns, no matter if I use tongues or not. In addition, my perspective of God has changed, and I now have a greater understanding about his supernatural nature and a keen desire to learn more about those other gifts of the Spirit listed in I Cor. 12: 7-11. I am on a journey with so much more to learn.

And...as it turns out I am not alone. Justin Welby, the 105th Archbishop of Canterbury has the gift of tongues and prays in tongues every day. He said: "In my own prayer life, and as part of my daily discipline, I pray in tongues every day - not as an occasional thing, but part of daily prayer." The Archbishop also said he expected to "hear from God through other people with words of knowledge or prophecies - some of which I am unsure about, others I can sense there being something of the Spirit of God."

The Archbishop also said that he received the gift two weeks after he became a Christian at the age of 19. "It was from that moment and in the days that followed that I realized that the Holy Spirit of God had touched me in a very powerful way. I began to speak in tongues and began to learn of the intimacy that Christ brings us."

Heather Nicolosi

A Thank You Father Gary Evening

Please come send off Father Gary, Heather and Allison in style. Saturday, May 18; 5 pm at Nativity.

RSVP by May 12 to minarafferty@thenativity.net.

A sign up sheet for your food, beverage or financial contribution can be found in Christopher Hall.

Please see Jennie Dobbins, Cindy Cohen, MaryAnn Rank or Suzanne Cohen if you have any questions.



The 5th book of the Bible, Deuteronomy, is Moses' big speech to the newly formed community of faith that had survived the wilderness perils of the Sinai peninsula. Their struggle to remain faithful parallels our present-day journey of faith in life. The word Deuteronomy means 2nd Law and it's basically a rehash of everything they had been given during their stay at the foot of Mt. Sinai. Moses faithfully preaches like a parent who knows what exigencies life can bring. Many times we allow our experiences to derail us from our intended purposes. We know we need God's counsel and wisdom reiterated for us in our lives in order to stay the course and keep the faith. Spend your Eastertide Wednesday nights studying the Scriptures of our faith with your Nativity community. Class starts at 6:30 and closes with the prayers of Compline around 7:30.

Dr. W+

Sunday Morning Power Bible Study

The Sunday morning lectionary texts are all fair game for Power Bible Study with Dr. Wayne. Grab your coffee and snack and join in the exciting journey of enlightenment in the Scriptures—and maybe even learn a new word for your vocabulary! Class is in the Music Classroom and starts around 11:20 and is guaranteed to finish by Noon.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

The discipline of prayer is a tried and true remedy for regaining focus on what truly matters in life. Join your community of faith in this ancient rite of devotion on Wednesday nights at 6:00 in the prayer chapel corner of the Nativity nave. This lay-led prayer service from the Book of Common Prayer features a weekly commemoration of a Christian witness in history.

Alleluia Fund Sunday

Alleluia Fund Sunday - Bishop Reddall has designated next Sunday, May 5, as Alleluia Fund Sunday throughout the Diocese. On that day, churches and parishioners are asked to support the Alleluia Fund for the important work of planting new Episcopal congregations in Arizona, as well as supporting existing congregations with special grants to help them grow. Please prayerfully consider this opportunity. There will be more information about the Alleluia Fund available in the church office or you can visit the Alleluia Fund webpage at: www.azdiocese.org/alleluia/index.html

Dear Nativity Family,

Thank you so much for your kindness and generosity in sponsoring the Episcopal Bishop's ring for my upcoming ordination as Bishop of San Diego. I remember all of you and the ministers we shared so fondly. My experience at Nativity was foundational for my ministry, and one of the most meaningful times of my life. I remember you in my prayers with love and gratitude as I move toward a new chapter of ministry, and I pray for God to lead you to the right person in your rector search.



**Episcopal Diocese
of San Diego**
FEARLESS LOVE

Blessings,
Susan.

MAY 2019

MUSIC NOTES

FROM THE NATIVITY MUSIC DIRECTOR'S DESK

CALENDAR

28 April
Music Appreciation
Sunday

28 April
Italian Tunes @
Youth Spaghetti
Dinner

12 May
Mother's Day

19 May
Choir's Last Sunday



HEAD, SHOULDERS, KNEES & TOES!

BY JULIANA WITT

The literal meaning of *Vivace* is "brisk, lively, vivacious," which is very appropriate for the vibe of Children's Chapel ministry lately! We have had so much fun learning and worshiping together on Sunday mornings. If you ever hear some whooping and hollering during the 10a service, it's *Vivace* Children's Chapel exercising their youthful voices and energy! The goal is building relationships, fostering community and fostering fun with creativity! Stay tuned for some fun summer plans.

APRIL 23, 2019



WHAT I LEARN FROM MY CHOIR

BY JULIANA WITT

As a minister, leader and educator, my job is to enrich, encourage, inspire and teach people. Lucky me! I definitely love what I do. However, part of what keeps me going is the learning exchange-- I am always prepared to give as I teach and lead, but a piece of inspiration for reflection almost always comes my way from students, colleagues, parishioners and fellow musicians. With this Sunday being Music Appreciation week at Nativity, I've been pondering how much I've learned from the lovely

people in my choir. Made up of the Valley's most intelligent professionals, they all strive to make the world a better place through their vocations and passions. In addition, they bring smiles after a long day, positive and attentive spirits to practice and learn, and they will instantly rally around anyone who might be hurting or struggling. It takes patience, love, humility, and vulnerability to gather with people who may not have vocational vocabulary in common with you, to sing alongside a person whose political views may differ from yours and to fully embrace being a participant or student for a little while. Music is what facilitates a place for such beautiful exchanges, but the humans behind it all exemplify a "song" as beautiful as the most beautiful melody in the world.



MAY 2019 EDITION



MUSIC APPRECIATION WEEK

BY JULIANA WITT

The task of acknowledging every human that has contributed to the music program at Nativity is a daunting one, but the team of people who comprise the music ministry deserve thanks!!

First of all, to those of you who keep wind in our sails by the emails, notes, comments and monetary gifts, you have no idea how encouraging those seemingly small contributions are. Knowing that our art in worship is touching someone means a great deal and it's why we all do what we do! **Ann Phillips** continues to bring us a beautiful variety in the sound of the Native American flute despite a hand injury that required her to take a small sabbatical this year. I admire her perseverance and commitment! **Alastair Longley-Cook**, who has now played over 72 solos at Nativity (!!) brings a freshness to his presentations

APRIL 23, 2019

that minister to many parishioners. We've also begun to do some choir collaborations beyond Veteran's Day concert, which has been lovely!

The Choir! I've already sung their praises on the previous page, but I have never seen commitment and dedication like theirs in my 20+ years of doing church music. They not only inspire and lead the congregation in weekly worship and pour their hearts into music making. It was a really taxing year: 3 concerts, 50+ anthems, lots and lots of notes to learn and sing (I'm guesstimating upwards of 10,000!!). It is a gift to be able to work with them.

It was a record year for ARTS AT NATIVITY in attendance, engagement and revenue! We had many wonderful evenings enjoying the variety of styles represented by our artists. Many of you contributed to making this season a success, from season pass purchases, to donations, help running events, planning and/or donating receptions and showing up to show your support! We had a lot of new faces attend and the

possibilities for next year are very exciting! Thank you to all who came to our first inaugural Gala in September. We will be having another Gala fundraiser this fall, so stay tuned. ALL are invited but seats will be limited.

This season has been a learning curve, but we've gained a great big vision for new possibilities! THANK YOU for your ongoing support of Arts and Music at Nativity! 🙏

COMMUNITY YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

Part of our new vision is a desire for Arts at Nativity to extend the arts into the North Scottsdale community. We will be applying for a grant in May that would allow us to launch such a program, but we need matching funds to make it happen. Please see the brochure on the next page for a little information and please reach out to me if you'd be interested in chatting about being involved with this matching funds grant to make this project become a reality! It will be a wonderful way to serve local youth and families! 🙏

//PRESENTING ARTISTIC EVENTS, CULTURAL EVENTS AND ARTS EDUCATION OPPORTUNITIES THAT ENRICH THE FABRIC OF OUR COMMUNITY



1200 N. Miller Rd
Scottsdale, AZ 85259-4961, 480-438-1141
arts@nativity.org
juliaw@nativity.org

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

// ARTS AT NATIVITY

2019-2020 //

MUSIC FOR EVERYONE//

We believe that every student should have access to great art AND a top-quality arts-infused education, which creates better humans, critical thinkers and world-changing people. Music is for everyone, so we are taking our great artists into schools to ensure that every student has an opportunity to encounter the highest quality art and be inspired to do good in the world.



ARTS AT NATIVITY IS REACHING OUT TO BRING MUSICALLY ENGAGING EXPERIENCES TO THE NORTH SCOTTSDALE COMMUNITY

// MUSIC



ARTISTS //

Arts at Nativity curates a distinctive program of local artists who are passionate about music. We aim to feature the best Phoenix-based artists, dedicated to making this city a culturally diverse center for arts and community engagement.



STUDENTS //

In addition to performing in our concert series, our artists will have residencies in local elementary and middle schools. These residencies consist of 3 visits to the students' classrooms to build relationships and provide unique experiences for the students to learn how to interact with many kinds of art on a deeper level.

PERFORM //

Artists share programs from classics like Beethoven to African drumming traditions to jazz and Irish music. We believe that students should be able to hear and appreciate music from many traditions.



INSPIRE //

Many artists teach as a part of their artistic process. These teaching artists believe that sharing their music feeds the artistic process and the artistic process feeds their teaching.



Notice of Formation

Nativity requires a plan to measure the appropriateness and kinds of gifts that will enhance our church. The goal is to develop a cohesive, structured plan for receiving gifts that will enhance the worship experience of all who enter our church and develop an inspiring and aesthetically beautiful church campus.

The Committee

1. Will be selected by the Rector.
2. Develop an aesthetically inspiring plan for the interior of the Church physical plant.
3. With this plan in hand, develop a guide, to be made available to all, including actual décor items, functioning needs, listing of opportunities to support major programs, etc.
4. This Plan and Guide will then be presented to the Vestry for review, approval, disapproval, request for edit, etc.
5. A final Vestry approved plan will be presented to the Rector for Final approval.
6. A Final, long range, plan will be distributed to the members of the Nativity Church Parish and made available to others in Christopher Hall.

A special request: If any member of the Nativity Parish has ideas or suggestions for the committee as it begins its work, please present them directly to: Mark Dobbins at markdobbins01@gmail.com or by delivering your suggestions in writing to the Church office Attention: Nativity Church Enhancement Committee. This will initially be a summer 2019 project, planned to be ready for the Vestry by September 2019 and the new Rector.

Finally: The project will start with a clean plate. If you have any materials left in the nave, Christopher Hall or any unapproved current décor, please make a sincere effort to remove or discuss alternate venue possibilities. Once we have an approved Final plan, anything not in accord with that plan will be relocated or removed.

This is our church, so let's be happy and loving parishioners who seek to encounter God in this special and sacred place. Together we worship the Lord in the beauty of holiness – that is our goal as members of Nativity.

Let us pray that Nativity may be an inspiring and uplifting place for all of us.

On behalf of the Committee:

Mark Dobbins

Committee members: Joyce Ditzler, Joyce Ann Deihl, (Décor and Projects) David Bolger, Ron Creamer, (Costing and Finance), Mark Dobbins, (Moderator)

FEED THE HUNGRY

Next month we start a new outreach ministry at Nativity. We will have the opportunity to help the hungry right here in the Valley of The Sun and not just by digging deeper into our pockets. We will prepare food and serve it directly to the men of The East Valley Men's Shelter in Mesa. The Shelter houses 94 men who are trying to work their way back into society. These are men who have been on the streets, or jail or just temporarily down on the luck. They all share the common goal of wanting to put their lives back together. The men work in the area, are not allowed to drink or smoke, and of course are clean of drugs.

The Shelter helps the men find work and provides a place to sleep and eat. Meals are all provided by churches across the valley. We will take them dinners once a month; the dates shown below. Volunteers (8 to 10) will pick up the food ahead of time, usually from Costco, and meet at the church around 4:30 to carpool to the Shelter. Then we heat and prepare the meals in their large kitchen and serve the meals to the men.

Sunday, June 23
Monday, July 8
Monday, July 29
Monday, September 23
Monday, October 28
Monday, November 25
Sunday, December 15



The Shelter is located at 2345 N Country Club Drive in Mesa. It is on the Northeast corner of Highway 202 and Country Club (Highway 87 at that point), about 30 minutes south of the church.

A sign-up sheet with choices of what to bring is in the narthex for our first meal on Sunday, June 23. (Keep your receipts for reimbursement) Volunteers will then be contacted with more details for this first meal. For further information, feel free to contact:

Jon Bost jonrbost@yahoo.com 602-618-6781 or
Mary Anne Bost maryannebost@hotmail.com 602-206-6785

Luncheon for Neighborhood Seniors May 10th at 11:30 am.



Nativity will host a luncheon in partnership with Foothills Caring Corps. We will be serving seniors in our community who live alone and are looking to connect with others. There will also be a speaker for them to enjoy. We need people to cook, serve and mingle with our guests. If you would like to help, please contact Barbara Worthington 480-748-0173 bandb718@msn.com This gives us an opportunity to do something for our community, especially lonely seniors.



Ones & Twos

Ones & Twos is a social group of adults at The Church of the Nativity, which meets about once a month.

It is open to all members, visitors and guests.

The next event is hosted by: Donna and George Hartz

Date: May 10th, Friday Time: 5:30 - 8:00 pm

Place: 20307 N 93rd Pl, Scottsdale 85255.



Bring: Personal libation(s) and shareable victuals.

RSVP: dahartz@hotmail.com/480-513-3155



Scent-Free Seating in the Nave

Because some folks have allergy issues, we have created a scent-free section in the front right part of the sanctuary. Please sit in that section only if you are free of scented items such as perfume, after-shave, body spray, hand lotion, etc. It's an act of hospitality.

Ministry Leaders Calendar Meeting

Saturday, May 4, 2019

9:00 - 11:00

Sunday school Classroom Area



Planned Giving

What Is Planned Giving?

Planned giving encompasses a variety of ways that gifts can be made to the church from accumulated resources.

It usually involves financial or estate planning; however, it is not reserved for the wealthy. Planned giving is a means

by which anyone concerned with the wise use of his or her personal resources makes a considered choice about their ultimate disposition.

In general planned gifts are made through:

Bequest in a Will

- [Planning for the End of Life](#)

Life Income Gift such as a pooled income fund, a charitable gift annuity, or a charitable remainder trust

- [Pooled Income Fund](#)
- [Charitable Gift Annuity](#)
- [Charitable Remainder Trust](#)

Gifts of Special Assets (real estate, closely held stock, life insurance, retirement accounts)

Planned giving establishes a way for a donor to provide for family members while remembering the church as well.

It often enables the donor to provide more for his or her heirs and to make a larger gift than thought possible. It often reduces taxes as well.

Planned gifts can be designated for an organization's general funds or its endowment.

Planned gifts are either outright gifts (i.e., gifts of appreciated securities, real property, personal property, etc.) or deferred gifts (i.e. bequests, charitable gift annuities, charitable trusts).

Snowbirds may want consider gifting to their home church and Nativity to help sustain both churches. Please contact me if you have any questions about giving to the Legacy Society.

Ron Creamer

Anti-Aging Therapies Discussion Group Thursday 9:30 AM, May 2, 2019

Back by Popular Demand
The Hormone Zone
(part 2)

The April discussion group enjoyed the presentation of Dr. Jennifer Habashy so much that they have asked her to return on May 2nd . Dr Habashy will then continue discussing the naturopathic approach to achieving a better Hormonal balance as we age. As you might remember;

Dr. Habashy recommends; “ ... a systemic approach to treatment of hormone imbalance. Whether it’s sex hormones like Estrogen and Testosterone, or metabolic function hormones provided by the Thyroid and Adrenals - we take a look at the body and spirit as a whole.”

Hope to see you there to continue the discussion and questions you might have.

As always the goal of all our meetings is to provide, free of charge, information with supporting references that can be applied by those who attend or shared with others who they think might benefit.

Please RSVP if attending to Jeri at antiaging320@gmail.com



Jewelry Class at Nativity

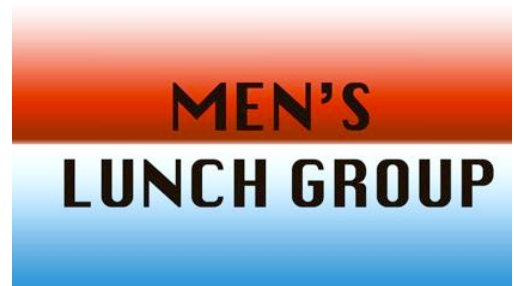
All are invited to a class at Nativity lead by Mary Longley-Cook. Mary will have a couple of helpers with extra tools to assist in the “finishing off” stages of making a piece of jewelry. We all have jewelry that we no longer wear, but that brings back good memories. Maybe it was from a Grandma, Mom, or Auntie. Let’s think about updating and/or redesigning that lovely old piece of jewelry. Its next incarnation might be a totally different item...a bracelet, necklace, keychain, or even a rosary. Mary will share her extensive expertise with the group, and guide us in the options available to redesign our pieces. She will also share lots of gorgeous beads that she has accumulated through the years as a beader.

In May they will be meeting on Tuesday, May 14h and 28th at 10:00 a.m. Email or phone to rsvp or with questions: Mary: stgermain47@cox.net or 480-272-2053 Dawn: dawnkast@live.com. Allergies are an issue in any group setting. Please remember to respect scent-free requests.



Men's Luncheon

Please join us on Wednesday, May 22 at noon for a friendly gathering and lunch at the All American Grill in D.C. Ranch. RSVP to Bill Worthington at 480-575-7830 or bandb718@msn.com.



Women's Luncheon

Women's Monthly Luncheon to be held on Wednesday May 15th at noon at The All American Grill in DC ranch. Please RSVP to Susan Burnham at 602.312.0186 or susan4420@gmail.com.

Women's Wine Night

First Thursday of the month, May 2nd, the women of Nativity partake in Happy Hour starting at 5:00pm. Join us at The Living Room at DC Ranch, right next to the Men's Pub Fellowship!

RSVP by noon Thursday, Kathy Graf. kgraf518@aol.com

Men's Pub Fellowship

The May gathering of the MPF is Thursday, May 2nd at 5:00 p.m. at the All American Modern Sports Grill at 20751 N Pima. Bring a friend or meet and make new ones! <http://www.allamericanmodernsportsgrill.com/>



For questions - contact Art Graf
mxgk25a@aol.com

Habitat for Humanity

The next Habitat date is May 11th at 5327 W Oranewood in Glendale. Our second home this year! This will be the last Habitat date until the fall, so it would be wonderful to have a good turnout again.

A sign-up sheet will be available in the foyer outside the office. Please sign up and indicate if you will need a ride.

We look forward to seeing you all there.
Cotty and Andrea Peabody



Mother's Day Purse Project

Please join us to stuff the purses for Save the Family and Rescue Mission for Mother's Day. May 2 at 9am at church. Please contact Barbara Worthington if any questions.

Any questions, Barbara Worthington 480-748-0173 bandb718@msn.com

Take Them a Meal - SIGN UP TO HELP

It happens to all of us at some point, and receiving a meal when you are sick, following surgery or going through a major crisis can be a blessing. Whether it is homemade soup, your favorite casserole, or even something from a restaurant or store, providing a meal is a wonderful act of kindness and can be a catalyst for healing. If you would like to join the team providing food when occasionally needed, please email Betsy Goode (goodehilogirl@cox.net) with your contact information (name, address, email and phone). We have a list of great volunteers and are looking to add to the team!

Questions? Email Betsy at goodehilogirl@cox.net or phone 480-912-5331.

In Need of a Meal?

If you are in need of a meal, please reach out to a clergy member with your request.





Bag-A-Meal: Sandwiches for the Homeless

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED May 7th - 10:00 am.

First Tuesday of the month at Nativity, is our Bag A Meal Outreach for the Homeless through the Phoenix Rescue Mission.

We bag 2 PB&J sandwiches, cookies, granola bar and a bottle of water.

For our May work day, we are starting at 10 am.

Contact Kathy Graf. kgraf518@aol.com for more info.



Knit Premie Hats

Knitting hats for Premies continues this month on May 2nd and 16th.

We meet at 10am and are done before noon. We knit simple caps for premature babies and are branching into other charity knitting work. We are teaching some women who are beginners and others knit with great experience. We laugh, pray and knit.

Knitting Group has made and donated over 250 hats for premie babies since September.

We have all levels of knitters and crocheters. Some people can't make the meetings but donate through us. We are a font of information and encouragement about knitting. We laugh, chat, pray and discern through our knitting. Join us! The first and third Thursday mornings of each month. The next meeting is

May 2. marthadurham@thenativity.net

Contact Deacon Martha if you are interested.

Drop-ins are invited!

(Marthadurham@thenativity.net).

Support Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

When you shop at smile.amazon.com,
Amazon donates.

Go to smile.amazon.com

amazonsmile

You can support Church of the Nativity each time you shop on Amazon and it won't cost you a cent!

Use our unique link -
<https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5599218>

And Nativity will receive a portion of your purchase.

How does Nativity receive the donations? Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable organizations by electronic funds transfer.

When first visiting AmazonSmile, you are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. In order to browse or shop at AmazonSmile, customers must first select a charitable organization. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization.

Use our unique link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5599218>

Box Tops

This school year Nativity will, once again, participate in "Box Tops for Education". Coupons, worth 10 cents each will be given to Casa Academy. Their school coordinator will combine our coupons with those collected by the students' families. Twice a year, Casa Academy will receive a check to use for the purchase of things they need.

Look for coupons on products from Big G, Pillsbury, Old El Paso, Green Giant, Ziploc, Hefty, Kleenex and Scott. A collection jar is located in the kitchen next to the stove. Thank you to

anyone who is interested in participating!





Children's Ministry Update

A picture is worth a thousand words! Our Lenten events and Easter morning were simply wonderful...



The big reveal!

If you haven't had the chance to take a peek, we wanted to share some snapshots of the newly decorated and updated Longley-Cook Children's Center.



THANK YOU!

A special thank you to Jon Bost for building the beautiful new prayer wall!

Sunday Mornings in May

We're ending the school year with 3 great gatherings! Join us for the last Sunday School meeting of the year, a Mother's Day celebration, and a festive picnic. All activities begin immediately after the 11AM service.



May 5



May 12



May 19

Vacation Bible School

June 24-28, 2019



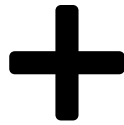
Registration for this summer's VBS is now open!
Visit www.nativityscottsdale/learn to sign up your child.

Children ages 4 through rising 4th graders are eligible to attend. Students entering grades 5 and up are invited to participate as counselors.



Youth Group Update

Youth Group meets all month from 11:00-12:15PM. Join us in the youth room! To end the year on a high note, we invite all of our students to stick around for the picnic on May 19th... because afterwards, we're going out! We're thinking ice cream and video games! Stay tuned for more info.



@ Chapel Rock

Family Camp is an opportunity to use your family vacation time to unplug from the busyness of daily life and reconnect with your family and with God. Experience prayer, music, free time exploring the beauty of Prescott, and old-fashioned camp fun, like arts and crafts, a campfire, the ropes course, and games. Invest in your family, and come join us!

When: JULY 4-7, 2019

**Two-day and three-day options, starting Thursday or Friday*

Learn more or register here: <https://www.chapelrock.net/camps.htm>



The Episcopal Church of the Nativity
Mailing Address:
22405 North Miller Road
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255

www.NativityScottsdale.org
Worship Sundays
8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

Upcoming Events

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