

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

NATIVITYSCOTTSDALE.ORG



THE NATIVITY SCENE

October
2020

All are welcome!
No exceptions.



Each year we come to the church community to ask, “What is your relationship to God which leads you to support the mission of The Episcopal Church of the Nativity?” The mission of Nativity is *To transform lives with the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

This year we are coming to you at an unusual time during an unusual period for us all. We hope and pray that you are safe and well during the COVID-19 pandemic. A global shutdown and spread of the virus have turned so many things in our daily lives upside-down. Thankfully, God’s work is never shut down and has even grown, asking us all to share our Time and Treasure with our love of God and the Church of the Nativity.

The theme for 2021 is “Forward in Faith,” and we believe we are the hands and feet of our Creator. To accomplish our mission and to look forward to the day we can once again share fellowship with all our Nativity family, we believe that Jesus would look to us to give from our hearts. As always, Nativity lives by your support and will be eternally grateful for your financial gift as we share God’s message.

What does “Forward in Faith” look like in action? Here are some of Nativity’s active missions which continue online during this pandemic:

- Sunday Morning Virtual Services & Virtual Coffee Hour
- Fr. Wayne’s Bible Study on Sundays & Wednesdays
- Fr. Scot’s Weekly Book Group
- Children’s Chapel, Middle School & High School Meetings
- Centering Prayer Group & Knitting Group
- Outreach Committee Meetings & ADVENTure Outreach Fundraiser Meetings




- CASA Academy School Drive
- Choir Rehearsals & Online Forum
- Story Sharing Group, Sacred Ground Group Study & Racial Reconciliation Forum
- Resiliency during Covid-19 Discussion
- Joint Art Camp with St. Barnabas & Summer Virtual Vacation Bible School

The “Forward in Faith” campaign runs September 27 to October 25. We ask you to give what God calls you to give. As you begin to think and pray for guidance, please look back at your pledge for 2020 and begin there. We hope you will increase your pledge by a percentage. Please consider a Tithe, which is 10% of your annual income. If that is not possible, perhaps consider a 5% to 7% increase in your pledge.

A pledge card was mailed to every household in the church database. You can mail it back to the church or place it in the offering plate at Sunday services. Another convenient way to make your 2021 Pledge is to go to nativityscottsdale.org and easily follow the prompts in the upper right corner under the “Give” tab. There you will find an online financial pledge card.

In this time of many varied crises affecting people around the globe, we are reminded that a pledge to the Church is your intent, not a contract. Beginning in November, we will use the aggregate pledge amount to set our working budget for 2021. For whatever you can give in Time or Treasure or hopefully both, we thank you.

For the mission of Jesus Christ,

  
David Bolger Mark Dobbins The Rev. Scot McComas
Stewardship Stewardship Rector
Co-Chair Co-Chair

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Sundays, 9:30 am
Children's Chapel Live

Sundays, 10:00 am
Sunday Service

Sundays, 11:00 am
Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays, 11:00 am
Middle School Zoom

Sundays, 11:20 am
Power Bible Study

Sundays, 11:30 am
High School Zoom

If you would information on the meeting or would like to join, please contact Fr. Scot at scotmccomas@thenativity.net.

Mondays, 7:00 pm
Story Sharing

1st Tuesdays 6:00 pm
Outreach Meeting

Tuesdays, 6:00 pm
Centering Prayer

Wednesdays, 10:30 am
Fr. Scot's Book Group

Wednesdays, 5:30 pm
Evening Prayer

Wednesdays, 6:00 pm
Bible Study with Dr. Wayne

Wednesdays, 7:00 pm
Virtual Choir Meeting

Thursdays, 10:00 am
Knitting Group

Fridays, 10:00 am
Story Sharing





**St. Francis Day
Blessing of the Animals Service
October 4, 2020
5:00 pm**

Join us on St. Francis Day, Sunday, October 4, at 5 pm outside at church for the Blessing of the Animals Service. Bring your four-legged friends or two-legged (birds, etc.) to be blessed.

If your loved one has passed over the Rainbow Bridge, bring a picture of your pet for a special prayer as you share your memory of Rover or Kitty. Come make a joyful noise to the Lord with our furry friends!

Please wear a mask and practice social distancing. I'm looking forward to seeing you and your beloved pet or pets.

Blessings and Peace,
The Rev. Scot McComas
Rector

Our New Service Schedule:

8 am In-Person Outdoor Service (no registration required)

10 am In-Person In Sanctuary Service (online registration opens Mondays at 9 am)

10 am Online Service



Wayne's World October 2020

Moses' relationship with God is one of the most truly personal relationships with God in the entire Bible. Our Sunday 1st Lessons shed a lot of light on how Moses and God related to one another. This week's lesson of the giving of the commandments, next week it's the golden calf incident, the week after is a crisis of credulity borne out of frustration, then the final lesson of the month Moses dies, not getting to enter the Promised Land.

There are times when Moses is in God's presence and it's just glorious. Other times Moses is just plain mad at God for the lousy job he's been given of leading such a gnarly group of people out to die in the wilderness. The communication Moses directs at God is honest, angry and always leaving the door open for God to respond in a way that will solve the problem.

Personally, I was angry with God when my first marriage ended back in the late 90's thinking that my personal righteousness had been paid with a check that I couldn't cash. I had to get very honest with God and let it all out. Without this action I would have continued to be bitter and unopened to any divine love.

I believe that when we approach God forthrightly, not mincing words, especially in our personal prayer—we draw close to divine love more than we can imagine. It's okay to be mad at God and with God. Hiding it is the problem. It's the kind of problem that festers and infects that important relationship.

This month's readings tell us about how Moses dealt with his frustration with his situation in the wilderness; and they inform us in our dealings with God. It's an important step on our road to transformation into His likeness. I invite you to crack open that Bible, read it, and identify with those who are most open with God. Sunday morning Power Bible Study offers you an opportunity to reflect on this journey that, for us, is most personal and transformational.

See you in church (finally I can say that!)
Dr. W+

The Rev Wayne V Whitney, PhD
Associate Rector



Bible Study

Power Bible Study with Dr. Wayne continues on the Facebook feed at 11:20 Sunday mornings. These next several weeks we're looking at the high moments in the book of Exodus. It's all about the seminal event in the faith of our spiritual forebears without which there would be no paradigm of salvation—the manumission through turbulent waters toward the promised land. Go to nativityscottsdale.org and click on “Join us Online” to get connected.

Bible Study Wednesday

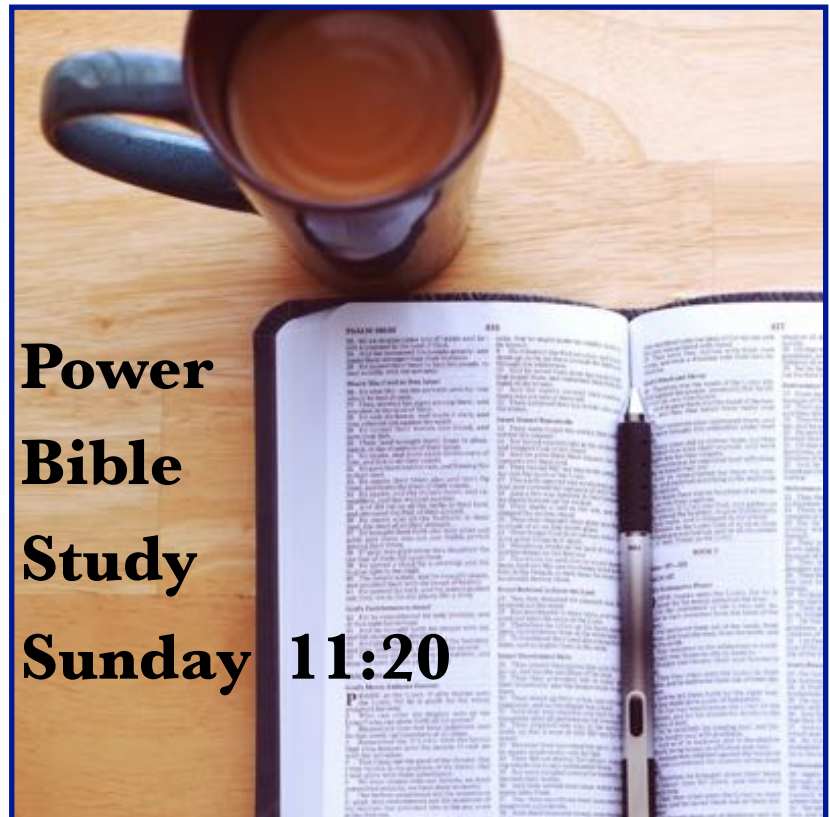
Bible Study Wednesday is in the midst of trekking through the entire biblical narrative. Currently we're in II Samuel seeing how God uses King David's monarchy to set expectations for the future. Tune in to the Facebook feed at 6:00 pm Wednesday nights. Each night Dr. Wayne closes with the prayers of Compline. Evening Prayer is offered at 5:30 on Facebook Live.

Wednesday Evening Prayer

Tune in to Nativity's Facebook page for live Evening Prayer Rite II every Wednesday at 5:30 pm. This lay-led service features a weekly commemoration of Christian witness. More lay leaders willing to take a spot in the rotation are welcome. Simply email waynewhitney@thenativity.net or text or call Dr. Wayne at 303-809-1458 to get primed in how you can participate as a lay leader of this historic liturgy of prayer in the church.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer meets Tuesday evenings at 6 pm via Zoom. Contact Margaret Cohea for a zoom invitation. Contact mvcohea246@gmail.com for further details or questions.



FORWARD IN FAITH

Unless you've gotten a head start on Lent and have given up reading anything Nativity-related for your Lenten "give up," you already know that our 2021 Stewardship Campaign kicks off this coming Sunday. Our theme for this campaign, as Fr. Scot highlighted in his letter to the parish, is "Forward in Faith."

I've had occasion to think about this theme a good deal lately, since I have the honor of serving as the Campaign Co-Chair with my esteemed friend – and one of Nativity's founders – Mark Dobbins. What has especially focused my attention is the word "Forward." I really like it because, to me, it demonstrates "positive movement" – a term that is an accurate description of the twelve-year history of Nativity. As is true for so many of you, Mary Lynn and my Nativity experience began when we met in an office building and had Sunday School in peoples' offices. Think about where we are now – in terms of both real estate and our lives in this wonderful Parish. Think, also, about how we – The Episcopal Church of the Nativity – got here. And what that has to do with the 2021 Stewardship Campaign.

For me, the words in our upcoming campaign say it all. It took a lot of Faith for the good folks who came together to organize the Church of the Nativity to take those giant steps to move us Forward to where we are today. Think about where we are, as a Parish, toward the eve of the year 2021. We have a fine building in which to worship, learn, and celebrate. And I truly believe that there hasn't been a day since the Church of the Nativity came into being that we haven't moved Forward: in our worship, in our service, and in our belief in and commitment to Nativity's mission of "Transforming lives with the love of Jesus Christ." Every day there are members of our congregation – not to mention our clergy and staff – who are doing something tangible to move that mission forward. And underlying every element of our forward movement is Faith.

There is, however, an element of reality that must center us in our faith and in our forward movement: it takes resources. Translating our faith into action and forward movement doesn't happen through magical thinking. It happens when every member of this wonderful Nativity family makes a conscious decision to offer their resources – whether great or small – to allow us to fulfill our mission. Your making a financial commitment to Nativity is the one necessary element of faith that gives tangible meaning to your individual commitments as we go forward in faith. That commitment doesn't require a fixed amount of money; it requires a fixed amount of Faith. Your personal giving is a transformative blessing that says -- in the words of the old childrens' hymn -- "Oh how I love Jesus, because He first loved me."

David Bolger

FORWARD 
in **FAITH**

EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLAN

We have recently completed a detailed plan for dealing with emergencies if and when one should occur at Church of the Nativity. The plan has been developed by a team consisting of Ron Kupinski, Ramona Rusniak, Kay Blinn, Dina Horseman, James Newhouse, and Jon Bost. The plan is lengthy and we will include highlights from it in future monthly newsletters.

A full copy of it is located inside the cabinet containing the emergency defibrillator unit which is mounted on the wall just North of the main doors in Christopher Hall. Beneath the defibrillator unit we have hung a new first aid kit to be used in case of emergencies. The smaller first aid kit, with band-aids, etc., is still in the office and should be used for non-emergency use. Both the defibrillator unit and emergency first aid kit are secured with twist-off locks so we will know if it has been used and requires attention.

Also inside the cabinet is an emergency event form to be filled out as necessary and given to a member of the response team, a vestry member, or the clergy. Once we are gathering again on a normal schedule inside the church, we are also going to start a series of CPR courses which will be available to all.

As you reenter the church you may notice new emergency exit maps mounted around the facility. These are to aid in case of an emergency evacuation. Please check these out and make a habit of always knowing where your nearest emergency exit is located. Watch for future announcements on dealing with emergencies.

“So then let us not sleep as others do, but let us be alert and sober.” - 1 Thessalonians 5:6

-Jon Bost





Arts AT
NATIVITY

PRESENTS

Jacob Barker, cello

Classically trained cellist Jacob Barker will perform classical and modern soulful songs by BIPOC artists, such as Bill Withers and Alabama Shakes in this online program about liberation.

TICKETS
AVAILABLE AT
ARTSATNATIVITY.
ORG

04
OCTOBER
3:00 PM





TICKETS
AVAILABLE AT
ARTSATNATIVITY.
ORG

25
OCTOBER
3:00 PM

Arts AT
NATIVITY

PRESENTS

ElectroBach



Back by popular demand, the violin-guitar duo MeghanDiego will perform a fusion of electronic music with works by J.S. Bach. Two special soloists will join them: baritone Gabriel Frongillo, and soprano Melanie Holm.





OCTOBER NEWS

We FINALLY have an in-person children's event in the works!! While we are still a little ways off from being together on Sunday mornings (indoor, like we used to), there is some fun on the horizon!

Our 3rd Annual Fall Festival will be held on Sunday, October 18th at 11:00am. (Check out the flyer on the next page for a few more details.)

We are taking every caution with our planning and will be setting up the event to be socially distanced, with masks required as well. Oh! And please feel free to invite friends and family!



Memories! 

**CHILDREN & YOUTH GATHER
ONLINE SUNDAY MORNINGS**

9:30 Children's Chapel

11:00 Middle School

11:30 High School





3rd Annual
Socially Distanced!



FALL FESTIVAL

Sunday, October 18
11:00AM

Help us make this an event that benefits the community! Bring non-perishable food items for St. Mary's Food Bank.

- *Pasta
- *Cereal
- *Peanut Butter
- *Baking Mixes
- *Canned Vegetables

FREE!

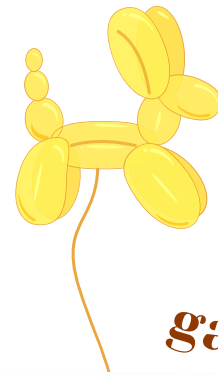
snacks



music



balloons



games



Continued on the next page



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
ADVENTure
FUNdraiser FOR OUTREACH

Hope you are navigating the chutes and ladders of 2020 in good health!

Due to our current community health restrictions, the Episcopal Church of the Nativity will be replacing the ADVENTure Live/Silent Auction fundraiser with an online *ADVENTure 2020 Zoom Extravaganza* and "virtual mini auction." The Zoom Extravaganza will feature professional musicians and vocal performers to raise "Gift from the Heart" funds for our Outreach Ministries - many vulnerable groups that we support, including the Navajo nation, Men's Homeless Center in Mesa, and Abused Women Center are badly in need of aid this year.

If you have access to local athletic sporting events, performing arts, restaurant certificates, food specialties, art objects, popular services, handmade items, etc., please let us know. Your consideration of donating an item or service would be very much appreciated and a blessing to those in need.

And most important we hope you will participate in the Zoom Extravaganza online December 4, 2020 from 6 pm to 8 pm. Look forward to hearing from you, God Bless.

Kathi Capizzani, Donation Chair ADVENTure 2020
219-718-3830

ADVENTure 2020
Friday, December 4
6 - 8 PM

ADVENTure 2020 is in the works. Mark your calendar now for the First-Ever Nativity Zoom Extravaganza! We will have a silent Auction, a special Raffle and opportunities for Give From The Heart are being planned. There will be Musical Entertainment and Videos about the many Ministries our Nativity Family so generously supports.

Stay tuned! Instructions about how to participate will be coming your way soon. Want to help with this event or have questions? Please contact Cindy Cohen at scohense@bellsouth.net or text 423-316-0872.

Knitting Group

Covid has brought changes to our lives over the last months! The knitting ladies have kept things exciting even if we can't meet in person. We ZOOM every Thursday morning at 10 to gab, check in on everyone, have project show and tell, and occasionally knit. The ladies keep cranking out baby hats and men's hats – nice small projects during the AZ summer heat. Please come join us for fun. —Mary Ann Rank



Film Club

All are welcome to attend Film Club. We will meet on Saturday, October 3 at 6 pm on ZOOM to discuss the film thriller *The Others* with Nicole Kidman. On October 17 at 6 pm we will discuss *Jo Jo Rabbit*. See the film first and join us for conversation. If you have questions about the Film Club, please contact Darrell Spencer at darrellwspencer@yahoo.com.



WELCOME!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE NATIVITY

All are welcome.
No exceptions.



Worship Sundays

8 & 10 am

www.nativityscottsdale.org/

Join us

www.nativityscottsdale.org