

The Episcopal Church of the Nativity

NATIVITYSCOTTSDALE.ORG



THE NATIVITY SCENE

May
2021

Everyone is Welcome!
No Exceptions



Dear Church of the Nativity
Community:

As I write this, it is Saturday, May 1 and I just finished a three-hour retreat with our Vestry on Zoom.

Today was the second part of the Annual Vestry Retreat. The first part was on Saturday morning, March 20 on

Zoom, where we shared our spiritual stories as we got to know each other.

The second part of the retreat today examined a possible Strategic Plan that several vestry members proposed and shared with the entire vestry. Our Strategic Plan examined the future in terms of 1-2 years, 2-3 years, and 3-5 years. We examined the current Mission Statement of Nativity: *to transform lives through the love of God in Jesus Christ.*

We also examined the current Vision Statement of Nativity:

- **Worship** We WORSHIP together in a way that connects with people's lives and gives them a sense of spiritual connection with God.
- **Evangelism** We reach our community with the good news of Jesus Christ through active invitation and servant EVANGELISM.
- **Education** We TEACH the Christian and Episcopal traditions and scriptures to children, youth, and adults through enriching education programs.
- **Fellowship** We bring people into deeper FELLOWSHIP with each other through active hospitality, newcomer welcoming orientation, and pastoral care.
- **Outreach** We REACH OUT IN SERVICE to our community and beyond.

As we discussed the current Mission Statement and Vision Statement, we also examined the Core Values of Nativity. We reflected on 2020 during COVID and 2021 as we have moved back to a "new normal" of worshipping together indoors.

The Vestry delved into some immediate issues of the parish for the Strategic Plan:

- Welcoming, Parishioner Engagement, Church Growth
- Stewardship Year-Round
- Additional Income Sources
- Expense Reduction (Building and Grounds, etc.)

I am confident in the leadership of our Vestry as they continue to provide excellent vision for and engagement within Nativity. It is an honor to work with each of them. Our Vestry members will also assist in greeting people at the church doors every Sunday, beginning May 2.

Please thank the Vestry for their hard work: Senior Warden Paul Rank, Junior Warden Ron Kupinski, Sarah Banks, Jon Bost, Diana Fitzgerald, Jim Graves, Dina Horsman, Dennis Long, James Newhouse, Cotty Peabody, and Darrell Spencer.

As we prepare for the transition to summer, may you continue to have a joyful and happy Eastertide as we prepare for the major feast day of Pentecost later in May.

The Reverend Scot McComas
Rector

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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



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

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



Wayne’s World May 2021

“Hail thee festival day” is one of my favorite choruses in the hymnal—usually we find ourselves singing this hymn on Easter Sunday. Did you realize that the year 2021 features one of the oddities of the Episcopal festival calendar? The oddity is that the month of May is a “festival month.” Indeed, of the 7 Principal Feasts of the calendar of the church year, 3 of them are in the month of May in 2021, Ascension Day on the 13th, the Day of Pentecost on the 23rd, and Trinity Sunday on the 30th.

Ascension Day is always on the 40th day of Eastertide (always a Thursday). The Day of Pentecost is really just another name for the 50th day of Easter. Trinity Sunday is always the Sunday after Pentecost Sunday.

Ascension Day is marked by Luke’s telling of the resurrected Christ being caught up in a cloud and taken into heaven in the presence of the apostles. The Day of Pentecost is about the coming of the Spirit in power to the disciples while they were celebrating the first-fruits of the harvest. Trinity Sunday is the celebration of the eternal unity of God recognizable to us as Creator, Christ, and Holy Spirit.

These feast days wrap up the eternal mystery in a bundle much neater than the reality we experience. But we celebrate them as a testimony to the divine activity of a loving God. The witness of our lives is what maintains the vitality of the truths ensconced in these festivals. May we testify with our whole heart. Let others know the difference God’s love makes. Party hearty. Hail thee festival month.

Dr. W+
The Rev Wayne V Whitney, PhD
Associate Rector

FLOWER DEDICATIONS

The flower guild invites you and your family to honor loved ones in thanksgiving or to memorialize those we have lost by providing flowers for our Easter Sunday worship service. These dedications will be included in our Easter celebration and will help to beautify our worship space. Please provide the following information to Mina Rafferty via email at minarafferty@thenativity.net by Tuesdays noon.

Dedication _____

Given By _____

Contribution amount _____

The flowers will be available for you to take home following the service on Sunday.

You may also sign up for flower dedications through the year. Days available are on the flower chart located in Christopher Hall.

Sunday Morning Power Bible Study

Sunday Power Bible Study with Dr. Wayne features all 4 of the week's lectionary texts in about a half-hour's time. Tune in before Sunday worship to get related to God's word for the week. Join Dr. Wayne online at 9:00 am on Nativity's Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalchurchofthenativity> or the Nativity General YouTube channel.

Bible Study Wednesday

Eastertide Bible Study Wednesday continues in that portion of the Hebrew Bible (the Old Testament) referred to as the "Former Prophets," specifically, the book of I Kings. In chapter 17 of I Kings the narratives about the monarchs of Israel and Judah start to focus more on ministry of prophets who spoke truth to power. Dr. Wayne leads these studies on Wednesdays at 6:00 pm on the Nativity Facebook page and also the Nativity General channel on YouTube. The link below will take you directly to the Bible Study Wednesday playlist:

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLEyfuimpB749xng2vK7OVffF1KjKDrOg6>.

Nativity Facebook page and also the [Nativity General channel on YouTube](#).

Wednesday Evening Prayer

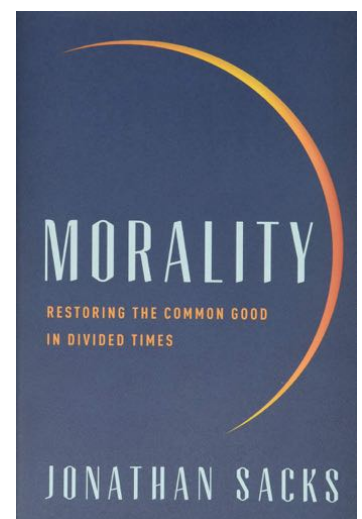
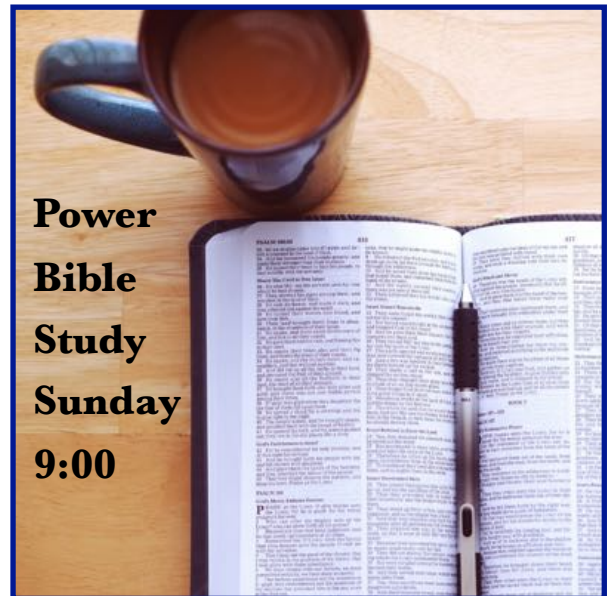
The ancient and venerable rite of Evening Prayer is streamed every Wednesday at 5:30 pm on Nativity's Facebook page. This service features a weekly commemoration of a historical Christian witness. If you would like to participate in the rotation of leaders for this ministry contact Dr. Wayne at waynewhitney@thenativity.net. Be sure to set yourself a 'reminder' by clicking on the event on the Nativity Facebook page, <https://www.facebook.com/episcopalchurchofthenativity>.

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer meets Tuesday evenings at 6 pm via Zoom. Contact Bill Bailey for a zoom invitation. Contact williambailey70@yahoo.com for further details or questions.

Fr. Scot's Wednesday Book Group

Please join us Wednesday mornings from 10:30 am to 12:00 pm on Zoom. We will be delving into Ethics, also known as Moral Theology, and reading the following book, which you can order at <https://smile.amazon.com/ch/45-5599218>.





Dear Nativity family,

My how the time does fly when you're having fun! It's already been over a month since I joined the Nativity staff as Director of Music and I'd just like to say thank you all so very much for the warm welcome you've given me. It has been a pleasure thus far and I look forward to diligently serving you for years to come.

While the future is still uncertain, we have many things for which to be thankful and good reason to be hopeful. Since I've started, we've moved from outside to the "great indoors" where we can more appropriately and familiarly orient ourselves to worship our Triune God. Isn't it great to have walls for sound to bounce around and engulf us once again? Isn't it almost indulgent to hear acoustic instruments again? We have also been working hard to bring our live-streamed services to the congregation at home, which has been no small task. Ultimately, this will better help us to express our faith as one community.

I look forward to the day when we can lift our voices as one in unencumbered joy! Until then, our small ensembles of dedicated singers and ringers will continue to lead us in song. If you have musical talents you are interested in sharing and would like to participate in Music Ministry at Nativity in any capacity, now or next academic year, please do not hesitate to let me know. There is always room for you. Stay tuned for exciting plans for the Fall.

In Christ,

Tyler J. Pimm

Director of Music

tylerpimm@thenativity.net

SUN | MAY 23 | 3 PM | [TICKETS](#)

The Art of the Telephone

From opera to Broadway to chamber music, this humorous program explores how one technological device changed our lives over the past century. Featured works include Menotti's operetta, *The Telephone*, and Torke's chamber work, *Telephone Book*.



Film Club

The Film Club is exploring ways of meeting in person with social distancing and masks. For more information contact Darrell at darrellwspencer@yahoo.com. Watch for updates about movies and times in the Friday news blasts.



What a lovely Easter!

Our children & families enjoyed a beautiful Easter morning together.
A special thanks to Aaron Graves for these family photos!





May Events at Nativity

We are back in-person on Sunday mornings! Here is our weekly schedule:

10:00 Children's Chapel & 11:00 Youth Group



Muffins with Mom

Attention: Moms of Nativity! We will host a Muffins with Mom gathering before the 10:00am service on Mother's Day, **May 9th**. All are welcome to gather on the front porch of the church at 9:30 for baked goods and coffee. We love and cherish you all!



Youth Confirmation Service Announced

After a year of waiting, we finally have a date to celebrate Nativity's Youth Confirmation Class of 2020/2021! Four amazing students will be confirmed in the diocesan confirmation service on Saturday, **May 15th** at 10am. The service will be held at Trinity Cathedral in Phoenix. All are welcome to attend!

Get ready for Summer!

We've got 2 big things to add to our calendar. Read up on Chapel Rock & Vacation Bible School...



Chapel Rock is the diocesan summer camp with cabin lodging, lots of outdoor time, and s'mores by the campfire. It is also an intentional time of building relationships with friends and connecting to God.

The camp runs several weeks over the summer, but we want to highlight 2 weeks when Mandy will be on staff!

*June 13 - 19, 2021 - Children's Week

*July 1 - 4, 2021 - Family Camp



CAMP KINDNESS

Vacation Bible School



JUNE 21 - 25

Students of all ages are welcome to join us for Camp Kindness, the summer VBS program at Nativity!

Ages 4 through 4th Grade - Sign up to participate!

Ages 5th Grade & Up - Sign up to be a counselor!

Registration & more info online:
NativityScottsdale.org/

Games **Art**

Explore Nature

Music

Service Project

S'mores

Fun Friends

Science Experiments

AmazonSmile - Funds for Nativity

You can contribute without costing you more money via Smile.Amazon.com! Contact Mina Rafferty (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 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 jbilgraves@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 with your information.

Deadline Changes

All announcements that you would like to see in the Sunday bulletins and the weekly email blasts should be emailed to Mina at minarafferty@thenativity.net by noon on Mondays. Submittals for the monthly newsletters will be the 23rd of the month. If you have any questions, please contact Mina at the church office, 480-307-9216 or minarafferty@thenativity.net.

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.

The Holy Land

A PILGRIMAGE IN THE FOOTSTEPS OF JESUS
FOR THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY, SCOTTSDALE



FEBRUARY 14-25, 2022

Led by Cotty & Andrea Peabody, the Rev Dr Wayne Whitney
and Bishop Barry Beisner (retired, Northern California)



LIGHTLINE PILGRIMAGES | 2022
1829 N Cleveland Ave., Unit B, Chicago, IL 60614-8015
Tel: 830-PILGRIM (830-745 4745) | email: info@lightlinena.com

More information is coming soon. For more info, please contact Cotty or Andrea Peabody at 617-966-1461 or epeabody@earthlink.net.

Family Bonding by Vanessa Calix

Five years ago, two sisters arrived at El Hogar Projects at the request of DINAF because an unusual circumstance had forced them to become unintentionally separated from their family.

During the last five years that the sisters have been in El Hogar Projects, several searches were carried out in order to find their family since their whereabouts were unknown. Several interviews were conducted with the sisters to try to obtain whatever information they could remember since they were very young when they arrived at El Hogar. In addition, they had no personal documentation that could provide more information about their place of origin. Their birth certificates were requested from the National Registry of Persons and after a while we managed to get them. This documentation gave us the name of their birthplace and a starting point for the family search.

Three years ago, the director took the sisters to Danlí with the information we had, but they were not able to find the girls' family. After much more research, we found the name of a village where there was a possibility of finding relatives. Recently, we took another trip with the sisters to see if this time we would have a positive outcome.

When we got to the village, we made several stops to talk with local people, asking if they knew the sister's parents. The first responses were not hopeful since no one knew any one with the names we provided. After an hour of searching, we found a woman who said "Yes, I know those people, their daughters disappeared several years ago." She informed us that they lived in the mountains and it was a journey of several hours. She gave us directions and we continued. On the way we met a young man who also knew the sisters' family and he took us to the house of their father's brother. Their uncle



told us that just the day before their father had been in his house and was mentioning the disappearance of his young daughters, and that he asked God that his daughters be well. The uncle informed us that two of the girls' brothers lived in the same area and that he could accompany us to their house. On the way, we met up with their brothers who upon seeing us were so surprised because they never expected to see their sisters again. After a few tearful minutes one of the brothers said that he could bring the girls to their mother.

The girls' experienced several hours of anxiety in anticipation of this great moment when they could be reunited with their mother after not knowing anything about her for so long. One cannot describe the joy expressed on the faces of the sisters and the mother when they were face to face again.

The story is a testament to our dedication to the children in our care. We are advancing in the "Families First" initiative, working with DINAF and complying with UNICEF's Convention on the Rights of the Child. Family bonding is an integral part of the upbringing and well-being of every child. Upon finding the parents of these girls, they will have weekly phone calls and family visits will be scheduled periodically in order to further strengthen the bond with their family and seek family reintegration once the girls have completed their studies at El Hogar Projects.

Vanessa Calix
Social Worker, Hogar de Amor y Esperanza
El Hogar Projects

Yá’át’ééh (“Hello” in Navajo)

Thank you to those who recently made masks during this time of Covid. I donated my allotment to Native American Connections, an organization committed to preventing homelessness for their Native American brothers and sisters. I’m working closely with their Director of Public Engagement to determine when our church can help them with a “Pillow Drive”, so be on the lookout for upcoming dates when I will collect pillows for their consumers.

Nativity Church, in conjunction with Good Shepard Church, has also contributed to Native Health Senior Food Box Project to help them provide groceries and toiletries for senior Native Americans for the month of April. Thank you for your donations to the Native American Outreach Project. These are just some of the ways we are helping Native Americans in Arizona during tough times.

Ahéhee' T’áá iyisií ahéhee’ (“Thank you” in Navajo)
Thomasina Tafur



Thanks everyone for pitching in on May 1!!!
Jeff Jameson

FEED THE HUNGRY RETURNS

For the first time in a year, we brought food directly to the East Valley Men's Center and served it to the 94 homeless men living there. While we have been supporting the Center financially during the pandemic, they very much appreciated us preparing and serving the dinner in person. The ham and beans with potatoes, rolls, salad, sodas, and brownies were a real hit. And, for those of us who participated, it was a real treat as well. Many thanks to those who volunteered their time, food, and talents.

Our next dinner is planned for Sunday, May 30th. We always leave from the church at 4:30 or you can meet us directly at the shelter in Mesa at 5:15. If you have never done this before we can guarantee that you will come away feeling as though you have gained more than you have given. We have not planned a menu yet so more information will be coming. If you are interested, please contact Jon Bost at jonrbost@yahoo.com for more details.





Save-The-Family Foundation of Arizona offers a variety of programs designed to empower families to conquer homelessness and achieve life-long independence.

April Purse & Career Clothing Drive for Mother’s Day.



Update on Mother’s Day’s Purse & Career Clothing Drive. This is an annual event for the Mothers at Save-The-Family.

We received:

- Purses filled with Lotions, jewelry & a scarf – 60.
- Career Clothing – 4 Bags filled with dress pants, tops, and some dresses.
- Lotion, soaps, misc. toiletries – 2 bags
- Makeup bags – 10

We were also blessed to fill their pantry with the nonperishable food collected during Easter week. We took over about 4 bags of food.



Thank you so much for always supporting this ministry. Save the Family does amazing work keeping families together and help families combat homelessness and find jobs and work to get them back on track.

Blessings,
Carrie Wagner

An open note from Candy Wagner:

Hello everyone, You all probably have heard Carrie & I are moving back to my home in Virginia. I have chaired the book group and the monthly luncheon get togethers. Due to covid these have been suspended. I hope there will be someone who wants to get either of these restarted and be the leader. I have enjoyed both activities and all of you that came & participated. Blessings to everyone and we will continue on Zoom with Nativity. We are going to miss everyone very much. This is a fantastic & friendly church & we will watch from afar. Our door is always open in VA. Here is my contact info: Candy & Carrie Wagner 119 Abner Lane, Waynesboro, VA. 22989 candywags@me.com 434-466-6799 (cell).



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

WELCOME!

THE EPISCOPAL CHURCH
OF THE NATIVITY

Everyone Is Welcome!
No Exceptions



To:

A large white rectangular area intended for an email recipient address, currently blank.