

# The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

NATIVITYSCOTTSDALE.ORG



All are welcome!  
No exceptions.

## THE NATIVITY SCENE

January  
2021



As you probably know by now, Dr. Juliana Witt has resigned as Music Director of The Episcopal Church of the Nativity to prepare for motherhood later this spring. Her last church service was Christmas morning. We will miss Juliana and wish her well. Everyone

will have a chance to Zoom with her in late Spring to see her new baby boy.

You still may send Juliana and Galen a baby gift at this link on Amazon to thank her for her ministry at Nativity:

<https://www.amazon.com/baby-reg/juliana-witt-galen-balinski-april-2021-phoenix/BNQK4OARZX0Z>

Recently, I have appointed a Search Committee for the Music Director position and am grateful the following people have agreed to serve on this committee: Mark Dobbins, Chair; Charles Cornner; Mary Ann Rank; Jo Taylor; and Christa Van Zant.

I also am honored and delighted to welcome Charles Cornner as our Interim Music Director. He will serve for several months until a new Music Director is hired. The Search Committee will make a recommendation to me, probably during mid-Lent, and the appointment will then be formalized.

Charles is the perfect fit for the interim position as he has years of experience in the music field and knows the Nativity community well. Here is some information about his background:

Charles Cornner is originally from Manhattan Beach, California and was baptized and confirmed at St. Cross by the Sea Episcopal Church in Hermosa Beach, California. He holds a Bachelor of Music Degree in Vocal Performance from California State University, Northridge, and a Master of Music Degree in Choral Music Education from Arizona State University.



Charles has served as Director of Music and Adult Choir Director at Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church in Scottsdale as well as Choir Director at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Anthem. He currently is a Financial Advisor at a major financial services company.

Please thank Charles for agreeing to serve as our Interim Music Director when you see him or send him an email to his new church email address: [charlescornner@thenativity.net](mailto:charlescornner@thenativity.net).

We have several good candidates who have already applied for the position. Once pre-screening is finished for each candidate and a file is complete with their resume/cv and audio or video recordings, the Search Committee will begin interviewing candidates via Zoom.

Toward the end of the search process, two or three finalists will be invited to visit Nativity and meet the choir so they may participate in the search process and give their input.

Please keep the search committee in your prayers as we discern who will be the next Music Director of The Episcopal Church of the Nativity.

May 2021 be a year of good health, happiness and joy for each of you.

Faithfully in Christ,

The Reverend Scot McComas  
Rector



# Nativity's Contacts



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## Nativity Staff

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## Nativity Vestry

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Sundays, 9:00 am  
Power Bible Study

Sundays, 9:30 am  
Children's Chapel Live

Sundays, 10:00 am  
Sunday Service



If you would information on the meeting or would like to join, please contact Fr. Scot at [scotmccomas@thenativity.net](mailto:scotmccomas@thenativity.net).

Sundays, 11:00 am  
Virtual Coffee Hour

Sundays, 11:00 am  
Middle School Zoom

Sundays, 11:30 am  
High School Zoom

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





## Wayne's World January 2021

Growing up Baptist I was impressed with how the Bible was treated. I heard sermons where preachers would try and squeeze every bit of theological juice out of it like an overripe orange. Every Sunday featured Bible study in a Sunday School for all ages, although I found it odd that the senior adults were divided into men's classes and women's classes. One thing that bothered me was how there always seemed to be an overreach in making every passage essentially mean the same thing—and it always agreed with the viewpoint of the preacher or teacher.

My foray into biblical studies in seminary led me to get a PhD in New Testament with an area of concentration in Old Testament literature. My interest was to transcend the parochial understandings of my Baptist teachers and set the biblical narrative free to tell us what needed to be heard, even if it was uncomfortable.

There's a lot to love in the Bible; there's also a lot that we could do without—much like life. Bible Study when done right trains the mind in garnering understanding and forces us to take a viewpoint that is frequently wider and bigger than we're inclined to have. This step is necessary if we ever expect to supersede the limitations of our upbringing. Discipleship is a journey of discovery of who we truly are. The Scriptures reveal this reality in stories and oracles and epistles that

require our interaction. The road to our heightened sense of divinity, the divinity that is implicit in our created humanity, goes through the revealed Word.

Join me on that journey in Bible Study Wednesday and Sunday Power Bible Study. If you have difficulty finding the videos let me know via [waynewhitney@thenativity.net](mailto:waynewhitney@thenativity.net) and I will put you on an email list with the link to each week's online lesson.

Our ability as disciples of God's Christ to "rightly divide" the word of truth lies as a matter of utmost importance in growing in Divine Love. It is the beginning of our experience of peace on earth and good will towards everyone.

Pax et Lux,  
Dr. W+

The Rev Wayne V Whitney, PhD  
Associate Rector

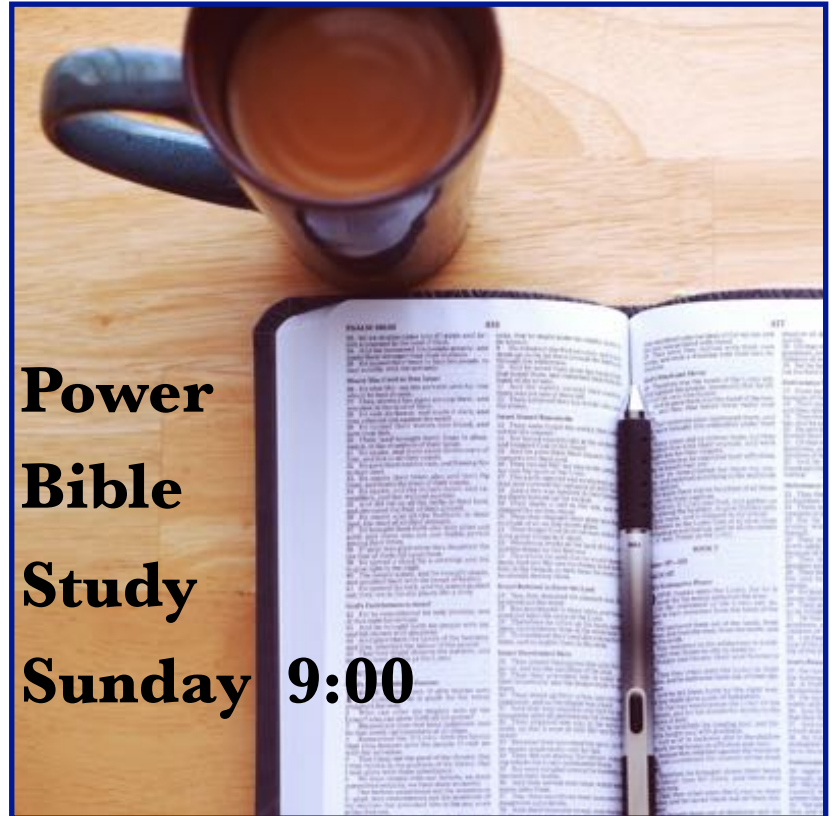


## Sunday Morning Power Bible Study

Sunday Power Bible Study with Dr. Wayne features the lectionary texts for the week. Join Dr. Wayne online at 9:00 am on Nativity's Facebook page or the Nativity General YouTube channel.

## Bible Study Wednesday

Bible Study Wednesday is in the midst of trekking through the entire biblical narrative--currently working through the books of I and II Kings. Tune in to the Facebook feed or the Nativity General YouTube Channel at 6 pm Wednesday nights. Each night Dr. Wayne closes with the prayers of Compline.



## 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. Email [waynewhitney@thenativity.net](mailto: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](mailto:mvcohea246@gmail.com) for further details or questions.





# Advent Togetherness

In the words of one of our awesome kiddos,  
"Forget it, let's just eat it!" □

We loved being in the Christmas spirit with all of our families  
in December, building gingerbread houses and visiting together.  
Thank you for joining us for some socially-distanced Advent fun!





## ***& a Merry (Drive-Thru) Christmas!***

In keeping with the 2020 theme of being creative so we can be together, Nativity hosted its first ever drive-thru Christmas Eve Pageant service! We had an amazing cast, a REAL donkey, and tons of Christmas Spirit! Check out these snapshots from that night.



A special thank you to all who came out, and of course, the amazing pageant cast & musicians. We will always remember Christmas 2020. ❤️





# 2021 Children's Ministry Update

## *4 Things for your calendar!*

### A note from Mandy:

I'm starting off 2021 assuming all the best, but having a back up plan for the worst. I hope with my whole heart that we are back together in-person for our regular gatherings so soon!!... but if we are not, I will do all that I can to help us all feel connected online. Here are some things I'm planning for this spring... 😊

### 1. **Doing Good Together** – A four week focus on empathy, kindness, and sharing.

We are starting 2021 with a series geared toward some big life conversations! Using some resources from the organization Doing Good Together, who (as they say), "helps families practice kindness together", we will learn about poverty, inclusion, volunteering, and charity on a level kids can understand. We will all be doing our parts to make this new year one filled with God's love for all.



### 2. **Lent Series** – Sunday, February 21st through Sunday, March 28th

For a 3rd year in a row, we will be hosting a Lenten Series for Families running throughout the holy season of Lent. For 6 Sundays from Ash Wednesday to Easter Sunday, we will create space for reflection, learning, prayer, and fellowship. We will bake, do art, play games, listen to stories, and learn together.

### 3. **Easter Party** – Sunday, April 4, 2021



We are doing all the Easter things! It will be one wonderful, joyful celebration at church! Put this date on your calendar.

### 4. **Vacation Bible School** – June 21-25, 2021

We're looking WAY ahead and wanted to give you advance notice for this summer's VBS program. We are building a unique curriculum designed specifically for the children at Nativity. Registration opens in March!





Recently, you may have heard me looking for God at the grocery store. Or, more recently trying to find Mary - I found her on the cover of National Geographic magazine. Where have you found her?

Well, every Thursday morning our knitting group meets for socializing, prayer, knitting, and whether they know it or not, we are looking for God in our knitting. God is there in prayers knit into every stitch, some prayers verbal and some silent. And we laugh, and we laugh, because we know God has a sense of humor, too.

We usually share a reflection by the author Stephanie Pearl-McPhee from her book *Things I Learned from Knitting* whether I wanted to or not. I share my love of knitting and life with her, and like me, she thrives on living in the metaphor. Turns out that knitting is a metaphor for life, and for me life is with God, so knitting is a metaphor for our life with God.

Lace knitting is a particular art form. It takes a long time and lots of patience. There is much repetition to complete an heirloom. Many things in our everyday life are like that. I make dinner every night, walk the dog daily, keep the house neat to facilitate life (yarn that is a mess tangles and is unusable) These repetitive tasks often take more patience than I have. Yet they are the things that keep our life and family knit tightly together. My daily prayers take lots of patience and seem to take hours from my day, when the real time is only minutes and gives me so much back.

When knitting lace, how you make your stitches is critical. It matters whether your stitches lean left or right, and where you place the holes and where you bind things together. In life, I must be sure to turn left at the correct corner to find my way home. When I assist at services, how and when I do my parts are critical to the worship as a whole. I better not say the dismissal at the time for the confession! Doing my part with care and correctly helps others (and myself) toward a better worship.

Lace follows a pattern that "stacks up" with rows on top of each other. And they better match well or it will be a disaster that won't have stable form or pattern.

Like if you built a brick building without interlocking the bricks correctly. Or a Lego project where the bricks don't interconnect in the right places. They fall down.

But the most important thing is that lace is long and precise and delicate, and it is guaranteed that at some point you will find a mistake and HAVE to *tink* (lace term meaning undo) back a fair amount. And that requires a patient, delicate, and precise undoing to a point that is uncertain. I ALWAYS put in a life-line as I am knitting, a piece of yarn that is strung along a lace row that you can always *tink* back to and find your place. It is a place of safety and surety from which to take a deep breath and have a new start. You are not lost, you have found your way back to the Divine, and can rest there and start anew.

Happy New Year  
The Rev. Martha Durham, Deacon

With thanks and credit to Stephanie Pearl-McPhee author of *Things I Learned from Knitting*



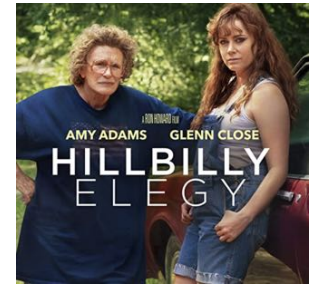
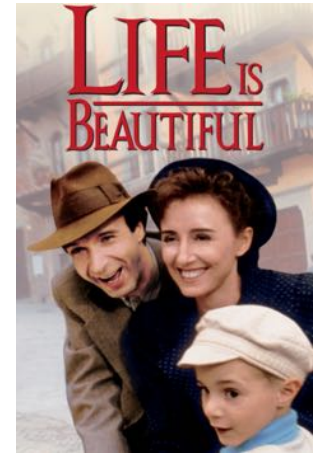
## Nativity's Film Club

The Film Club is open to everyone and meets Saturdays twice a month to talk about a film; the club examines a variety of films. In January we will be discussing *Life is Beautiful* and *Hillbilly Elegy*. *Life is Beautiful* is a look at a man's attempt to shield his young son from the horrors of Nazi Germany. It is an award-winning film from 1998 and is an Italian film, subtitled in English or dubbed over. It is available on Amazon. The date for this film discussion is January 9 at 6 pm.

*Hillbilly Elegy* is based on a celebrated book about a man's journey to rise above the poverty and drug addiction of his family. It is semi-autographical and stars Amy Adams and Glenn Close and is available on Netflix. The date for this film discussion is January 23 at 6 pm.

Mark your calendars for the February 6 film, *Ma Rainey's Black Bottom*.

Watch the movies first then join in the ZOOM meeting at 6 pm. For more information, contact Darrell at [darrellwspencer@yahoo.com](mailto:darrellwspencer@yahoo.com).



A special guest came to visit the children of Nativity and shared with them the story of St. Nicholas.

Thank you Art Graf!



## Congratulation Dawn Kast!



Members-only Virtual Holiday Gathering and Holiday Dessert Competition

As a member of the Heard Museum, I had the privilege to vote in the annual Dessert Competition. I decided to watch the contest on Zoom and see who they announced as the winner. I am very proud to share that our own Dawn Kast took second place for her yummy Christmas Nutmeg Logs, which were in your ADVENTure thank you box. Congratulations Dawn! We're so proud of you!

-Thomasina Tafur.



## Meet Our Interim Music Director!

Charles Cornner is originally from Manhattan Beach, California and was baptized and confirmed at St. Cross by the Sea in Hermosa Beach. He holds a BM in Vocal Performance from California State



University, Northridge and an MM in Choral Music Education from Arizona State. He has served as Director of Music and Adult Chour Director at Shepherd of the Desert Lutheran Church in Scottsdale and Choir Director at Cross of Christ Lutheran Church in Anthem. He currently is a Financial Advisor at a major financial services company.

### Nativity Greeters



Do you remember your first visit to Nativity? I do! I was greeted at the door by Jennie Dobbins and again after the service. The positive impression Jennie made is a large part of the reason why I chose Nativity as my church home. First impressions are critical and I'd like to see Nativity continue making great impressions even during these difficult times. We could use more greeters, so if you're interested in showing your passion for Nativity, please let me know.

I'd love to add you to the team!

Thomasina Tafur at [thomasinatafur@hotmail.com](mailto:thomasinatafur@hotmail.com)



### Flower Guild News

We know that in these difficult times we find comfort in remembering the special people and events in our lives. Those who would like to dedicate a flower arrangement to a special person or event can either sign-up on the calendar on the wall between the office and kitchen if you are at church or if you would like to email Mina at [minarafferty@thenativity.net](mailto:minarafferty@thenativity.net) and Joyce Graves at [jbjlgraves@cox.net](mailto:jbjlgraves@cox.net) the date(s) you would like to have the arrangement done. Your name will be put on the calendar.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
Phone: \_\_\_\_\_  
Date: \_\_\_\_\_  
Dedication: \_\_\_\_\_

Please have the dedication in to Mina by noon on Wednesday:  
Suggested donation is \$50.00

The flowers will be arranged in time for the online taping so if you are watching online you can see the flowers. Weather permitting the flowers will be outside (or inside when that option is again available) by the altar during the Sunday services. If you want to pick up the flowers after the services to enjoy let us know.

Joyce Graves, Flower Guild chairperson  
602-885-8828 [jbjlgraves@cox.net](mailto:jbjlgraves@cox.net)



## AmazonSmile - Funds for Nativity

You can contribute without costing you more money via Smile.Amazon.com! Contact Mina Rafferty ([minarafferty@thenativity.net](mailto:minarafferty@thenativity.net)) for more info. Use our unique link - <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5599218> When first visiting AmazonSmile, you are prompted to select a charitable organization from over one million eligible organizations. For eligible purchases at AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the customer's selected charitable organization. Each quarter, the AmazonSmile Foundation makes donations to eligible charitable organizations by electronic funds transfer.

## Birthdays & Anniversary Blessings

We would like to know when your birthday and/or anniversary is coming up so we can pray for you by name during the birthday and anniversary prayers and blessings each week. If you would like your name mentioned, please email the dates and information to Fr. Scot at [scotmccomas@thenativity.net](mailto:scotmccomas@thenativity.net) or call him at 704-779-6113. Or maybe you have a family member or friend you'd like us to pray for. Please let us know.

## Prayer Team

If you or someone special to you are in need of prayers you have several options to let the prayer team know of the request. Please let one of the clergy know. There also is a book for prayer requests on the table by the entrance to Christopher Hall, or you may email Joyce Graves at [bjlgraves@cox.net](mailto:bjlgraves@cox.net) or call 602-885-8828. All prayers are kept confidential within the prayer team. We also ask that you give us an update preferably every month or so about the person or persons you have asked us to pray for.

## Name Tags

Name Tags - If you are attending the Church of the Nativity but do not have a name tag at present, please stop by the Welcome Counter and give us your name so we can have one made for you. You can also contact Mina Rafferty at the church office, 480-307-9216 or via email at [minarafferty@thenativity.net](mailto:minarafferty@thenativity.net) with your information.

## Forward Day by Day

Forward Day by Day is a booklet of daily inspirational meditations reflecting on a specific Bible passage, chosen from the daily lectionary readings as listed in the Revised Common Lectionary or the Daily Office from the Episcopal Church's Book of Common Prayer. The meditations are rich in substance and offer a wide range of witness and experiences. Each month's meditation is written by a different author. These booklets in both regular and large print are available on the Welcome desk or if you would like one mailed to you, send Mina Rafferty an email at [minarafferty@thenativity.net](mailto:minarafferty@thenativity.net).



## December Update – Christmas Angel Tree

Thank you so much for your generous support of our Christmas Angel Tree and bringing in toys this month for Save the Family Women’s and Children’s Shelter and La Iglesia de Santa Maria Episcopal Church in West Phoenix.

We were able to sponsor 22 kids at Santa Maria and give almost 150 to 200 toys to Save the Family and we received some gifts for the parents.

Such a gift of Joy!

I saw this quote today and I thought it was a reflection of Nativity’s spirit.

*“Christmas is most truly Christmas when we celebrate it by giving the light of love to those who need it most.” Ruth Carter Stapleton.*

A Big Thank You to everyone who sponsored a child, brought in toys and gifts. Thank you to my lovely elves who stayed and helped me sort and organize toys and decorate gift bags and to help deliver them!!

I appreciate your generosity, there are so many families and kids that will have a special Christmas Morning, thanks to your love. Thank you for always supporting Save the Family Organization.

Merry Christmas,  
Carrie Wagner





### CASA Academy

Nativity's generosity has once again been demonstrated through the support of the CASA Academy sponsorship drive that was held in November. The money raised funds feeding the children for which Nativity provides weekend food for the 2020/2021 school year. Nativity raised enough money to help feed 27 children. By opening your hearts to these kindergarten through third grade students, you are helping ensure they have adequate nutrition to have full stomachs in order to be ready to learn. Thank you Nativity for your continued support!

-Laura Dobbins



"Hi, my name is Aaliyah. I want to be a teacher when I grow up because I want to teach students. My favorite core value at CASA is enthusiasm because it's when you get excited or speak proudly!"



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

# WELCOME!

## THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY

All are welcome.  
No exceptions.



### Worship Sundays

10 am In Person and Online

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

## Join us

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