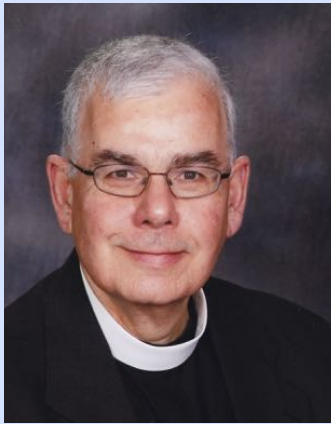




October 2017

THE NATIVITY SCENE



Never Say Never with God

William Carey was a simple British shoemaker who became one of the great 18th century British missionaries. When asked the secret of his amazing success, he answered, "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God."

Here is the key to realizing your potential – stretch yourself beyond your imagining because God will give you the ability to do what you can't. Never let your self-imposed restrictions hold you back from fulfilling your potential. After all, what often limits us is not our ability but our mindset. As William Carey understood so well, with God anything is possible.

I suspect that ten years ago few people would have given Nativity much of a chance at becoming a viable parish within a few short years. But look at us today. The growth and development of this church has been amazing – from a handful of people worshiping in a home to a beautiful church campus with hundreds of members. Ten years ago this church did not exist but today it is one of the bright lights in the Diocese of Arizona and one of the good news success stories in the Episcopal Church.

Yes, there are challenges ahead – in church growth, children and youth ministry, reaching a greater number of young families and singles, caring for our older members and retirees, and developing need-meeting ministries that will reach a growing number of people in north Scottsdale and the metro Phoenix region.

With that said, I think the members of this church have done a phenomenal job of making Nativity a vital center of ministry. The people in this church have a passion to make a difference in the world – to impact our community in positive ways and to transform lives with the love of Jesus. Members have told me how much outreach means to them. One person who supports the CASA food program said she gets enormous satisfaction

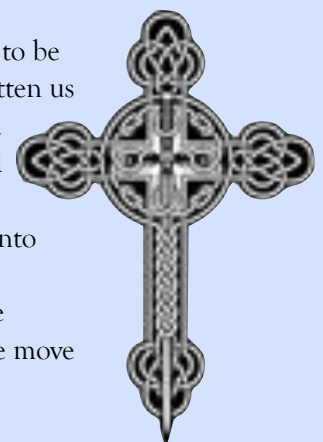
to know that her efforts help feed children who otherwise might not eat that day. Another person said much the same thing about his support for the Phoenix Rescue Mission. Another person who supports our children and youth ministries said that reaching our young people with the gospel was one of the most important things the church could do. Still another person who donates to our music ministry said that it gave him hope to see people in church who would otherwise not be there; perhaps music was a way of reaching their hearts when words could not.

In my brief time here as your Interim Rector, I have been touched by the lives of the people in this parish. When I see people coming to the altar and falling on their knees to receive Holy Communion; when I see families moving forward to unite their lives with Christ; when I see shepherds ministering to the homebound and volunteers visiting retirement communities; when I hear stories of how the church was there for people during times of sickness and crisis; when people tell me they feel safe in this church because it is such an inclusive community that welcomes and accepts everyone; when I see young adults talking about God and adults practicing centering prayer or studying the Bible; when I notice children with smiles on their faces because they are happy to be in their church home – that proves to me that God is acting in powerful ways in this church, changing lives and making disciples of Jesus.

Quite simply, we at Nativity are changing the world – one life at a time.

As we move forward in this time of transition, I think the challenge for us is to continue to be the kind of church that has gotten us this far but can take us farther. We need that positive, hopeful vision for our church and that passion and drive to move us into God's future of unlimited possibilities. Let me offer three points for your reflection as we move forward.

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 with Children's Chapel
11:00	Hospitality
11:15	Christian Formation for all ages

Wednesday Schedule

6:00 p.m.	Evening Prayer Rite II featuring Healing Prayers
6:30 p.m.	Bible Study Wednesday

Nativity Staff

The Rev. Dr. Gary Nicolosi
GaryNicolosi@TheNativity.net

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

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

Dr. Ilona Kubiacyzk-Adler
Director of Music Ministry
IlonaKubiacyzk-Adler@TheNativity.net

Shelley Byrnes
Director of Christian Formation
ShelleyByrnes@TheNativity.net

Mina Rafferty
Parish Administrator
MinaRafferty@TheNativity.net

Patricia Tinnermon, 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
Bill Deihl	480-223-7796	bjdeihl@aol.com
Jennifer Goins	480-655-5355	azjen13@hotmail.com
Norma Hyatt	623-516-9346	nvhyatt@gmail.com
Amy Miltenberger	805-598-4714	akmilt@yahoo.com
Paul Rank	513-300-3729	paulrank1@mac.com
Steve Smith	480-285-7679	claire.steve@gmail.com
Darrell Spencer	702-540-5050	darrellwspencer@yahoo.com
Colleen Whichello	301-520-2689	cmwhichello@gmail.com

First, resolve to act as if you are not afraid. Yes, it is easy to be afraid in these times of uncertainty. But act as if you are not afraid. Be willing to take risks, make a leap of faith, stretch beyond your comfort zone, move beyond your boundaries and do what others say is impossible because with God nothing is impossible. Remember that Apple ad of several years ago: "Think Different" - the crazy people who change the world, write outside the lines and make up the rules as they go along. As Presiding Bishop Michael Curry has written, we desperately need that kind of thinking in the church today.

Second, resolve to act out of abundance. There is a basic truth about the Christian life: when we give, we receive. It is not simply that the glass is half full, but rather, when we share what is in the glass, it is filled even higher. For the only way to receive the gift of life is to share it with others. If I pass it on, I live. If I keep it to myself, I die. Abundant life comes to us on the way to someone else. So don't be afraid to give and give generously.

Third, resolve to act as if you are already a disciple of Jesus. Live your life fully, faithfully and joyfully, trusting the God who does more than we can ask or imagine. Love boldly, act courageously, give generously and be God's agent in the world - for that is what you are. Do all things for the greater glory of

God. Expand the kingdom. Build up the church. Help people. You will be amazed by the results.

Former Presiding Bishop John Hines, in preaching before the 1974 General Convention of the Episcopal Church, said: "I hope for a witnessing community of unquestioned integrity, for compassion and awe and joy will not distract us from the pain of the world but will empower us to share it and, by God's grace, overcome it. The essential question is not how shall the Episcopal Church grow, but rather, how can the Episcopal Church be faithful."

And he concluded, "For that is a heritage worth sacrificing for, worth passing on to our children and grandchildren. God forbid that they should come to a time and place unashamed of the Gospel, but ashamed of us."

God has given Nativity all the resources it needs to do whatever mission and ministry needs to be done. What we need is to move beyond saying, "We can't!" to "What if?" We have all sorts of possibilities before us, and with God all things are possible. The only things that can hold us back are our lack vision and our own self-restrictive thinking. William Carey had it right: "Attempt great things for God and expect great things from God."

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

Fundraising for Children's, Youth and Young Adult Ministries

The Fundraiser for the Children, Youth and Young Adults Ministries is winding up.

This year, instead of selling Christmas Ornaments, Super Bowl Snack Packs and Car Washes, we are doing **ONE** fundraiser called 144 envelopes! We've hung 144 envelopes on the window and door to the office. Each is labeled with a dollar amount from \$1 through \$144! Please pick one (or two or five) envelopes, fill it with matching amount and return it to Shelley Byrnes or the basket on the table by the envelopes.

Funds will go towards, curricula, scholarships for VBS, Chapel Rock, Lent Retreat and Mission Trip and books.

Please pick up one of the larger number envelopes and return it by **October 15!**

Thank you for your support!!!





Over and over again in the book of Acts we are told that the early church took actions that merely fulfilled what God was already doing through the Holy Spirit. Whether it was Paul going to evangelize the Gentiles or Peter experiencing the inclusion of all ethnicities into the community of faith the truth was that these noteworthy individuals were only responding to God's nudge. Even the civil authority of Rome, as secular and brutal as it was, acted out the will of God by getting Paul to the capital city of the empire to preach the gospel, in the words of Luke, "unhinderedly." What may seem like our plans coming to fruition, or our actions effecting change, or our ideas sparking new insights, it is all a part of what God is already and always doing through us. One of the lines of Eucharistic Prayer C which we have been using in this season after Pentecost is "Open our eyes to see your hand at work in the world about us." This can be quite a challenge given the tragic natural disasters and unfortunate level of dialogue going on "in the world." Make this a part of your work as a growing Christian, as a citizen of the heaven and a world of God's creation. Challenge yourself to see where God is working, ask how you've experienced the work of the Holy Spirit in your daily life. When you have a response to this query the work of God gets perfected in you. "Perfected" means made complete—as in something coming full circle. Let this be a vital element in your journey as a disciple of our Triune Lord.

CHRISTIAN FORMATION OPPORTUNITIES

Power Bible Study

Join us for an insightful look at our Second Lesson from Paul's Epistle to the Philippians hosted by Dr. Wayne.

Date: Sundays

Time: 11:20 to Noon

Place: The Music Classroom

Host: Dr. Wayne waynewhitney@thenativity.net

Bible Study Wednesday

Luke's retelling of the doings of the first Christians in the book of Acts is our Bible Study Wednesday topic.

Date: Wednesdays

Time: 6:30 to 7:30 p.m.

Place: The Longley-Cook Children's Center

Host: Dr. Wayne waynewhitney@thenativity.net

Centering Prayer

Centering Prayer is watching a five part DVD series lead by Fr. Thomas Keating entitled: The Ultimate Reality. Please join us as we pray, watch and reflect together.

Date: Tuesdays

Time: 9:15 - 10:30 a.m.

Place: Youth Room

Host: Vicky Dinneen dinneenv@earthlink.net



On Sunday, October 1st at 2 pm we are starting our Arts at Nativity series with a concert by acclaimed saxophonist Joseph Wytko, ASU Professor Emeritus, who tours the US and Europe regularly. He will perform quite a variety of music: from Ravel, Piazzolla to Sondheim, Lennon and Brubeck.

On Sunday, October 22nd at 2 pm you will hear a unique concert by Qais Essar on Afghan classical string instrument, rabab, accompanied by tabla and tanpura players. The depth of Essar's responsibility to preserve the culture of his war-torn motherland makes his music and narrative exceptionally compelling.

Please make sure to stay for the tasty reception (which we provide after every concert) and mingle with the artists. If you have any questions about our concert series or you would like to help us in any way, please talk to me or Mary Ann Rank.

Both Adult and Vivace Children's choirs have been working hard on new repertoire, which they will present in October. Both choirs will sing their respective anthems, but also will join forces - the kids will occasionally serve as a treble choir and sing with sopranos. On October 30th we will have our annual Bach Sunday with most of the music and hymns composed or harmonized by the great Johann Sebastian Bach. And yes, I will play Bach's famous "Toccatina and fugue in d-minor BWV 565" as a postlude.

I would like to introduce to you our new lead soprano, Melanie Holm. She is currently pursuing her Doctoral degree in Opera Performance from Arizona State University. Born and raised in Omaha, Nebraska, Melanie holds a Bachelor of Music and a Dance Minor from the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. Melanie also studied at the American Institute of Musical Studies (AIMS) in Graz, Austria. She made her European debut with the Middle Saxony Theater in Freiberg, Germany as Arsena in The Gypsy Baron, where she also sang Belinda in Dido and Aeneas, and was a featured soloist with the Middle Saxony Theater Orchestra. She is currently a Research Assistant/Gallery Greeter at the Tempe Center for the Arts. She is also the winner of the 2012 Gary Jones Memorial Encouragement Award at the Metropolitan Opera District Auditions. When not singing, Melanie enjoys yoga, Pilates, dance, and spending time with friends and family.

We are thrilled to have her with us!
Ilona Kubiacyk-Adler, DMA



Respecting the dignity of every human being through relationships

This is a continuation of looking at Nativity's outreach programs through the lens of our Baptismal Covenant.

Will you seek and serve Christ in all persons, loving your neighbor as yourself?

Will you strive for justice and peace among all people, and respect the dignity of every human being?

These are the last two questions asked in the Baptismal Covenant that we respond with "I will with God's help". I believe these questions call us not only to give of our resources to those less fortunate, but also to give of our time to create relationships, when possible, to those we serve. How can we seek Christ in our neighbors or truly respect their dignity without getting to know them?

The outreach programs at Nativity provide opportunities to do this, among them are:

- Interacting with the homeless at the Memorial Day Picnic.

- Distributing food provided by the St. Mary's Food Bank at Santa Maria.

- Interacting with the children and staff at Casa Academy.

- Bringing sack lunches to the homeless.

- Delivering Meals on Wheels through the Foothills Service Corps.

- Meeting future homeowners at Habitat for Humanity sites.

- Interacting with our Navajo brothers and sisters during a mission trip to Navajoland.

- Interacting with our Mexican brothers and sisters on a mission trip to Barrio La Laguna in Veracruz.

- Interacting with Santa Maria's parishioners on joint projects.

Our youth program has provided additional relationship building opportunities through its many service and mission trip activities.

It is my belief that by establishing these relationships you also provide yourself a mirror to see your dignity and the Christ in you.

Paul Rank, Nativity Outreach Committee Chairperson

Oversight of Solicitation at Nativity

Last year the vestry established a process to better coordinate solicitation activities that take place at Nativity. This does not include the Stewardship Campaign. The Fundraising Oversight Committee (FOC) was established to help implement this process. It is now required that anyone or organization that wants to raise funds or supplies or sell something at Nativity fill out an online form called the "Fundraising Request Form" that appears on the "Forms" page of our website nativityscottsdale.org. (to access the Forms page click on "Forms" in the "Gather" dropdown menu).

Requests should be made 90 days prior to the start of the fundraising activity. Once the form is submitted, emails are automatically generated to the members of the FOC. The FOC will make a recommendation to the vestry to accept, reject or modify the request at the next vestry meeting. Once that decision is made, the requester will be notified by the FOC.

The purpose of this process is to make sure that any type of solicitation that is done at Nativity (especially on Sunday morning) is not overwhelming (too many at one time) and is consistent with the overall mission of the church. No one should ever feel obligated to respond to these solicitations.

Members of the FOC: Paul Rank Chairperson, Jennie Dobbins, Dennis Long, Darrell Spencer

If you have any questions or concerns, don't hesitate to discuss with a FOC member.



CHURCH OF THE NATIVITY
ADVENTure
FUNdraiser FOR OUTREACH

Preparations are underway for ADVENTure IV, Nativity's fourth annual gala fundraising auction, dining, and musical event on Friday, December 1st at Nativity. ADVENTure is Nativity's primary fundraiser to support and celebrate our Outreach ministries.

We need your help to make ADVENTure IV a success! Our most critical need right now is auction donations. A successful auction depends on the variety, uniqueness and appeal of the items available for bidding.

Some exciting items have already been donated. Marc and Therese McGowan have donated premium tickets to two exciting sports events in Phoenix: Arizona Diamondbacks and the Waste Management Phoenix Open, also one set of four box seat tickets just 9 rows behind home plate, including parking and club level access during the 2018 season; and two corporate skybox tickets for Sunday's round of the Phoenix Open in a skybox on the famous 16th hole at the TPC of Scottsdale to be held on February 4, 2018.

Alastair and Mary Longley-Cook have donated a four-hour cruise on Lake Pleasant on their 32-foot sloop Bella Zee for up to 4 people as well as 3 hand-beaded necklaces created by Mary, which are always popular bidding items. David and Mary Lynn Bolger have donated a mini-subscription for 2 seats to Arizona Opera's current season, which includes *Candide*, *The Barber of Seville*, and *Das Rheingold*, a terrific grouping. Please join the McGowans, Longley-Cooks, and Bolgers and become an ADVENTure IV Donor, too!

Asking for Auction Donations in 3 Easy Steps:

It's not as difficult as you may think to approach your family members, friends, and businesses you patronize frequently to request an auction donation.

1. Remember to talk about the purpose of ADVENTure IV and let them know how their generous donation will be used to help those in need in our community. Assure them that 100% of the auction proceeds will go directly to support our Outreach Ministries.
2. Describe for them the caring and inclusiveness of Nativity, a Christian community that welcomes everyone and generously reaches out to those in need.
3. Give them a Donor Letter and Donor Form (available in the church office or on the website) and follow up within a week to collect the completed forms.

If every Nativity member secured at least one auction donation, we would certainly be well on our way toward meeting our fundraising goal of \$22,000. With your support, we can make ADVENTure IV another record-breaker - meaning more funds for Outreach!

ADVENTure IV tickets will be on sale for \$40 after both services starting October 15th. Invite your family and friends to join you at this not-to-be missed kickoff to Nativity's Christmas season. For more information, contact ADVENTure IV Co-chairs, Colleen Whichello (cmwhichello@gmail.com), and Mary Ann Rank (marank410@gmail.com) or any ADVENTure IV Ambassador.

Outreach Committee Mission:

"To inspire and equip every member of Nativity to participate in ministries that touch those in need"

**CASA Academy - Weekend Food Pack Program -
NEW Sponsorship Opportunity**

As many of you heard last Sunday from Jenna Leahy, the Co-Founder of CASA Academy, Nativity's Weekend Food Pack Program is positively impacting the lives of 30 food insecure kindergarten through third grade scholars. Jenna stated, "while the bags of food may not seem like a lot to us, they mean the world to these children. They are providing nutritious food over the weekend and allowing them to return to school on Monday with full tummies ready to learn,".

This is a great example of ministry in action that is transforming the lives of others through the love of Jesus Christ. The Nativity Outreach Committee is excited to be continuing its partnership with CASA Academy for the 2017 - 2018 school year, and to provide you with an opportunity to sponsor a child for the academic year.

Each sponsorship of \$200 will provide one child with a bag of food to take home every Friday during the 10-month school year. Sponsorships may be done individually or in partnership with others. As a sponsor, you will receive a certificate with a picture and information about your child. Sponsorships will be available on Sundays, beginning Sunday, September 24th thru October 15th.

For more information, please see Laura Dobbins lauradobbins01@gmail.com ; Cindy Cohen scohensc@bellsouth.net; Sarah Banks sdwnaz@yahoo.com.

CASA Academy

Packing for Casa Academy Weekend Food Backpacks happens the first Saturday of each month, at 10 am in the fellowship hall. All are welcome.

USED BOOKS FOR THE V.A. HOSPITAL



Along with supporting our active duty soldiers, we want to honor those that have served before them, our veterans. The used books we collect are delivered to the VA Hospital Library to fill their shelves. While a veteran and their family are waiting for a doctor's appointment, they can take a book from the library and pass the time reading. They are then encouraged to take the book home to finish.



Books for all ages are needed and welcome.

Many times when we deliver books the shelves are fairly empty, so any size donation is appreciated.

There will be a collection box in Christopher Hall on October 22nd thru November 12th

Any questions on either collection, contact Bill Worthington
bandb718@msn.com 480-748-0175



Nativity Members -

United Blood Services thanks you for the recent blood drive at the Episcopal Church of the Nativity. Your drive will help to assure that blood is available for patients in need. At the blood drive, **14 lifesaving** donors stepped up to donate, resulting in 12 procedures for our community and reaching

109% of your blood drive goal.

THANK YOU

**Bag-A-Meal: Sandwiches for the Homeless -
 VOLUNTEERS NEEDED**

Bag-A-Meal: Sandwiches for the Homeless - VOLUNTEERS NEEDED
 On the first Tuesday of each month, Nativity volunteers will be making 200 bagged meals for the homeless and deliver them to the Phoenix Rescue Mission. We will make 400 peanut butter and jelly sandwiches and stuff lunch bags with fruit, cookies, sandwiches and a bottle of water. Please join us on October 3rd from 9:30 am at the church.



Any questions: Barbara Worthington 480-575-7830 bandb718@msn.com

Packages from Home

Starting October 22nd, we will be collecting snacks and personal care products for our troops serving in active-duty theaters overseas: plus this year we are adding our canine military. Frequently our men and women are in remote areas with very difficult conditions, sometimes being out for weeks at a time without access to a PX or their base. And many times a PX is not even available.

Our government supplies a uniform, boots and three meals a day. That's it. Soldiers have to shop at the PX or rely on care packages from their families for simple things like soap and shampoo, and of course, goodies like chocolate and beef jerky. Many families cannot afford to send packages; often times, only one soldier in a unit gets deliveries which he or she shares with the group. That's how we can help...

Our donations will make an immediate and monumental difference in a soldier's life.

We are their family.

A donation supply list (below) will be available at the Outreach Table display. A collection jar will also be on the table to collect funds for shipping the packages. It costs approximately \$14 to ship one small package overseas.

Collection ends November 12th. Thank you.

**Packages from Home Wish List**

We are most in need of...

Food Items:

1. Single Drink Mix packets
2. Tabasco Sauce (2oz bottles)
3. Pop Tarts
4. PB Cracker packs (6 crackers to a pack)
5. Saltines (4 sleeves to a box)
6. Sunflower Seeds
7. Tea Bags (individually wrapped)
8. Hot Chocolate
9. Instant Oatmeal (individual packets)

***For the health and safety of our military, please check expiration dates prior to donating. Items donated should not expire within the 3-month period following donation.

Hygiene Items:

1. Toilet Paper (individually wrapped)
2. Dental Floss/Dental Picks
3. Baby Wipes (60-70 per pack)
4. Foot Powder (1-3 oz.)
5. Lip Balm
6. Feminine Hygiene Products
7. Disposable Razors
8. Toothbrushes (individually wrapped)

Military Canine Items:

1. Canine Ear Cleaner
2. Canine Eye Wash
3. Canine Bath Wipes
4. Canine Antiseptic Spray
5. Grooming Tools (brushes, combs, nail clippers)
6. Paw Pad Cream
7. Durable Toys (Kong or Dogzilla)
8. Collapsible Water Bowls

Military Canine are 70+ lbs. and may **only** use products made in the **U.S.A.**

NEWCOMERS CAFÉ

A NEWCOMERS CAFÉ will be held on SUNDAY, OCTOBER 22, FROM 9 - 10 AM, IN THE YOUTH ROOM.

All Newcomers to Nativity are invited. Join us for an opportunity to meet other Newcomers and various Ministry leaders. Coffee and treats will be served. Please contact Cindy Cohen @ scohensc@bellsouth.net if you have any questions.



Women's Ministries

The women of Nativity will begin our 2017-18 season with a luncheon at noon on October 12 to meet and plan our monthly events. This year we have options to have a beading class, knitting/crocheting and/or quilting bees. We would welcome your suggestions to pat.shaler@gmail.com. Have a great summer and we will see you in October. Pat Shaler 480.946.8069

Hospitality

Help create community by sharing in the ministry of hospitality. Donations of coffee and tasty morsels as well as your time to help with setup and clean-up are requested.

When: Sundays Time for set-up: 9:30 Time for clean-up: 11:15ish Place to sign up: Kitchen

Questions: Pat Shaler pat.shaler@gmail.com

"Boo!

It's Trunk or Treat time !

Friday , October 27th please bring your cars and kids for trick or treats, games and a not-so-haunted house at Nativity!

It's from 5:30-7pm, but arrive at 4:30 if you are decorating a car. Please RSVP with Jen Goins only if bringing a car to decorate Azjen13@hotmail.com"



October 27th

Ladies' Wine Night

Welcome all ladies of Nativity! Thursday,
October 5.

We meet on the first Thursday of the month at Grape Food and Wine. SE corner of Scottsdale Rd and Pinnacle Peak (in an out building across the parking lot from Sprouts). Happy Hour goes until 6 so we'll meet at 5pm.

Please RSVP to Kathy Graf kgraf518@aol.com o.text 480 570-2276 by Wednesday, October 4.

**Men's Pub Fellowship**

WANTED: a bunch of nice guys for a pleasant good evening with friends. It's Men's Pub Fellowship! Every first Thursday of the month, for October it is on Thursday, October 5 at Tavern Americana in the Fry's complex on Hayden, just 2 or so miles south of Nativity! It starts at 5pm! Last one there walks the plank! (No, really, we make you walk the plank.)

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 Judy Peavy. RSVP is requested.

Date: October 27, 2017 Time: 6-8 p.m.

Place: Judy Peavy's Home Bring: Personal libation(s) and shareable victuals

RSVP: JudyPeavy@gmail.com or 480-247-2616

Young Adults

Young Adults Fellowship will not meet on October 5th to allow members to attend the Men's Pub Fellowship or the Women's Wine Night. We will resume Young Adults again on October 12 in the youth room where we will be watching and discussing the movie The Shack.

Host: Shelley Byrnes 480-993-7377, shelleybyrnes@thenativity.net



Here is an article about praying for and with children that may be helpful to our families!

"What matters most is that your prayer is authentic, spoken from the hopes and fears of your heart. God knows you and delights in your voice."

My First Prayer for My Children

When I was pregnant with my first child, I was flipping through a mother's prayer book in a library used book sale. One of the prayers said something like this: "Lord, I pray for all the children of the world, that they might know love. I pray that they might have the food, water, shelter and education that they need to flourish. For these young children are the people who will become my child's friends, classmates, and neighbors. One of them may become my child's spouse."

As I read these words, I became teary, suddenly understanding deep in my heart how interconnected we are with God and with one another. I sat down on the floor when I realized that some of the children being born that year would be taught that other children were their enemies. I was profoundly impacted by the idea that my child's existence depended on the existence of others. And their existence depended upon her.

I picked up that book because I was uncertain about how to pray for my daughter, who had not yet entered the world. Since that day, I have been praying for my own child and the children of the world. That baby is now sixteen. The prayer - from a book I have never been able to find again - has inspired my ministry of equipping parents to practice faith with their families. My work with other parents and Christian educators is one of God's answers to my prayer for the children of the world.

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One Simple Way to Pray for Your Children

In talking with parents of children of all ages, I have realized that many of us are looking for advice and encouragement, much like I was as I picked the book off the library shelf. With this in mind, I offer a few thoughts, especially for parents who may be new to prayer.

Types of Prayer: The acronym ACTS is often used to remember four common types of prayer: Adoration (praising God), Confession (admitting our mistakes), Thanksgiving (expressing gratitude), and Supplication (asking for God's help). These types of prayer can be specifically applied to prayers for children. I have found that parenting my two daughters has given me new a new perspective on each type of prayer.

Adoration: Praising God

Begin each prayer by naming the wonderful things God has done and the marvelous things God has created. From the moment we first hold our child, smelling their delicious heads, wondering at their toes and fingers, we are awestruck. Furthermore, parenthood opens our eyes to the wonders around us. My toddlers were fond of bringing me treasures from creation: roly-poly bugs, green frogs, pine cones, cakes made of sand, and all kinds of rocks.

As they grow older, they inspire a new sense of awe as we marvel at their growing independence, the growing complexity of their thoughts; we welcome their more sporadic, but heartfelt hugs. At each and every stage, children inspire us to marvel at all that God does.

Confession: Admitting Shortcomings

During prayers of confession, we have the opportunity to ask God to forgive us for our individual and communal sins. Parenthood brings gifts as well as new challenges. Challenges that we do not always respond to well. Through confession we recognize our shortcomings, our impatience, our tendency to compare ourselves and our children to others. Our desire to provide for our children may lead us to prioritize work before family. Screens may help us unwind, but may distract us from real conversation with our kids.

Confide in God, confessing those things you regret having done and those things you regret having left undone. Confession is also a time to recognize the everyday things we do which negatively impact the children of the world. There are systems and structures in place which cause children to suffer from hunger, poverty, abuse, injustice, oppression, and neglect.

Here is an article about praying for
and with children that may be
helpful to our families!

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Thanksgiving: Gratitude for God's Blessings

Parenthood may also bring the uncomfortable realization that there are many things outside of our control: health, job loss, accidents, and the actions of others. For this reason, parenthood often increases our gratitude to God for life's necessities and joys. Give thanks for health, safety, food, shelter, joy, laughter, community, and love.

Supplication: Requests for God's Help

During supplication, we ask for God's help. From the moment we learn of our child's arrival through the time they graduate and beyond, the list of things to ask God for on behalf our children is long. We ask for our children to do well in school, or overcome illness. We pray for our children to be content. We pray that they will make good choices and find true friends. We make specific requests about the challenges in their lives.

More Tips for Getting Started with Prayer

I suggest recording the things you pray for in a prayer journal. I have a prayer notebook which goes back to my girls' toddler years. As I look back through it, I am reminded of the times God answered prayers directly, and also the ways God provided strength and comfort during times of challenge and grief. The prayers of gratitude and adoration I have recorded remind me of God's love and presence throughout the journey of parenthood.

Parents, be encouraged. There is no one right way to pray. What matters most is that your prayer is authentic, spoken from the hopes and fears of your heart. God knows you and delights in your voice. God wants to hear your hopes and fears. I pray you find the blessing of prayer as you pray for your children.

Christine V. Hides is the Director of Ministries with Children and Youth at [Northbrook UMC](#), Content Manager for [Christians Engaged in Faith Formation](#), a mother of two, and a certified deacon candidate in the United Methodist Church. She writes about Christian education at [Bless Each One](#).

<https://www.buildfaith.org/pray-for-children/>

Here is an article about praying for
and with children that may be
helpful to our families!

Formation Schedule

- **Nursery:** Infant to 4 years old, 8:30 - 11:15
- **Children's Chapel (Worship Service):** Ages 4 years to 2nd Grade, During 10:00 service picked up at the beginning of service and returned to families at the Peace.
- **Pepsicola Club (education):** Grades 3-6, Sundays 10:00 service (meet in classroom) return to families at the Peace
- **Pepsicola Club Pizza Nights:** 3rd Friday of every month 5:30 - 7:00 pm \$5
- **Mixed Age Activities:** (Ages 4 - 6th Grade) Sundays 11:15 - 12:30
- **Vivace Choir (Beginning August 27)** (Grades 2 - 6) Sundays 11:15 - 12:00 in the Sanctuary (See below for more information!)
- **Middle School Youth Group;** Grades 6 - 8, Sundays 11:15 - 12:30 in the youth room.
- **High School Youth Group;** Grades 9-12, Sundays 11:15 - 1:00
- **Young Adults Group:** High School Graduates - 35ish, Thursday evenings 6:30 - 8:30 (bring dinner - various topics and activities) Youth room

Children's Events

Save the date and plan to decorate ! Nativity's annual Trunk or Treat is Friday October 27th. If you have a car, a little imagination and a lot of candy you are meant for this event! In addition to the usual Trick or Treating to each car, games and prizes for costumes and car decoration, the youth will be creating a not so scary spook house for the kids!

- October 6: Save the Family Fall Festival Event has been cancelled due to staff changes at Save the Family.
- November 18: Intergenerational Tamale Making at Iglesia Santa Maria 10:00 to noon.
- December 3 - St. Nicholas will visit Children's Chapel
- December 15: Pepsicola Club/Pageant Rehearsal 5:30 - 7:30
- December 16: Pageant Rehearsal for speaking parts 10:00 - noon
- December 23: Pageant Rehearsal full cast
- December 24 - Christmas Pageant



Pepsicola Club

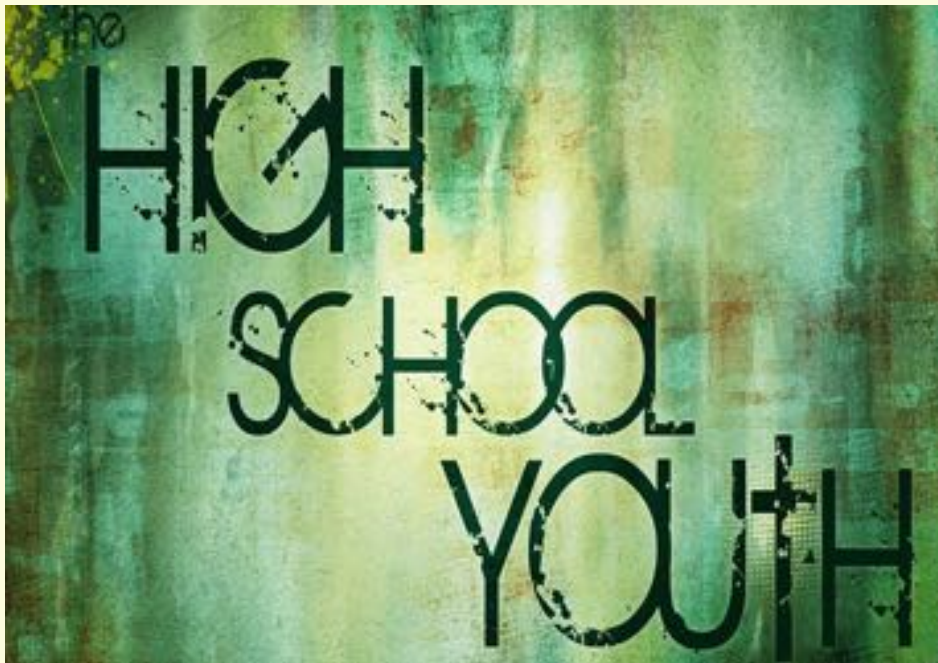
Pepsicola Club Activities!

Pizza Nights - Usually the third Friday of every month the 3rd - 6th graders get together for Pizza and fun activities! Join us at 5:30 - 7:00 with your \$5 to put toward pizza and have some fun!

- October 27 - Trunk or Treat!
- November 17 - Baking for Hospitality
- December 15 - Pageant Rehearsal



High School Youth Group!



High School Youth Group (9th Grade - 12th Grade) is meeting in the Youth Room ***TIME CHANGE***from 11:30 - 1:30 pm on Sunday Mornings beginning October 8th! We have a new curriculum for this age group too! Topics for Youth Groups in September are:

September 30 - 9:00 - Noon, Youth Event at Diocesan Convention

October 1 - No youth Group

October 8 - Healthy Relationships

October 15 - Music

October 22 - Plan Spook house

MIDDLE SCHOOL

SCHOOL

youth ministry

Middle School Youth Group!

Middle School Youth Group (6th Grade - 8th Grade!) is meeting in the youth room from 11:15 am - 12:30 each Sunday morning. We are using a wonderful curriculum called Re: Form which followed the Lectionary and explores the various seasons of the church. It intends to empower youth to explore their faith and ask the questions they actually wonder about the Bible, creed, disciples, Jesus, other beliefs, and hot topics. This year's teachers are: Drake Pillsbury, Finn Pillsbury, Crystal Rothanburg and Yasmine Youssefi!



All young adults (high school graduates - mid-30s!) are welcome to join us on Thursday Evenings in the Youth Room from 6:30 - 8:30 pm. We bring our dinner (or eat first) and spend time together!

We were lucky to have some members of the Centering Prayer Group (that meets in the Youth Room on Tuesday mornings from 9:00 -10:30 am) join us on September 28th as we explored contemplative prayer! (6:30 - 8:30pm) everyone is welcome!



September 28 - Joint exploration of Contemplative Prayer with Centering Prayer group

October 5 No Meeting, everyone is encouraged to attend either the Men's Pub Fellowship or Women's Wine Night

October 12 Join us as we watch and discuss the movie "The Shack"

October 19 Cards Day!

October 26 Contemplative Prayer Group will join us.



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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