



June  
2019

## THE NATIVITY SCENE



### Nativity's Next Rector- Fr. Scot McComas



The vestry is so very excited to be able to finally put a name with the job! We are thrilled to tell you that Fr. Scot has excitedly accepted the call to be Nativity's second rector. Scot has a wealth of experience. Before following God's call, Scot was a banker. He attended Harvard Divinity School and then served parishes in Florida, North Carolina, New Jersey and Texas. Fr. Scot and his husband, Dennis Combs, will be moving to Arizona from Texas where Scot is currently the Rector of St. Martin -in- the- Fields.

During our Day of Discovery, we as a Parish identified who we are and where we choose to head into the future.

What was and is abundantly clear to the Vestry is that Scot is the right person to take us there. Scot has the ability to think "outside the box." He has a strong background in working with children, youth and families. He is also vastly experienced in church growth. His experience, as well as who he is as a person, will fit beautifully with us and our mission. (Not to mention that Dennis has a fabulous voice).

I believe you will find both Scot and Dennis to be warm, loving, caring people and will fit well into the family of Nativity.

Scot and Dennis will be moving here in late July. Scot's first day at Nativity will be August 13, 2019. His first Sunday will be August 18, 2019.

Please look forward to the July Newsletter as Scot will be preparing a message about himself.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Cohen

Sr. Warden

# Nativity Schedule

22405 N. Miller Road  
Scottsdale, Arizona 85255  
Telephone:  
480-307-9216  
[www.NativityScottsdale.org](http://www.NativityScottsdale.org)

## Sunday Schedule!

8:30	<b>Holy Eucharist Rite I</b>
10:00	<b>Festive Eucharist Rite II</b>
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. Wayne V. Whitney, Associate Rector  
[WayneWhitney@TheNativity.net](mailto:WayneWhitney@TheNativity.net)

Juliana Witt, Music Director  
[julianawitt@TheNativity.net](mailto:julianawitt@TheNativity.net)

Mandy Hodges, Christian Ed. Director  
[mandyhodges@theNativity.net](mailto:mandyhodges@theNativity.net)

The Rev. Martha Durham, Deacon  
[marthadurham@theNativity.net](mailto:marthadurham@theNativity.net)

Fr. John Millar  
Priest Associate

Mina Rafferty  
Parish Administrator  
[MinaRafferty@TheNativity.net](mailto:MinaRafferty@TheNativity.net)

Ernesto Escamilla, Sexton

## Nativity's Vestry

Senior Warden:	Suzanne Cohen 480-586-6625 <a href="mailto:Secohenjd@yahoo.com">Secohenjd@yahoo.com</a>
Junior Warden:	Warren Sambach 480-451-6995 <a href="mailto:nywarren@cox.net">nywarren@cox.net</a>
Treasurer	Art Graf 602-695-3400 <a href="mailto:mxgk25a@aol.com">mxgk25a@aol.com</a>
Sarah Banks	480-204-1732 <a href="mailto:sdwnaz@yahoo.com">sdwnaz@yahoo.com</a>
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Bill Deihl	480-223-7796 <a href="mailto:bjdeihl@aol.com">bjdeihl@aol.com</a>
Jennifer Goins	480-655-5355 <a href="mailto:azjen13@hotmail.com">azjen13@hotmail.com</a>
Norma Hyatt	623-516-9346 <a href="mailto:nvhyatt@gmail.com">nvhyatt@gmail.com</a>
Paul Rank	513-300-3729 <a href="mailto:paulrank1@mac.com">paulrank1@mac.com</a>

## Farewell Fr. Gary



Fr. Gary, Joan & Greg McGinty



Fr. Gary, Heather & Allie Nicolosi with Mary Longley-



Suzanne Cohen & Fr. Wayne Whitney



The Nicolosi Family and Rick Roberts



Alastair & Mary Longley-Cook  
with Mandy Hodges



### From the Nicolosi Family... Thank You!

Heather, Allison and I want to express our sincere thanks to all of you at Nativity for your gifts, cards and best wishes as our time with you came to an end. The farewell party was a truly memorable occasion which we shall cherish for the rest of our lives. The last two Sundays were deeply emotional for me as you graciously gave me a standing ovation after my sermons. As I said in my last sermon, saying good-bye is never easy, especially to friends. And you have become my friends. I thank you for your support of my ministry, the love you showed my daughter Allison and the warm regards you have for Heather.

As interim rector, I knew from September 1, 2017 that there would come a time when my work with you would be finished, and I would be time for me to leave. In leaving, I hope I have left the parish a better place than when I found it - ready to greet your new rector with confidence and hope that the best is yet to come. God willing, I shall be back with you for the induction of your new rector sometime in the fall.

St. Paul says that "faith, hope and love abide, but the greatest of these is love" (I Cor. 13:13). I hope that my lasting legacy to you is love. That in Jesus we are totally and unconditionally loved by God always and forever. And because God loves us, we can love one another.

So, hang in there. Love God, love people, and reach out to others. If you do that, you'll be fine. Greet your new rector joyfully and face the future with faith that all will be well. As the Jesuit priest and mystic Anthony De Mello put it: "Extend your arms in welcome to the future. The best is yet to come!"

God bless you and thank you,  
Fr. Gary Nicolosi

In true Nativity fashion, we said Goodbye and Thank you to Fr. Gary, Heather and Allison. What a bittersweet evening! It was full of joy in that we celebrated the almost 2 years the Nicolosi family was part of our lives. Nativity flourished under Fr. Gary's tutelage. Yet, it was also sad because it is hard to say goodbye to a family that has meant so much and done so much for us. But, we at Nativity know we are stronger than ever and ready for our next journey.

JUNE 2019

# MUSIC NOTES

FROM THE NATIVITY MUSIC DIRECTOR'S DESK

## CALENDAR

**9 June**  
Pentecost Choir

**16, 23, 30 June**  
Everybody Ensemble

**16 June**  
Father's Day

**24-28 June**  
VBS!



## POP-UP PENTECOST CHOIR!

BY JULIANA WITT

Any restless choir members out there? or former choir members who may not want to make the long-term choir commitment but love to sing? We are having a pop-up choir for Pentecost!

Rehearsal at 9am the morning of June 9th. No robes, processing or psalms. Just an anthem. But you have to RSVP! email [julianaWitt@thenativity.net](mailto:julianaWitt@thenativity.net)

JUNE 1, 2019



## COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT INITIATIVE

THANK you to all of those who have pledged to support our new community engagement launch! We raised enough for our first big goal in just a week and a half! I feel incredibly blessed to have a parish that values community work so deeply!

Here's an update: We have applied for several grants that would match our funds and allow us to do some community residencies (retirement communities, hospitals, etc) and some school residencies. Go big or go home, right? Pledges are still welcome

as we will have overhead and other expenses. Thanks for believing in the mission and growth of Arts at Nativity and spreading the word!

## EVERYBODY ENSEMBLE

BY JULIANA WITT

No excuses accepted: if you used to be a soprano but need to sing tenor, if you usually sing bass but want to try soprano, OR if you don't want to sing at all, but could shake a maraca and join in the fun, COME! You are welcome and we will find a place for you! It's going to be a blast.

See announcement for more info.



JUNE 2019 EDITION

JOIN US FOR NATIVITY'S FIRST EVER

# Everybody Ensemble!

This 3 week event is open for everyone in the church and incorporates elements of music and fellowship. Lead by Music Director, Juliana Witt, and Director of Youth, Children, & Family Ministries, Mandy Hodges, we want all members of our church family to find a place to praise, play, laugh, and learn!

**JUNE 16 - JUNE 23 - JUNE 30**

**\*IMMEDIATELY FOLLOWING 10AM SERVICE**

## 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.



During June, we will focus on creating beautiful Anglican Prayer beads.

In June they will be meeting on Tuesday, June 11th and 18th 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, June 26 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 June 19th at noon at The All American Grill in DC ranch. Please RSVP to Janyce Schneider @ 480-268-9808.

## Women’s Wine Night

First Thursday of the month, June 6th, 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, RSVP to Kay Blinn.

**\*\*We will not meet on July 4th\*\***

## Men's Pub Fellowship

The June gathering of the MPF is Thursday, June 6th 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!

**\*\*\*We will not meet on July 4th\*\*\***

**FEED THE HUNGRY**

This month we start the first of our monthly visits to the East Valley Men's Shelter. We will take them Ham and Beans with all the trimmings on June 23rd. There is still room on the sign-up sheet for volunteers, but if you can't make it then, fear not, we go again on July 8th.

The Shelter helps the men find work and provides a place to sleep and eat. Meals are all provided by churches across the valley. Volunteers (8 to 10) will pick up the food ahead of time, usually from Costco, and meet at the church around 4:45 to carpool to the Shelter. Then we heat and prepare the meals in their large kitchen and serve the meals to the men.

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 30~40 minutes south of the church. We will get there around 5:30 if it is easier for you to meet there.

For more info feel free to contact:

Jon Bost [jonrbost@yahoo.com](mailto:jonrbost@yahoo.com) 602-618-6781 or

Mary Anne Bost [maryannebost@hotmail.com](mailto:maryannebost@hotmail.com) 602-206-6785

**Fr. Gary's Blog**

Many have enjoyed Fr. Gary's sermons and would like to continue to receiving his writings. Fr. Gary has a blog that he will begin writing at the end of June.

If you would like to follow Fr. Gary we will be collecting email addresses to be included. Please send Mind an email at [minarafferty@thenativity.net](mailto:minarafferty@thenativity.net).

## Habitat for Humanity

Habitat for Humanity Celebrates a Completed Neighborhood

Saturday May 18 was a day of special celebration for the completion of the 18 town homes on Don Carlos Avenue in Tempe. The Episcopal Habitat Coalition, including St. Matthew's sponsored the build financially, provided food, and provided volunteer labor for the construction of three of these homes. Some interesting data about the build:

There are 18 homes in the development. The families in these homes total 59 people. Each of the families was required to contribute 400 hours of sweat equity. We met these families as we worked on the build.

In 2015, Habitat proposed the project to the city of Tempe. The proposed project was a three-story build the first ever for Habitat in the USA. The one acre lot was awarded to Habitat in a competitive process later that year. Permits and infrastructure were completed in late 2016. Ground was broken for the first six homes in January 2017. The last two homes of the 18 were dedicated on May 18, 2019.

Sponsorship of the 18 homes included corporate sponsors like Bank of America, Cisco Systems, SRP, State Farm and Mr. Cooper Financial Services. Combined, they contributed over \$1,400,000 to the cost of construction. Corporate sponsors also contributed many volunteer hours to the build, usually as a team building activity.

The Episcopal Habitat Coalition was one of 11 faith-based sponsors that gave their time, talent and treasure to finish the homes. These 11 coalitions had a total of 128 churches participate in the builds. St. Matthew's helped on 9 total days.

Over 7,400 volunteers contributed over 67,000 hours to finish the construction of the homes. These hours reflect a value of over \$1M, as reported by Habitat.

The final families will close escrow and start making payments for their new home by the end of June. It truly does take a village to accomplish something like this.









Caring Corps vans brought 34 seniors to our Cinco de Mayo luncheon. Time to get to know them and then a delicious chicken casserole was served and enjoyed by all. Take out containers were also supplied. Cupcakes and ice cream topped off the luncheon. Cookies were sent home with everyone. An interesting talk by Tom Durham added to the festive day. It was a great success and the Seniors are looking forward to another visit. Thanks to the volunteers who cooked, served and made it all happen.





## Our Newest Member

Welcome James Moses Graves, son of Aaron and Gillian, grandson of James and Joyce Graves, who was baptized on April 28th!



## Knit Premie Hats

Knitting hats for Premies will continue meeting on the first and third Thursdays at 10 am throughout the summer. We knit a variety of baby hats and hats for men. We welcome knitting and crocheting people of all levels, even beginners! Contact Deacon Martha with questions: [marthadurham@thenativity.net](mailto:marthadurham@thenativity.net)

Dates for the upcoming meetings are:

June 6, June 20, July 18 ( no meeting July 4), August 1, August 15.

Join us! The first and third Thursday mornings of each month. The next meeting is June 6.

Contact Deacon Martha if you are interested.

Drop-ins are invited!

([Marthadurham@thenativity.net](mailto:Marthadurham@thenativity.net)).

## Nativity Enhancement Committee

Just want to give everyone a second opportunity to give us your thoughts and vision for the physical appearance of our house of God in the future. What would you add or change that would “ Enhance”, your spiritual experience.

We will use our final agreed plan to guide Memorial and Gift donations for this family worshipping Jesus Christ, God and the Holy Spirit.

Remember , the final plan will identify specific items, the estimated cost, and the process. By this, we hope to have a coherent, beautiful place where you can experience the spirit and love of Jesus Christ touching us all .

We will start soon on compiling our plan to submit to the Vestry and then to our new Rector for approval.

## Outreach Logo

A Nativity Outreach Logo has been designed and will be integrated into many of our outreach activities. For example, Jon Bost has purchased aprons with the logo emblazoned on their bibs to be used in our new ministry “Feed the Hungry”.



## WHAT IS ADVENTure?

You may say “I know all about ADVENTure”, but does the newcomer sitting next to you in church?

- \*FUN night held at Nativity
- \*Way to meet people and get involved
- \* Nativity’s holiday event

**But most of all**, it’s the way we fund our annual Outreach budget. All profits raised are used to fund the current year’s Outreach budget. **This year will be our 6<sup>th</sup> Annual ADVENTure, Friday, December 6, 2019 – our goal - \$27,000.**

## HOW DO I GET INVOLVED?

Easy – talk to Paul Rank, chair; Kathi Capizzani, Auction; Jennie Dobbins, Event night; Jen Goins, Sales; Mary Ann Rank, Marketing; or any of our Ambassadors (you’ll soon see ribbons on their name tags). There’s a job for everyone’s talent.

Many hands are needed to make this night happen (75+ last year). Planning begins in the spring and by fall we are in full work mode: gathering or making auction items, soliciting auction items from local business, selling event and raffle tickets, baking cookies, decorating baskets, providing muscles to do all the set up and clean up, and working the event night. It’s a great way to get involved, have fun and get to know people better....a way to build camaraderie.

Do you have a new idea for ADVENTure? Want to help? A past success with fundraising? All ideas are welcome. Look for a suggestion box soon in the office.

**Join us, have fun and beat our goal!**



# SO.MUCH.FUN.



Our end-of-year celebration picnic was nothing short of a blast! With perfect 75 degree weather and these faces (see pic), we truly feel like we ended the year on a high note.

\*Special thanks to our Youth Group for helping with all the logistics.





**YAY!**



We've got great news!

The first ever Nativity Scholarship recipient has been named. Congratulations to Crystal Rothanburg for being selected. Crystal has been an active member of Nativity for many years. She volunteers regularly in the nursery, with youth & children's ministry, and as an usher. Crystal is heading to Weber State in Ogden, Utah this fall to pursue studies in English and Writing. It is a great joy for the scholarship committee to award her \$5500 to support her endeavors. We wish you all the best, Crystal!

A note from Crystal:

*I want to thank the church and the scholarship committee for this opportunity. I am immensely grateful that one of the places I call home is able to play a large role in the continuation of my education.*

## VBS

Vacation Bible School at Nativity is just 3 short weeks away! We've still got plenty of room for children to register and hope you will help spread the word!

[www.nativityscottsdale.org/learn](http://www.nativityscottsdale.org/learn)

June 24-28, 2019 - 9AM to Noon



## SPECIAL EVENT!

Make sure you are in the loop about this month's "Everybody Ensemble"! Lead by Juliana and Mandy, it's an event for all ages... flip back over to Music News for all the details.





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

[www.NativityScottsdale.org](http://www.NativityScottsdale.org)  
Worship Sundays  
8:30 & 10:00 a.m.

## Upcoming Events

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